

Mrs. Georgia "Joy" Moultrie Bowen was born in Marianna, Florida where she graduated from Jackson County Training School and received her Associate of Arts degree from Jackson Junior College. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology, and a Master of Education from Florida A&M University.

She possesses a blend of tenacity and compassion that makes her a formidable and highly effective unifier, consensus builder and public servant. Professionally and personally, she has devoted herself to promoting understanding between all people through awareness and appreciation of oneself and others. Mrs. Bowen has taught at the middle and high school level in Florida. She served as the Dean of Women at Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina. Her career at Florida State University includes: the Coordinator of Student Activities and Organizations, Director of the Student Assistance Center and the Associate Dean of Students in the Division of Student Affairs. As a trained counselor and retired administrator of multicultural diversity programs for the Florida State University, Mrs. Bowen has touched lives, bolstered self-assurance in young people and brokered lasting relationships at every turn.

Long respected for her sound values and strength of purpose, Mrs. Bowen has often been sought as a motivational speaker, program facilitator and role model – especially for young African American women. Her numerous community roles have included facilitating *A Day of Dialogue on Minority Health: Generations Working Together to Bring About Change*; and First Lady Michele Obama's national initiative to reduce childhood obesity through healthier choices the "Let's Move" initiative. A committed member and leader of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Mrs. Bowen has served two consecutive terms as President of the Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter.

In 1998, Mrs. Bowen was elected to her first term as a member of the Leon County School Board. She embraced her new role with great enthusiasm and integrity. Handily reelected in 2002, she continued to distinguish herself by her selfless dedication and quality of service and was reelected for her third term in 2006 without opposition. As a valued and experienced member of the Leon County School Board, Mrs. Bowen has employed her considerable talent as a trained conflict mediator to refocus fractured dialogue into positive action. Intelligent, articulate and humorous, she regularly uses her gifts to inspire reason and displays a keen ability to cut through page upon page of data to reveal the kernel of commonality upon which all can agree. In her tenure with the Board, on which she has served three terms as the Chair, Mrs. Bowen has served as the Board liaison to other governmental entities including the Tallahassee City Commission and the Leon County Board of Commissioners. She is also a former

President of the National Council of Negro Women. Florida State University awarded Mrs. Bowen the Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her outstanding scholarly excellence and strong commitment to Dr. King's ideas.

In her tenure as an elected official, Mrs. Bowen has expanded her service throughout the state as President of the Florida School Boards Association. She serves as a mentor to new school board members in other Florida school districts. She has also represented the Southern Region of the United States on the nominating committee for leadership on the National School Boards Association. She is a current member of the Work Force Plus American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Advisory Council. She was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to serve on the committee of Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council.

As a respected professional educator, counselor and leader; and a caring, capable individual whose advocacy serves all classes, colors creeds, Mrs. Joy Bowen is a committed community servant who personifies the beauty of multicultural collaboration. Joy is a member of the Bethel M.B. Church.

Mrs. Bowen and her husband, George, have three adult children, five grandchildren and one great-grand child; she enjoys family life, singing, reading and is especially fond of fishing and loves meeting people.