

## HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2011/2012  
Journal

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### Deborah (Debbie) Tekosky

Class of 1971

Debbie's purpose-filled life exemplified the essence of the Copiague Public Schools motto "A Great Place to Learn." She applied the substance of the motto to every facet of her existence in ways that empowered and enhanced every person and circumstance she encountered. Debbie's school years were the foundation upon which she would begin her journey.

Debbie enriched her student life experience by becoming a freshman class officer, Student Council member, girls' sports team member, High Stepper, Leaders Club member, and JV and Varsity cheerleading co-captain. She was also the Blue Team Girls' Sports Night Captain and had the lead role in the senior play. Debbie was voted the "Best All Around" by her senior classmates.

After graduating in 1971, Debbie continued her education at Shaw University (a historic black college and university), graduating *cum laude*. Debbie taught high school English in Raleigh, modeling Copiague icons Ms. Wright, Mrs. Baugh and Ms. Curry into her teaching techniques and classroom style. Her class was cited for their exemplary school spirit, service, citizenship, and scholastic achievements. Debbie also served as an executive campaign board member in the victorious upset election of Raleigh's first African American Mayor.

In the early 1980's, Debbie returned home, teaching 5th grade in Brooklyn, and became an active member of the Holy Trinity Baptist Church in Amityville, Central Long Island N.A.A.C.P. (Executive Board Member), North Amityville's John Brown Democratic Club, and a drama and dance instructor. Debbie and Sharon Davis launched the *Long Island Black Advocate* newspaper, a weekly publication serving the African American and minority communities of Suffolk and Nassau Counties. *The Advocate* gave birth to North Amityville Taxpayers Association and Ministerial Alliance of North Amityville. Even in death, Debbie continues the Copiague tradition of excellence and giving through the *Deborah Tekosky Girls Volleyball Memorial Scholarship* that was initiated in her honor. Since 1992 the Tekosky family has bestowed generous scholarships to each recipient asking that they, in their own manner, emulate the life and legacy of Debbie.

***"Heart to God and hand to man. Model excellence and do the best you can."***