

Mrs. Juanita Louise Brooks Rolls-Chalmus is being recognized by the Ocean City Juneteenth Organization with the Community Leadership Award during the Inaugural Juneteenth Celebration & Brunch, June 17, 2017. Mrs. Chalmus' commitment to the children of Ocean City will never be forgotten. As the Head Teacher for the Head Start Program, she helped to plant the seeds of success for so many. She ensured that the children of Ocean City had a positive place to learn and have fun. Her life was one of sacrifice and love.

Mrs. Chalmus was born in Ocean City on March 4, 1927 to Bernard Brooks and Ainer Pennington-Brooks. Mrs. Chalmus attended the Ocean City Public Schools and graduated in 1945. In 1946, Mrs. Chalmus married Harry Segal Rolls of Ocean City. Mrs. Chalmus was a homemaker until 1967 when she began her employment with Atlantic Human Resources Head Start Program and worked as a Teacher's Assistant for several years in Ocean City. Education was always very important to Mrs. Chalmus. After obtaining an Associate of Arts degree from Atlantic Community College, she enrolled at Glassboro State College (Rowan University) and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Chalmus then became the Head Teacher of the Ocean City Head Start Program until retiring after 20 years, receiving the Project Head Start Career Development Award in 1973. Mrs. Chalmus also worked at Mary Jane's Nursery School for several years. During the summers she was employed by the Ocean City Department of Recreation until she fully retired. Mrs. Chalmus was a devoted and faithful member of Macedonia United Methodist Church for more than 50 years. She was dedicated and very active. During her tenure at Macedonia, she served as Chairperson of the Nurturing and Stewardship Committees. She loved to sing and was a member of the choir. As superintendent and teacher of Macedonia's Sunday School for numerous years, many children came to know and love her. Mrs. Chalmus was also a member of the Board of Trustees and worked in several elected positions. Over the years, she held several positions with the United Methodist Women. Mrs. Chalmus volunteered her time and service to the Ocean City Ecumenical Clothes Closet. Mrs. Chalmus was a member of the Ocean City African American Neighborhood Committee, and served on the Board of Trustees for Davis-Holland Learning Center. Mrs. Chalmus received the Macedonia United Methodist Church Family Award for her service as Vice President and Spiritual Life Officer in 2003 and was the recipient of the Ocean City Piece of the Walk in Recognition and Sincere Appreciation of her work in the Community in 2006. After a life of service and love, Mrs. Chalmus passed away February 20, 2011.