



**Gracious Lady Martha Hanks**



**Jr. Convention, New Orleans 2011**



**St. Francis of Assisi Ct. & CN 155**



**Rose L Casanave, Chapter 15**

Gracious Lady Martha Hanks has been a member of St. Francis of Assisi Court #155 for 30 years. During that time she has been dedicated to improving the lives of mankind. She has served as Grand Lady for 12 years, Jr. Daughter Counselor for 13 years, and is currently serving her second term as Assistant Junior Daughter Counselor (3 years). Gracious Lady Hanks makes many donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society including: monetary, giving clothing to the homeless, packing and delivering canned goods for Christmas and Thanksgiving. Gracious Lady Hanks has assisted the Juniors during many events including: Conventions, conferences, retreats, bake sales, bowling, dances, initiations, camping at Oakwood Lake, Marine World, Pizza, skating, Malibu, rummage sales, Christmas caroling, fashion shows, etc. She also served as Area Counselor for many years. Gracious Lady Hanks can always be counted on to help whenever and wherever she is needed.



**St. Francis of Assisi Juniors #155 helping the St. Vincent de Paul Society**

As if she hadn't served church and community enough, Gracious Lady Hanks was asked to join the Rose L Casanave, Chapter 15 Meritorious 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Ladies of Grace in 2000. She served as Chairperson of the Fancy Hat Luncheon for 4 years (their main fundraiser) and helped to provide funds for the many charitable endeavors that Rose L Casanave fund. Gracious Lady Hanks also served as Inner Sentinel for 2 years. Two and a half years ago when the Rose L Casanave Comptroller became gravely ill, she was asked to become the acting comptroller. She is currently serving her second year as Faithful Comptroller.

Throughout the years, Gracious Lady Hanks has received many awards for her work as the Grand Lady and Junior Daughter Counselor. In 2008, she received 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the WDSC Lady of the year. Gracious Lady Hanks is currently serving her 15<sup>th</sup> year as Area Deputy.



**Knights of Peter Claver Area Deputy Award 2010**

**DESCRIBE OUTSTANDING OR NOTEWORTHY SERVICE TO THE CHURCH.** (Activities, offices held programs developed for parish, programs lead for CHURCH PARISH, PROGRAMS LEAD FOR THE Dioceses, OUTSTANDING church/parish/dioceses RECOGNITIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE church, parish, dioceses--papal medals, etc. Parish organizations involved in, major contributions/donations made to the church or parish or dioceses, major programs created or lead or participated in for the church/dioceses, etc. including Philanthropic endeavors—i.e. donations/gifts to CHURCH, etc)



**Christmas Baskets at St. Francis**



**Reception for Carl Clark at St. Francis**



**Catechism Class**

Gracious Lady Hanks clearly believes in giving back and it all starts with giving back to God first and foremost. Gracious Lady Hanks has been a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church for 55 years. She has volunteered in capacities ranging from the Parish Council to serving as a Eucharistic Minister a choir member, lector, and Catechist.

Activities in the East Palo Alto community include serving dinners to the homeless, collection and distribution of toiletries bags for the homeless, and preparing and distribution of food boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Gracious Lady Hanks with friend, Mr. Carl Clark, on January 17, 2012 at the St. Francis of Assisi Church reception. Mr. Clark received the US Navy and Marine Corps Commendation with the Combat Distinguished Device; after waiting 66 years to be recognized / honored for his service to the country.

**DESCRIBE OUTSTANDING OR NOTEWORTHY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.** (Activities, offices held, programs developed for the community, programs lead for the community, OUTSTANDING community RECOGNITIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE community-city-state local, Community organizations involved in, major contributions/donations made to the community, major programs created or lead or participated in for the community, including Philanthropic endeavors—i.e. donations/gifts to COMMUNITY, etc)

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**RHSAA, Inc. with Scholarship Recipients    East Palo Alto Kids Foundation Board 2012**

Not only is Gracious Lady Hanks active in her church's community service programs but as **President of the Ravenswood High School Alumni Association**, she has been a member of the scholarship committee whose goal is to provide scholarships as a way to give back to the community and make an investment in today's youth. Since its inception RHSAA, Inc. has distributed over \$64,000 in scholarships. This year will mark the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the annual scholarship dinner/ dance fundraiser.

