Hazel Mae Land

- *Founder of Hernando County NAACP Chapter*
- *1st black woman to graduate from University of Florida Law School*
- *One of first black women admitted to the Florida Bar*
- *Florida Secretary for NAACP*
- *Miss NAACP 1984, Clearwater Chapter*

Hazel grew up in Brooksville & graduated from Moton High School. She received a degree from Tuskegee Institute then taught school. She joined the Peace Corps, serving in the Philippines & Nigeria then returned to Brooksville & founded its first NAACP chapter by walking door to door to recruit the 50 members required. That work inspired her to become an attorney to further assist the Civil Rights movement. As an attorney, Hazel helped Hernando County navigate the years following segregation with cases on school busing, landlord-tenant disputes, & civil rights issues. She personally paid for the education of some children who would otherwise have to quit school to work to help their families financially. She often took cases based regardless of her client's ability to pay.

That's why I studied law. I wanted to be available for people who needed help & didn't always have money." - regarding becoming the first black female graduate of UF Law School