

HOUSTON COUNTY



2019 INDUCTION CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
ERIC P. STAPLES BUILDING, PERRY, GA



**Congratulations to the 2019
Houston County
Teacher Hall of Fame inductees!**



★ Elzie Argene Claxton

★ Rebecca T. Crockett

★ Sandra H. Gilreath

★ Pamela A. Knauer

★ Margaret M. Washburn

Order of Events

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Dr. Mark Scott
Superintendent of Schools

Inspiration

Mrs. Helen Hughes
Vice Chairman, Houston County Board of Education

"Star Spangled Banner"

Miss Remie Heide
*Miss Thomson Middle School &
Miss Warner Robins Outstanding Teen 2020*

Introduction of Guests

Dr. Scott

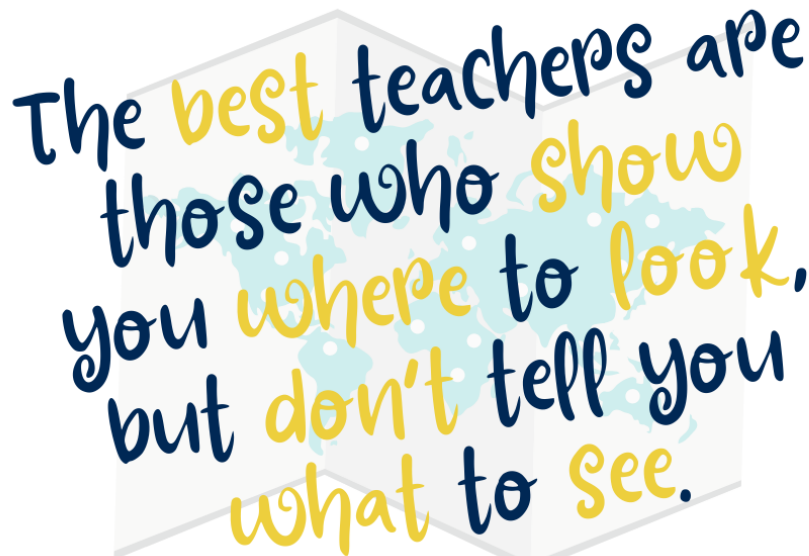
"Journey to the Past"

Miss Heide

Recognition of Honorees

Dr. Scott
Mrs. Beth McLaughlin
Director of Community & School Affairs

*Refreshments will be served in the foyer immediately following the ceremony.
Please join us to fellowship and celebrate the contributions of these extraordinary teachers.*



The best teachers are
those who show
you where to look,
but don't tell you
what to see.

– ALEXANDRA K. TRENFOR

Dr. Elzie Argene Claxton



Dr. Argene Claxton was born in Macon, Georgia. After graduating Jeff Davis High School in Hazlehurst, Georgia, he attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, where he earned an Associate Degree in Agricultural Education in 1978. Later he earned his Bachelor of Science in 1980, Master of Education in 1982, and Educational Specialist in 1984, all from the University of Georgia. Dr. Claxton went on to earn his Doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2005 from Argosy University.

Dr. Claxton began his teaching career at Perry High School in 1980, teaching agriculture and serving as the FFA Advisor. He continued serving in this role for 37 years until his retirement from the Houston County School District in June 2017.

Though retired from the district, Dr. Claxton remains involved in agricultural education as the head of Recruitment and Retention of Georgia Agricultural Teachers for the Georgia Department of Education.

Dr. Claxton and his wife, Sandy, of 34 years, live in Perry. They have two children, a daughter and a son. Dr. and Mrs. Claxton also have two grandchildren. The couple is active in the Perry community, as well as their church community.

"Argene Claxton loved his students! He did all that he could do to help them succeed. Argene got them to realize that to be successful, you had to put in the work. He practiced with them tirelessly to make sure they were prepared for FFA competitions. Just being good wasn't enough. Only the best would do. Perry High is a better place because of Argene Claxton." - Dave Crockett, Former Colleague

"Dr. Argene Claxton is a nationally recognized agriculture teacher. Over his 37-year career in Houston County, he won several state and national awards. More importantly, he influenced countless lives and promoted public education. Throughout his career, Dr. Claxton represented "The Houston County Way" and was a model for all." - Dr. Chris Brown, Former Student

Mrs. Rebecca J. Crockett

Mrs. Becky Crockett was born in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from Dothan High School in Dothan, Alabama. Mrs. Crockett received her Bachelor of Science in Early Education in 1969 at Troy State University.

