

## **Taste of Aviation – Eleanor Williams and Janae Williams Memorial Scholarship**

Ms. Eleanor Joyce Toliver-Williams, mother of seven, moved from College Station, Texas to Anchorage, AK to help her sister fulfill a janitorial contract with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). There began her legacy in aviation. With her strong work ethic, faith in God, fortitude, and mantra of “Never Let Them See You Sweat!”, Williams seized every opportunity for advancement, and successfully and unknowingly became the FAA’s first Black female certified Air Traffic Controller (Anchorage, AK 1971). She also served as a union representative for the Professional Air Traffic Controller Organization (PATCO). Toliver-Williams made history again in 1994 when she became the first Black female to manage an Enroute Air Traffic Control Center in Cleveland, OH – one of the busiest centers in the country at that time.

Among the many awards that Ms. Williams received are the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE) C. Alfred Anderson Award and the FAA Central Region Paul K. Bohr Leadership Award. In 2001, she was inducted into the Black Aviation Hall of Fame, one of the signature programs of the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP). Her daughter, Dana, followed her Mom’s footsteps as an Air Traffic Controller. Her daughter, Kaye, worked for FedEx and another daughter Sheila, is an Alaska Judicial System Retiree.

Janae L. Williams, mother of two beautiful daughters Jianna and Adysyn, was a business owner of an established energy conservation company that her father, Roderick L. Williams, started in Alaska in 1982. The family business later relocated to Washington state, where the business continues to grow. Janae took over the business prior to her father’s retirement. Her sister Regena Williams, worked alongside her as an office manager for the company. Janae was the first-born grandchild of Eleanor Joyce Williams.

Taste of Aviation is grateful to Mr. Rodrick Williams (Ms. Eleanor Williams’s son and Ms. Janae L. Williams’s father) and Ms. Laverne Reid (Ms. Eleanor Williams close friend) for entrusting our organization with establishing the Eleanor J. Williams/Janae Williams Scholarship for an aviation student of color. It is our intention to properly recognize the importance of their legacy.