

*Gwinnett County
Retired Educators
Association*

In Memoriam

2021



A Special Memorial Edition of the GCREA Newsline



Remembering

Leslie Jo Bentley

April 12, 1934 - July 31, 2020

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Leslie Jo Bentley of Winder, GA. Leslie earned a Master's degree in Education Administration from The University of Georgia. She spent 28 years as an administrator in Gwinnett County Public Schools. Leslie held many positions as an administrator. She was a Curriculum Director, an Assistant Superintendent in Charge of Instruction, and a Pupil Personnel Director.

Leslie belonged to Winder United Methodist Church where she taught The Seeker Sunday School Class for many years and was a member of The W Y Smith Sunday School Class. She was very active in her community and numerous clubs. She was a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority, Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association, and the UMW Women's Club. Leslie had a love of gardening as she was a member of both the Winder Garden Club and the Friends of Georgia Botanical Gardens.

We celebrate Leslie Jo Bentley for her dedication to education and students as well as her involvement in community and church. She spread joy wherever she went.



Remembering

Charlotte Dispain

June 28, 1938 - May 16, 2020

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Charlotte Dispain of Duluth, GA. She was born in Norcross, GA. Charlotte was a secretary at Duluth High School for 26 years. We celebrate her service and love given to students and staff at Duluth High School.



Remembering

Lester Nelson Erving

May 13, 1930 - January 12, 2020

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Lester Nelson Erving of Snellville, GA. He was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey. In 1947 he joined the U.S. Army and was deployed to Korea and Vietnam. During his 30 years of military service, he was the recipient of many medals: The Combat Infantry Badge from the Korean President, The Expert Infantry Man Medal, The Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, The Purple Heart, 3 Air Medals, The Presidential Citation, The Meritorious Service Medal, and the Vietnam Gold Cross of Gallantry with Palm. Lester attained the rank of Command Sergeant Major (E-9) and enjoyed training troops at Fort Jackson in Columbia, SC.

Lester belonged to many organizations: the Masons for 60 years, the Jamil Shriners, the American Legion Post 232, the VFW Post 4180, Order of the Purple Heart of GA, DAV Chapter 90, and Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association. He was a member of Corinth Baptist Church of Loganville for 28 years serving as an usher and on the security team.

Lester enjoyed fishing, NASCAR, and the Atlanta Braves, but his biggest joy in life was lending a hand to anyone in need be it a stranger or a friend. We recall his flamboyant voice, his insistence on punctuality, and his benevolence.

We celebrate Lester Nelson Erving for his undeniable and overflowing love for family, his country, his church, his military colleagues and the Lord.



Remembering

Patricia Gail Tudor Frederick

January 29, 1942 - November 8, 2018

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Patricia Frederick. She was born in Guntersville, AL and graduated from Gadsen High School. Patricia received a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in music from Jacksonville State College and a Master's degree from Georgia State College. Patricia was an elementary school teacher for thirty years teaching at Lilburn Elementary, Dyer Elementary and Sugar Hill Elementary. After retiring, she worked at Buford Florist.

Patricia was a singer, a pianist, and an organist. She played piano or organ in AL, plus at Suwanee Baptist and Shadowbrook Baptist in Suwanee, GA and McKendree United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville, GA. In her later years, she began singing in the Silvertones Choir.

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Patricia Frederick who loved life. She loved sharing her gift of music with her family, her friends, and her community.



Remembering

Michael John Grace

September 30, 1938 - July 9, 2020

We are celebrating the legacy of Michael John Grace of Winder, Georgia. He served in the United States Navy for twenty years. Michael was a member of St. Matthews Catholic Church. He was a life member of Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association.



Remembering

Linda Faye Hall

December 13, 1944 - August 10, 2020

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Linda Faye (Embry) Hall of Snellville, GA. Those who knew her best called her Frammy. She was born in Atlanta, GA.

Frammy enjoyed reading, working in the yard, cleaning and being with family. She had a major stroke 6 years ago but remained strong and steadfast in her love for family and friends. She loved to laugh and watch her soap operas.

We celebrate Linda Faye Hall for her joy in helping others in their time of need. She loved her family dearly and adored her grandchildren and that love was reciprocated from all she touched in her life.

Remembering
Mary Scigliane Leach



March 15, 1941 - January 24, 2019

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Mary Scigliane Leach of Lilburn, GA. She was born the oldest daughter of Luis and Mary Scigliane in Brooklyn, NY. The family moved to the Panama Canal Zone where she spent her youth. She returned to Brooklyn staying with her maternal grandparents to complete high school. She graduated from the State University of New York - New Palz in 1962 with a degree in Education.