She began her teaching career at Springdale Elementary School in Enterprise, Alabama. There she taught gifted classes in all subjects to 3rd and 4th grade students from January to May. The following school year, Mrs. Crockett moved to Perry, Georgia to begin work for the Houston County School District at New Hope Elementary as a 2nd grade teacher. In 1970, she began teaching 7th grade at the Perry Annex, which later became Perry Middle School. Mrs. Crockett taught English, reading and science. She earned her certification in gifted education and, for the remainder of her career, taught 6th, 7th and 8th grade English language arts gifted classes.

Mrs. Crockett retired from the Houston County School District in June 1999 after teaching for the district for more than 30 years.

Becky Crockett has been married to her middle school sweetheart, Dave, for 52 years. They reside in Perry and remain active in their church, community and the field of education. Mr. and Mrs. Crockett have a son and two daughters, as well as two grandchildren.



"She is the epitome of the dedicated, knowledgeable, and passionate educator that makes our system so special. Over the 30 years Mrs. Crockett taught, she inspired, motivated, and encouraged thousands of students. I am a better person, a better learner, and a better educator because of Mrs. Becky Crockett and her love for me." - Dr. Amy Fouse, Former Student

"Mrs. Crockett taught me that all gifted students were not created equally. She taught us all that students with disabilities are also gifted students and that students are gifted in many different areas of life. Mrs. Crockett has always been a teacher that students held in high esteem. Her peers admired her teaching ability and she was always an administrator's example of high-quality instruction." - Dr. Gail S. Nelson, Former Colleague

Mrs. Sandra H. Dilreath



Mrs. Sandy Gilreath was born in Tifton, Georgia. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1972 and Master of Education in 1976 at Georgia College. She later received her specialist degree in Educational Leadership in 1996 from the University of Georgia.

Mrs. Gilreath's first teaching position was in 1972 as a general math and pre-algebra teacher at a junior high school in Bibb County. She began teaching in Houston County in 1975 at Warner Robins High School where she taught mathematics and American Short Story to students in grades 10, 11 and 12 for five years. After a two year hiatus from teaching, Mrs. Gilreath returned to Warner Robins High in 1982 to teach mathematics to 10th, 11th and 12th graders. In 1991, she transferred to Houston County High School as the Mathematics Department Chair where she continued to teach classes to students in all grades and levels to include college prep, honors, and advanced placement.

In 1996, Mrs. Gilreath left the classroom to work at the Houston County Board of Education central office as the Math Coordinator. She retired from this position in February 2004.

Though retired, Mrs. Gilreath continues to educate; however, instead of teaching algebraic equations, she teaches quilting patterns and techniques. Mrs. Gilreath also maintains a blog, as well as creates fiber and textile art. She has been married to Jim, for 35 years, and they live in Macon. They have two daughters and three grandsons.

"Mrs. Gilreath was one of the best teachers I encountered. She inspired my love for mathematics! In addition, her classroom management techniques and philosophies were so impactful that I utilized them in my own classroom as a teacher. Her influence continues to be felt in my life as I see how she lives her retirement years with such grace." - Stephanie S. Beckham, Former Student

"Sandy Gilreath was unquestionably a teacher who exemplified characteristics of a master of the trade. Not only did she come to school fully prepared to teach every day, but she was often seen early in the mornings, as well as in the afternoons with a classroom full of students. She had an excellent rapport with "her kids". They trusted Sandy and knew her interest in them extended far beyond the classroom walls." - Joseph E. Smith, Former Principal

Mrs. Pamela A. Knauer

Mrs. Pam Knauer was born in Biloxi, Mississippi. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Ohio in 1983 and a Master of Education from Mercer University in 1989.

