

# CAROL B. PARKER

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born: November 16, 1917, Gainesville, Florida  
Died March 3, 1966, Gainesville, Florida  
Profession: physicist, physician

Carolyn Beatrice Parker was a physicist who worked from 1943 to 1947 on the Dayton project, the plutonium research and development arm of the Manhattan project. Parker is the first African-American woman known to have gained a postgraduate degree in physics.

Parker earned two master's degrees, one in mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1941 and one in physics from MIT in 1951.

## Summary

In Summary, Ms. Carolyn Parker did her Patriotic duty in helping the United States win the war using her brilliant scientific talents and analysis. In doing so, she had to overcome a significant amount of racism and sexism by white male scientists.

Tragically, Ms. Parker died of leukemia at age 48 -- before she could earn her Ph.D. In 2008, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health determined that

leukemia was an occupational risk of working with polonium. Hence, the people of the United States and certainly Gainesville owe Ms. Carolyn Parker a great debt of gratitude for making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. We have the historic opportunity to make sure that the brilliance and commitment of Carolyn B. Parker is "hidden" no more.