

DR. CONSTANCE TIMBERLAKE

1930-2019, Saint John, New Brunswick



EDUCATOR AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Descended from Black Loyalists, Dr. Constance Timberlake grew up in Saint John, New Brunswick. After working in a factory in Saint John, she left her job and moved to the United States to become a teacher. On August 21st, 1963, as head of the Kansas City Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Dr. Timberlake led a protest in which sixteen protestors demonstrated against an amusement park's ban on Black patrons. While white patrons yelled obscenities and threw stones, it was the demonstrators who were arrested for disturbing the peace by simply laying on the ground. Dr. Timberlake remained devoted to civil rights and education and played an active part in the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASLAH) and served on local school boards. Dr. Timberlake earned her Ph.D. at Syracuse University, where she was also a faculty member and the University's Commissioner of Education. Dr. Timberlake later served on the National Advisory Council for Continuing Education in the United States, first appointed by President Jimmy Carter, and reappointed by President Ronald Reagan. She received many distinguished awards, including the international Who's Who World Women recognition, and Post-Standard Award for Women of Achievement in Education.