Mrs. Knauer began her teaching career at Perry Middle School in 1983 where she taught 5th and 6th grade English language arts. In 1985, she transferred to Elberta Elementary School to teach 4th and 5th grade, during her tenure at Elberta, Mrs. Knauer taught all subjects. She continued teaching all subjects to 5th grade classes at Northside Elementary School upon her transfer there in 1990. In 1996, she transferred to Feagin Mill Middle School where she taught classes in English language arts, math, and social studies to 6th and 7th grade students.

Mrs. Knauer left the classroom in 2006 to become the Social Studies Coordinator for the Houston County School District. She worked for the district in this role until her retirement in May 2015.

Mrs. Knauer remains an active participant in the education field as a part-time Social Studies School Improvement Specialist for Middle Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (MGRESA). Today, instead of teaching the students, she teaches the teacher.

Mrs. Knauer resides in Warner Robins with her husband, Dan, of 35 years. They have two children and three grandchildren.



"Mrs. Knauer has been a rock upon which I could stand and build, not only as a student striving to learn and make good grades, but also as an educator now trying to help my students love school and be as successful as possible in their academic careers. I can say without hesitation she has played a huge part in my life and shaping me into the man I am today through her service as my former teacher and mentor." - Michael Pinto, Former Student

"Professionalism and servanthood are words most used to describe Mrs. Knauer and her leadership. She leads with both her heart and mind to create a balance of always doing what is right and what is best for students! Mrs. Knauer works hand in hand with stakeholders, administrators, teachers, and students to make certain we continue building on our successes." - Dr. Eric Payne, Former Supervisor

Mrs. Margaret M. Washburn



Mrs. Margaret Washburn was born in Smithfield, Texas. She earned a Bachelor in Secondary Education in 1948 and a Master of English in 1949, both from North Texas State University.

Mrs. Washburn began her career in Odessa, Texas, teaching high school English for five years. In 1954, she took a hiatus from teaching to marry and start a family. After moving to Warner Robins, Georgia, she returned to teaching in 1967. Mrs. Washburn taught English, social studies, and Spanish at Tabor Junior High School. She continued in this role for 20 years and also became the English Department Chairperson. During her tenure, Mrs. Washburn served as a sponsor for numerous clubs and organizations. Most notably was the Journalism Club, which published a weekly column, "Tiger Tales," in the Daily Sun newspaper.

Mrs. Washburn retired from the Houston County School District in June 1987, after which she became an active member of the Retired Teachers Association of

Houston County. She was also very active in the community, her church, and the arts as a violinist for the Macon Symphony.

Mrs. Washburn passed away June 24, 2008. Her husband of 57 years, John, also passed away that December. They had four children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

"Mrs. Washburn was a genuine professional. She cared deeply for the personal welfare of her students while remaining focused on their academic and career objectives. She was uniquely able to motivate her students, instilling in them a pride and confidence in their abilities and performances. Beyond her professional responsibilities, she was truly a person of great character and convictions. Her honesty and integrity were beyond reproach and she would serve her students without reservation." - Leon Tompkins, Former Colleague and 2009 Hall of Fame Inductee

"Mrs. Washburn was an English teacher. But that is not what she really taught. She taught you how to communicate by participation. She was a musician, a model enthusiast, an actress, a community activist and much more. Support, encouragement, and constructive criticism were just part of her repertoire. A role model across multiple disciplines, she tolerated no preference for gender, race or religion. She understood the importance of diversity long before it was mainstream." - Stan Bush, Former Student

Congratulations to our Houston County

Teacher Hall of Fame Members!

2016

- ★ Mrs. Debbie Dean
- ★ Mrs. Brenda Littlefield
- ★ Mr. Eli Claude (E.C.) Warnock
- ★ Mr. Elijah Weatherspoon

2015

- ★ Mrs. Barbara T. Asbell
- ★ Ms. Gloria M. Combs
- ★ Ms. Dorothy C. Hardy
- ★ Mrs. Shelia W. Keener
- ★ Mrs. Cerelia W. Sipe

2013

- ★ Mrs. Linda Faraone
- ★ Mrs. Mary Ann Gore
- ★ Mrs. Gail R. Maye
- ★ Mrs. Pamela R. Stanescu

2012

- ★ Mrs. Inez Daughtry Brewton
- ★ Mrs. Donna Crawford Havrilla
- ★ Mrs. Sherin C. Hinnant
- ★ Mrs. Joyce Bridges Jones
- ★ Mrs. Jeanne Connell McDonald
- ★ Mrs. Carolyn K. Stonehouse

