

Mrs. Mary Hayward-Miles
Business Leadership Award

Mrs. Mary Hayward-Miles is being honored with the Business Leadership Award in recognition of her contributions to the economic vitality and charitable service of the Black community in Ocean City. Mrs. Miles was born and raised in Rhem, South Carolina. Her parents, Mack and Lessie Hayward, raised Mary and her siblings in a praying home, which led her to begin serving the Lord at a young age. Mrs. Miles was baptized at the age of 14 and was immediately known as a shining star at her home church, Weldon Hill Baptist Church. As a child, she sang on the choir, served as a Junior Usher, and was a member of the Trustee Board. She graduated from Chavis High School and later earned an Associate's Degree in Computer Programming from Atlantic Community College.

Mrs. Miles moved to Ocean City in the spring of 1964 and soon met the love of her life, Tommy Miles, Jr. They were married on December 3, 1966. From that union, they have four children, Gregory, Sharon, Patricia, and Laquinta; five grandchildren, Gregory, William, Whitney, Courtney, and Aaliyah; and one great-granddaughter, London. Mrs. Miles retired from Spencer's Gifts, Inc. and began working at Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino. After retiring from the casino industry, she continued volunteering her time at the local food bank and career clothing closet. Mrs. Miles has been a faithful member of Shiloh Baptist Church for over 52 years. She continues to be an active member of the Trustee Board, Pastor's Aide, Usher Board, Gospel Choir, Community Choir, and a deaconess, in addition to teaching Sunday School and Bible Study. Mrs. Miles' kindness and generosity has been recognized by the City of Ocean City, as well as several churches and organizations, and she is known for her flavorful soul food. She currently resides in Ocean City with her husband.