

The Carolina Community Honors the 1969 Cafeteria Workers' Strikes



Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks
Strike Leader

In 1969, black women workers at Lenoir Dining Hall and other cafeterias went on strike twice against Jim Crow employment practices. They demanded respect as human beings, better wages, and advancement opportunities. Their strike for human rights, like similar struggles at Duke and North Carolina A&T, spoke to the unfinished business of the Civil Rights Movement. Their slogan was, "It isn't slavery time anymore." With strong participation from the UNC Black Student Movement and broad support from other student, faculty, and community groups, the workers won their demands and demonstrated that the Carolina Community stands for respect, equal rights, and justice for all.



Mrs. Mary Smith
Strike Leader

Labor Rights are Human Rights