2011

- ★ Mrs. Joyce Brooks
- ★ Mrs. Mary Alice Holland
- ★ Mr. Ray Horne
- ★ Mrs. Annabelle Watts Lytle
- ★ Mrs. Billie Goode Mosteller
- ★ Mrs. Bertie Riner

2009

- ★ Mr. Phillip Brewton
- ★ Mrs. Jean Brown Lambert
- ★ Mrs. Gloria Mason Ragin
- ★ Mrs. Evelyn Dowdy Ross
- ★ Mr. Leon Tompkins
- ★ Mrs. Martha González Valdés

2008

- ★ Mrs. Eva Nelson Holland
- ★ Mrs. Dorothy Naomi Jones
- ★ Mr. W. Earl Marshall, III
- ★ Mrs. Mildred Montgomery
- ★ Mrs. Alberta H. Moody
- ★ Mrs. Gervaise Wynn Perdue
- ★ Mrs. Thelma Eleanor Ross
- ★ Mrs. Carolyn Coleman Smith
- ★ Mrs. Pearl J. Stephens
- ★ Mrs. Mabel Ellis Weaver

2007

- ★ Mrs. Gladwyn Sproull Barfield
- ★ Mrs. Ruby Pickens Carpenter
- ★ Mr. Earl H. Cheek
- ★ Mrs. Marion Hunter Cheek
- ★ Mrs. Claire Tyson Coleman
- ★ Mrs. Mamie Horne Coleman
- ★ Mrs. Blanche Youngblood Collins
- ★ Miss Sara Frances Couey
- ★ Mrs. Florence Smith Harrison
- ★ Miss Sara Lewis
- ★ Mrs. Molly Cason Moss
- ★ Mr. Adleigh Douglas Redmond
- ★ Mrs. Susie Mae Tharpe
- ★ Mrs. Malissa Giles Tucker

Teacher Hall of Fame Criteria

The purpose of the Houston County Teacher Hall of Fame is to honor extraordinary classroom teachers who taught in Houston County, Georgia and made a significant difference in the lives of their students. This recognition program honors the district's most outstanding teachers. This Hall of Fame began in 2007.

Nominees must have maintained exemplary standards of behavior and ethics, exhibited leadership, been enthusiastic about teaching and learning, demonstrated competency in their subject matter, worked well with colleagues and administrators, and consistently sought to encourage, inspire, and motivate students toward greater accomplishment. All candidates are judged on a preponderance of the evidence as demonstrated by their qualifications and the application. While many teachers serve a long and distinguished career, accomplishments must be worthy of system-wide recognition. Longevity without meaningful impact does not constitute appropriate credentials for Teacher Hall of Fame (THOF) consideration.

Nomination requirements follow:

- ★ At least 20 years of classroom experience in the Houston County School System
- ★ Must be retired from the field of education
- ★ Must have a valid teaching certificate in Georgia
- ★ Must have earned a bachelor's degree or higher
- ★ The official THOF nomination form must be completed, to include:
 - ★ education, teaching experience and special recognition;
 - ★ nominee's personal, professional statements; and
 - ★ letters of support or recommendation.

Nomination packets are accepted year-round. Biographies of inductees and nomination forms are posted online to the Board of Education website, www.hcbe.net/THOF. For more information, contact the Houston County Board of Education Community Relations Department at (478) 988-6390.



Those who submitted nominations and letters of support for the Teacher Hall of Fame are greatly appreciated!

If I Could Teach You, Teacher

If I could teach you, teacher,
I'd teach you how much more
you have accomplished
than you think you have.

I'd show you the seeds
you planted years ago
that are now coming into bloom.

I'd reveal to you the young minds
that have expanded under your care,
the hearts that are serving others
because they had you as a role model.

If I could teach you, teacher,
I'd show you the positive effect
you have had on me and my life.

Your homework is
to know your value to the world,
to acknowledge it, to believe it.

Thank you, teacher.

Joanna Fuchs

PREMIER SPONSORS

Many thanks to our sponsors who support all systemwide events, to include the Houston County Teacher Hall of Fame!



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