

# 2013 Torchbearer Recipient

## Mary Aurtrey

As a proud veteran Mary Aurtrey has set an example for other women, especially those serving in the military. Her military service, loyalty and dedication to others over the years has made her a respected figure in the Hoosier state and a deserving *Torchbearer Award* recipient.

After 22 years of military service through the Vietnam and Desert Storm eras Mary retired from the military with the highest enlisted rank of Sergeant Major at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, IN. During her time of service she earned number of medals including the Meritorious Service Medal and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Mary is the former President and a current member of the Woman's Insurance Society where she helps provide insurance, education and financial benefits to members and families. She has helped recruit members for the Woman's Insurance Society, helping to increase membership by 50%. Mary also assists at the Ronald McDonald House and the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation where she provides hot meals and hospitality to families and veterans in need.

In addition to these efforts, she has also recognized the need to help women professionally. As the Co-Director for Women In Networking locally she actively heads community service volunteer projects that focus on education, networking, business, volunteerism and career development for women and families. Women In Networking also provides linens, clothing and food for the disadvantaged.

In order to further assist the youth Mary volunteers at Crispus Attucks School within their Multi-Cultural and Education Center. Mary has been volunteering with them for over 13 years, earning her the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award in Indianapolis.

Mary has used these many associations to assist those facing challenging situations grow personally, professionally, academically and financially. Her advocacy for female veterans over the years has influenced them to push for the military benefits that they deserve. To this day she continues to work with veterans and less fortunate to help them through their adversities. Her optimistic outlook on life and energy has transferred to those around her, brightening the many spirits she's touched.



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