

# Johnnie Davis

By Kyle Ostrom

Johnnie Davis was born May 10, 1932. Mrs. Davis is African American, so when she grew up the color of her skin made it hard for her to get an education. At that time black and white students were still segregated. They had different schools for different races, and there weren't as many schools for blacks as there were for whites. Since there were so few schools for black people, many black kids wouldn't go to school, just because they couldn't get to the nearest one. Mrs. Davis was determined to get an education, but it was hard for her to do that through high school.

There was no black high school in the area where she lived. To get to school, she had to ride the city bus across town. However, her parents didn't have the money for the bus. Mrs. Davis had to baby-sit just so she could afford to get to school. The kids that Johnnie Davis babysat were the kids of the doctor in the town. Since the kids that she babysat were white, Mrs. Davis could go everywhere white people could, when she was watching them. During her babysitting job, she saw all the rich white people and how they lived. At the time, Mrs. Davis thought that these people lived so much nicer than she because they had gotten an education. She thought that if she got an education she could live like they did, which even further inspired her to finish her education.

Even though some of her friends felt that Mrs. Davis thought that she was better than they were because she was getting an education, Mrs. Davis was determined. She wanted an education and she paid her own way to get it. In 1950, Mrs. Davis went to Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. She met her husband, Theodore Davis there and the couple got married when they were seniors in college. They later had three sons. Mrs. Davis became a kindergarten teacher, because she likes how little kids are so honest about their opinions.

Mrs. Davis has had a great life, all because she wanted to have an education. It is through her education that she was able to enrich her life and provide for her children the way the families that she had babysat did. She met her husband while getting her education and she was able to have a fulfilling career due to it. Being determined to get an education was probably one of the greatest decisions of her great life.