

DARLENE FOLSTON SHELTON

Darlene Folston Shelton formerly Darlene F. Young, is a native of Portsmouth, Virginia. She attended I. C. Norcom and Woodrow Wilson High Schools. She is a 1979 graduate of Norfolk State University where she majored in Political Science with an emphasis in Pre-Law. She married after college and has two girls. Darlene traveled abroad where she worked as a paralegal for 13 years with the Coast Guard. After relocating to West Virginia for a few years, she left the Coast Guard and returned to Hampton Roads where she has worked for the Portsmouth Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Virginia Beach Juvenile Court, Norfolk Public Schools, Barry Robinson Center, and the Mediation Center of Hampton Roads. She is a member of the New Hope Baptist Church of Virginia Beach, the Zeta Pi Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., (Portsmouth Chapter) and a Charter member of the Norfolk State University Alumni Band.

Darlene F. Shelton is choreographer and teacher of Dance Dimensions Dance and Music Academy of Norfolk, VA where her daughter Eboni Young is owner. She was the former director for the Young Performing Artists Dance Group of Norfolk, VA, an artistic dance group that consisted of young ladies from the age of 4 to adult. Ms. Young was a volunteer at Park Place Recreational Center in Norfolk, Virginia where she touched young lives through mentoring and teaching dance from 1992 to 2002. Performing locally for churches, festivals, weddings, and many more, the group also traveled abroad and performed for the NAACP National Heritage Festival in West Virginia, VA, Senior Olympics help at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA, Kings Dominion in Richmond, VA, Colgate University-Bowie, MD Alumni Chapter, Quanza Celebration & Wedding in Edison, NJ and a talent show in Staten Island, NY. The Young Performing Artists won many awards for their performance from the Stars of the 90's, The Show Biz National Dance Competition, and Norfolk Star Search Competition. The dance company's motto "Each One, Teach one and Become as one" touched many young lives and helped build confidence and self-esteem in youths through the art of performing. Darlene was a former dance student of the I. C. Norcom High School Modern Dance Group, the late Thaddeus Hayes Dance Theatre, the Hampton Roads Dance Academy and The Academie De Ballet, Darlene began choreography in 1988 for weddings, church events, festivals and many other special events. Relocating to West Virginia in 1995, she attended Vostrikov Academy in Winchester, VA and Inwood Performing Arts in Inwood, WV.

Darlene remarried Bill Shelton in 2007 and now resides in Suitland, MD. She continues to touch lives young and old giving many the opportunity to be creative and increase their self-esteem teaching dance in Washington DC.