Continuing with the drive to encourage educational pursuits, Gracious Lady Hanks **co-chairs the Allocations Committee of the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (epak.org)**, which gives grants to teachers in income challenged schools. "These grants empower teachers to directly provide what they know their students need most," whether it be books, special programs, or field trips. EPAK aims to level the playing field by affording these youth the same learning experience as youth in more affluent school districts. In the eighteen years of grant making EPAK has distributed over \$2,000,000!

Recognizing that EVERY child deserves a chance to succeed and some need a little extra encouragement, Gracious Lady Hanks led a campaign to recognize and honor students for their potential to achieve. As a **10 year member of the East Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce**, Gracious Lady Hanks solicited support from fellow members who

provided plaques for the youth. She was honored to be part of such an innovative approach to making a difference in the life of a child with challenges.

It's this kind of out-of-the-box thinking that led Gracious Lady Hanks to **co-found the Willow Oaks/Veteran's Administration (VA), Intergenerational Partnerships**. This Service Learning Program allowed students to select a veteran "buddy" that he/she would engage with on a regular basis throughout the school year. The veterans eagerly anticipated their weekly visits! The children learned great life lessons and much about history as well. The greatest gift however was that the students learned to appreciate life and respect the men and women who gave their all for the country. The Willow Oaks/VA Program received much recognition and commendations.

Of all her community service activities nothing was more enjoyable to Gracious Lady Hanks than giving back in support of her 2 daughters! Gracious Lady Hanks served as a **Girl Scout Leader for 7 years** as her daughters matriculated from Brownies, to Girl Scouts, to Cadettes. "Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place." Year after year Gracious Lady Hanks' s troop had the top cookie sales in the region; which was vital to their success as proceeds from cookie sales fund community service and leadership projects. Gracious Lady Hanks says, "My experience with the Girl Scouts of America was priceless! I

Being actively involved in organizations that support causes near and dear to her heart gives Gracious Lady Hanks a sense of purpose; and she believes that the people she influences will continue to "pay it forward."



**AKA Emerging Young Leaders**



**EYL with Veterans on MLK**



**CA State Attny General Kamala Harris**

In addition to holding office in the Knights of Peter Claver, Gracious Lady Hanks also enjoys serving on various **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. committees**. Her regional committees include: Ivies Beyond the Wall, Prayer Breakfast, and Registration. Within her local chapter she serves on the following committees: Black College Awareness, Community Service, Sisterly Relations, and Wine & Croquet which is one of the most eagerly anticipated fundraising events of the year! She served on the Facilities Committee for the 2012 Boule (convention) in San Francisco and is the past Tamiochous (treasurer) of her chapter, Rho delta Omega.

Gracious Lady Hanks was Chairperson of the award winning Earn Save Prosper (ESP) Kids Club which received honors in 2008-2010. She was also chairperson of the Emerging Young Leaders/Junior Daughters (EYL) Club in which received awards in 2011 and 2012. Currently, Gracious Lady Hanks continues to work with the Emerging Young Leaders and the knights of Peter Claver Junior Daughters as co-chairperson and Assistant junior Counselor.



The East Palo Alto African American Leadership Summit give special recognition to Gracious Lady Hanks On February 22, 2013 for her service to the EPA community for 40+ years in Education.

**Gracious Lady Hanks supports Rush Philanthropic's "Art for Life" fundraiser**

Miami 2009



Russell Simmons, Lady Hanks, & Dn Dixon

East Hamptons 2010



Anthony Anderson & Lady Hanks

East Hamptons 2011



Lady Hanks, Starr Jones, and Tangie

Gracious Lady Hanks' middle child, Tangie Murray, is the Exec Director of Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation; which supports arts programs for inner city youth throughout New York City and beyond. The foundation was founded by Music/Fashion Mogul Russel Simmons and brothers Danny & Rev. Joseph (Run) Simmons. Gracious Lady Hanks has supported this foundation both financially and personally for the past six years.