After graduating Mary returned to the Panama Canal Zone to begin her teaching career at the Military Dependent School System. That is where she met her husband who was serving in the Air Force. They settled in New York, then Fayetteville, NC, and after he retired, they moved to Decatur and finally Lilburn.

In the 1970's Mary was a tireless advocate for the POW-MIA organization as her husband had been deployed in Vietnam. She also sponsored a family who had escaped Laos and thrived.

In the early 1980's Mary returned to full time teaching for Gwinnett County Schools at Dacula, then Snellville, Middle Schools before retiring in 2003.

She was an avid pet lover and after retirement pursued one of her passions, being a Master Gardener. Both she and her husband volunteered at the Society of St. Vincent De Paul store in Lilburn.

Mary was an active Zonian as she maintained ties and lifelong friendships from her youth in the Canal Zone.

We celebrate the life of Mary Scigliane Leach who reached out to touch so many in this world. Her favorite charity is World Vision. Mary considers her sponsoring of the family from Laos as her greatest accomplishment and legacy.



Remembering

Janice May

March 12, 2019

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Janice May of Buford, GA. Janice earned a degree in journalism from the University of Georgia and then a Master's degree in English Education from Emory University. She decided teaching was her passion and taught English in DeKalb County Schools. Janice used her journalism degree as she was a sponsor of the yearbook and newspaper. She was a Life member of Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association. Janice was a member of the First Baptist Church of Buford.

We celebrate Janice May for her active participation in the life of so many high school students.



Remembering

Syble Eugene Gresham McDaniel

1936 - June 17, 2020

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Syble Eugene Gresham McDaniel of Winder, GA. Syble was a graduate of Winder High School and a lifetime member of the First Baptist Church which she joined at age 13. She taught Sunday School for many years.

Syble served on numerous committees for Barrow County, the city of Winder, as well as at her church. She retired from Gwinnett County Schools. Before and after her retirement, she was an avid golfer enjoying the sport and being outdoors.

We celebrate the life of Syble Eugene Gresham McDaniel.



*Remembering
Janet Elizabeth McKenzie*

October 11, 1939 - May 28, 2020

We are celebrating the legacy of Janet Elizabeth McKenzie. She was a graduate of St. Petersburg HS and attended St. Petersburg Junior College. Janet graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's degree in education. She pursued additional degrees earning a Master's in education from the University of Miami and then a Specialist in education from Nova. Janet was a LIFE member of Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association.

Janet loved fishing, traveling, collecting peacocks, and reading her Bible. She was a member of Northside Baptist Church. She and her husband attended 5 Superbowls cheering on the Miami Dolphins.

We celebrate Janet Elizabeth McKenzie for her love of life.



Remembering
Gailya Rentz Raines

February 16, 1934 - February 2, 2021

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Gailya Raines of Monroe, Georgia. She was born in Pasco County, Florida to Harry Hughes and Juanita Ione Rentz. Upon graduating from Pasco County High, she moved to Georgia and attended Tift College where she obtained a degree in Education.

From 1954 to 1988, she taught students throughout Georgia. Gailya was a dedicated and loving teacher as she was recognized as Teacher of the Year in 1979, 1984 and 1988 before retiring from Trickum Middle School in Lilburn, Georgia.

After retiring she remained active volunteering in her community and church. At her beloved Harmony Grove United Methodist Church, she taught the Harmony Grove Sunday School class for over 30 years, founded an adult literacy program, held several positions in the J.O.Y. Club and served on numerous other committees. Gailya was proud to represent Georgia as Mother of the Year in 2005 through the American Mothers Association.

We celebrate Gailya Raines whose accolades were many and she left a special imprint on all she encountered. We are grateful for her willingness to serve her community, but especially her husband, children, and grandchildren.



Remembering

Sara Valentine Corley Roberts

March 1, 1925 - August 19, 2020

We are celebrating the life and legacy of Sara Valentine Corley Roberts of Stone Mountain, GA. Sara was born to Dallas and Minnie Jones Corley at their homeplace on Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth, Ga. She was a lifelong Gwinnett County resident.

Sara graduated in 1943 from Duluth High School and went on to pursue a teaching degree at Piedmont College. She taught in Gwinnett County Public Schools for 30 years. Sara loved teaching and especially loved hearing from former students and learning their favorite memories. She was a proud member of the Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association.

Sara was a member of Lilburn First Baptist Church for 50 years and enjoyed their wonderful trips and activities. The Praise Sunday School gave her special blessings as they gathered for luncheons and game days. Sara loved to garden, and her green thumb could make anything grow.

We celebrate one of our Emeritus members, Sara Roberts, for her love and devotion to all her family, and her lifelong love of learning and students.

*Memorials written by
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*Special Memorial Edition of Newsline
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