

Mrs. Virginia Lee James
Inducted 2006

Virginia Lee James gave more than two decades of ardent support of the Scotland School for Veterans' Children (SSVC). Her dedicated service has spanned roles including parent and guardian, Board of Trustees member, Foundation Board of Directors, and founder and President of the Philadelphia Parents' Association.

Mrs. James first became acquainted with Scotland School when she enrolled her grandson, Edward Mooney, in September 1984. She saw firsthand the benefits of a Scotland education and strongly believed in the school's mission. (Edward graduated in June 1992.)

In 1985, Mrs. James identified and met the need for a parents' organization by creating the Scotland School for Veterans' Children Parents' Association in Philadelphia. As founder and President, she improved overall communication and served as a critical liaison between the school and parents of Philadelphia students, where 86% of SSVC parents and guardians reside. In addition to improved communication, James faced other challenges as president like providing chartered bus transportation for the students to and from the school during holidays and summer vacations.

Her commitment and approach has made her, in many respects, the "face of Scotland School" in the Philadelphia region. Her efforts and countless referrals enhanced recruitment and the school's professional reputation. Mrs. James continues to work tirelessly to improve the welfare of Scotland students and staff.

Mrs. James was extremely instrumental in uniting parents and Philadelphia legislators to fight to keep Scotland School open when the Commonwealth attempted to close it in 1991; she was elected to the SSVC Board of Trustees shortly thereafter in July 1992. As a member of the Board of Trustees, she provided a thoughtful, student-centered approach to the operation that consistently reflected her love and concern for the school's present operation and future capacity.

Following Mrs. James's retirement from the Board of Trustees in May 1997, the Foundation for the Scotland School saw the need to utilize her expertise. In this role, Mrs. James assisted in making valuable in-roads with private and corporate donors in the Philadelphia area.

Mrs. Virginia Lee James has made an immeasurable impact on Scotland School and thousands of students and families over the last two decades. She rightly takes her place in the DMVA Hall of Fame.