



**Metropolitan Water  
Reclamation District  
of Greater Chicago**



**2022 MWRD**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN**

**HISTORY MONTH**

## **Alexa Irene Canady, MD**

**Alexa Irene Canady, MD, was born on November 7, 1950, in Lansing, Michigan. She earned both her bachelors and medical degree from the University of Michigan. Dr. Canady is a member of Delta Sigma Theta. She became the first black neurosurgeon in the United States, specializing in pediatric neurosurgery. She rose to the ranks of chief of neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Michigan. During her years at the Children's Hospital of Michigan, Dr. Canady also continued research with Wayne State University. She served as a Professor of Neurosurgery there as well.**

**Her work and accomplishments have opened the door for many surgeons of all races and genders. From 2001 to her retirement in 2012, Dr. Canady worked as a part-time surgeon and consultant at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida.**

**In an interview on why she thinks students should choose neurosurgery, she states, "It's intellectually challenging; you get kind of a high when everybody says 'ah, the neurosurgeon is here.'" Dr. Canady continues to be both an advocate for her profession as well as diversity in medicine.**