**In December of 2012 Gracious Lady Hanks received the "Decade of Service Award" from An Open Door**, a non-profit organization serving inner city youth in Los Angeles, for 10 years of volunteer work and financial support. Gracious Lady Hanks was honored for her efforts to advance their cause and ensure that youth in the South Central Los Angeles area have the tools they need to succeed. She received this honor with a special sense of pride, as the organization was founded by her eldest daughter, Makeda Murray, in 2001 and remains a constant source of support for the youth and families it serves. The fact that Gracious Lady Hanks received such an honor from an organization that is not local to her home area exemplifies her dedication to youth nationwide.



**2005 CTA Lois Tinson Human Rights Award**

[http://archive.cta.org/CaliforniaEducator/v9i7/Action\\_6.htm](http://archive.cta.org/CaliforniaEducator/v9i7/Action_6.htm)

2005 CTA Louis Tinson Human Rights Award for Exemplary Contributions in the area of Human and Civil rights went to Martha Lee Hanks, a member of the Ravenswood Teachers Association. A longtime advocate of human and civil rights, she has worked long and hard over the years to preserve the African American culture, along with the traditions and values of the community. She has taught 34 years in the district where she went to school, and has served as RTA president for eight years.



**2005 Certificate of Recognition from Governor's Reading initiative Open Court Reading – Advanced kindergarten.**



**2002 CTA Theodore Bass Teacher in Politics**

**Awards** [http://archive.cta.org/CaliforniaEducator/v7i9/Action\\_3.htm](http://archive.cta.org/CaliforniaEducator/v7i9/Action_3.htm) Martha Hanks, president of the Ravenswood District Teachers Association, won the Coalition Building category. The Ravenswood District Teachers Association won the Medium Chapter award, which was accepted by RDTA President Martha Hanks.



**2001 CTA State WHO Award (We Honor Ours)**

This award is given to individuals whose leadership, acts, and support has indicated that they are true friends of public education, educators, and students.

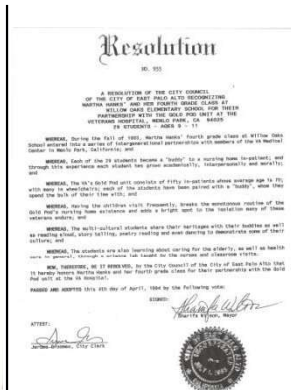


**1999 Youth Community Service Kay Phillips Award**

In recognition of incredible dedication to improving the lives of others and your strong commitment to Youth Community Services.



**1996 CTA Human Rights Diversity Training Recognition**

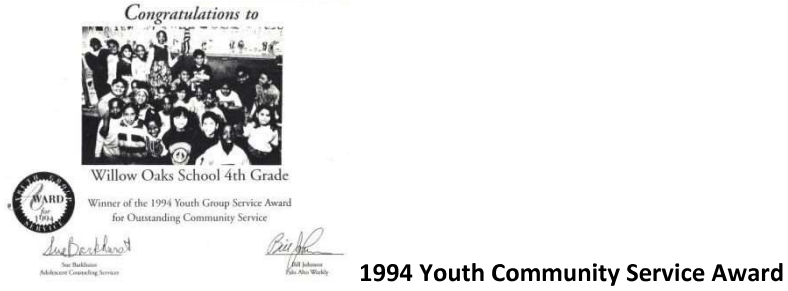


1995 Intergenerational Partnerships Awards: for 6yr partnership /relationship with Soror's Martha's 4<sup>th</sup> graders & VA Medical Center. (See description in Community Service Section). Gracious Lady Hanks received several commendations for this honor from various organizations including: Dept. of Veterans

Affairs, City of East Palo Alto, City of Palo Alto, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, California State Assembly, California State Senate, US House of Representatives, and the US Congress.

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The name of the nominee submitted herewith was approved by vote of the Court at our regularly scheduled monthly meeting held

(Date of court meeting)

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Signature of Grand Lady

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Signature of Financial Secretary

**AFFIX COURT SEAL HERE  
OR WRITE "NO SEAL" BELOW**



