

# WISCONSIN WOMEN MAKING HISTORY

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## ANGIE BROOKS

1928-2007

City: Madison

County: Dane

Angie Brooks is best known as the first African woman to serve as president of the United Nations General Assembly.

Brooks was born in Liberia in 1928 and grew up there, but came to the U.S. as a young woman to pursue higher education. She graduated in 1949 from Shaw University in North Carolina with an undergraduate degree in social sciences, and then, in 1952, earned both a law degree and a master's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin. She also completed graduate work at the University College Law School of London, Liberia University, Shaw University, and Howard University.

Brooks served as counsellor-at-law to the Supreme Court of Liberia; as assistant attorney general of Liberia; as vice president and later president of the International Federation of Women Lawyers; as a professor of law at Liberia University; and as vice president of the National Liberian Political and Social Movement. She was Liberia's delegate to the United Nations General Assembly for many years, and was the first African woman — and second woman ever — to be elected president of the Assembly, where she presided over the 24th session (1969-1970). After her death in 2007, Brooks was praised by Liberia's president for her courage, determination, and commitment to service.

## LEARN MORE

"Angie Brooks '52, Former President of UN General Assembly, Dies at 79." Wisconsin Law School News, September 17, 2007. [http://www.law.wisc.edu/newsletter/In\\_the\\_Media/Angie\\_Brooks\\_52\\_Former\\_President\\_2007-09-17](http://www.law.wisc.edu/newsletter/In_the_Media/Angie_Brooks_52_Former_President_2007-09-17).

United Nations, "Miss Angie Brooks (Liberia) Elected President of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly." <http://www.un.org/ga/55/president/bio24.htm>.

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