

Throughout her life, Hilda Mae Snoops has exhibited a strong fondness and respect for her native state of Maryland. It seems quite fitting that she is Maryland's Official Hostess. Her life story and path to the Governor's Mansion in Annapolis includes a series of noteworthy personal and professional accomplishments.

A 1942 graduate of Western High School in Baltimore, Hilda Mae went on to graduate from Church Hospital as a registered nurse. She was employed as a Baltimore City public health nurse and worked in several hospitals. While pursuing her professional career, Hilda Mae raised three children—Dorothy, Larry and Craig. Today, she is proud grandmother of seven grandchildren.

In 1969, she started working for the Bureau of Health Insurance—which is now the Health Care Financing Administration. She travelled around the nation with the Federal Government's first Hospital Utilization Review Team for the Medicare Program.

The Intergovernmental Program Award (IPA) afforded her the opportunity to work for the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (MHSCRC), regulating Maryland hospitals. She developed the Nurse Education Support Program (NESP) for this Commission. It was initiated and implemented in cooperation with intermediaries, the Maryland State Health Department and the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission. The Program was featured in "The American Journal of Nursing" in 1988.

In January of 1987, Hilda Mae retired from her distinguished career to relax and enjoy her senior years. Shortly thereafter, she was asked by Governor William Donald Schaefer to volunteer her time to the Governor's Mansion. Since then, she has remained this state's only full-time volunteer.

In 1989, the "Nurse of the Year" program was initiated by Hilda Mae in cooperation with the Maryland Hospital Association. This honor is presented on an annual basis at the Governor's Mansion. Nurses are nominated from communities across the state as deserving candidates for this award. On May 22, 1992, Hilda Mae was presented with the prestigious "Jimmie Swartz Medallion". It is awarded annually to individuals whose work within the community reflects the compassion and selflessness for which Jimmie Swartz was known. Hilda Mae received the Medallion during the hooding ceremony of the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

The Official Hostess of the State of Maryland has worked tirelessly to make the Governor's Mansion in Annapolis an outstanding showcase for all Marylanders to explore and enjoy.

In 1987, an access ramp was installed at the Governor's Mansion for use by individuals with disabilities. Since then, many beautiful additions have been made including the Governor's Mansion Fountain that proudly features Maryland symbols, and the various plantings on the grounds which represent different areas of this state. Inside, numerous treasures and special renovations help to reveal the warmth, friendliness and charm of Maryland.

In her present role, Hilda Mae makes a point of striving to reach people of all ages and backgrounds. Her love for Maryland, along with her interest in positively touching the lives of Marylanders, is truly an inspiration.