

Ella G. Brown Dies; State's First Black Policewoman

Ella G. Brown of Hartford, Connecticut's first black woman police officer and a leader in the city's black community, died Monday at Mount Sinai Hospital. She was 65.

Born in Hartford, she was a lifelong resident, living the past 12 years at 31 Woodland St. She graduated from Hartford Public High School and attended Virginia State University but left college to care for her elderly parents until their deaths in 1959. She returned to college and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Hartford in 1961 and her master's degree from that university in June 1983.

She began her career in law enforcement in 1943, when she joined the Hartford Police Department as the first black policewoman and one of the first female officers on the force. She retired in 1970 after 26 years with the department.

In 1963, she co-founded the World Travel Service, an agency that later became the Sage-Allen Travel Center.

At the time of her death, she was executive director of the North Hartford Senior Citizens Center.

"A part of Hartford dies with Ella Brown," said her cousin, Sandra Jibrell, a former Hartford resident who now lives in Saudi Arabia. "She's been like a pillar of the Hartford community for many, many years."

Brown's contributions and accomplishments in the Hartford community were numerous. She served as president of the Citizens Committee of the North End for 12 years since its founding in 1950. She was a key organizer of the George A. Parker Community Center in North Hartford and served on the state Commission on Youth Services.

In 1958, she received the B'nai B'rith Woman of the Year award.

Last month, she was named one of 10 outstanding black women in the state by the Connecticut Historical Society.

The Hartford Police Department will present her with a gold detective's badge posthumously, said Detective Deborah Callis-Welch, the department's second black woman officer, who said she viewed Brown as a role model. Brown was a lifelong member of the Shiloh Baptist Church.

Besides Jibrell, she leaves a



ELLA G. BROWN
1977 Photo

cousin, Henrietta Brock of Bloomfield, and several other cousins in California, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.

The funeral will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Shiloh Baptist Church, 350 Albany Ave. Burial will be in Northwood Cemetery, Wilson.

Calling hours are today from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the church. Friends also may call on the family at 37 School St., Bloomfield. James Funeral Home, 2016 Main St., Hartford, has charge of arrangements.