



THE OKLAHOMA EDUCATIONAL MEMORIAL TRUST FOUNDATION HONORS

Gladys Whetstine



A scholarship was established to honor the life, career, and memory of Gladys Bernieze Whetstine (1922-2021). Gladys was born in Clarita, OK, 1921 and was the 10th child of twelve born to her parents. She grew up on a farm and attended elementary and high school before attending East Central State University to receive her B.S. degree in Education. She accepted her first teaching job in Tupelo High School in 1941 after she was needed to replace a man who was drafted into service due to the declaration of World War II.

Gladys eventually graduated from East Central State University in 1947 with a B.S. in both Business and English. She went on to get an MBA from the University of Oklahoma and eventually continued her education at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL for advanced business training. She also studied at Oklahoma State University and Tulsa University to continue learning all she could in the areas she had the most passion for—business and administration.

Gladys spent 42 years in Tulsa Public Schools with the last 9 in administration at the Education Service Center. Webster High School always had a special place in her heart. In her later years, many students called to check on her, take her to dinner, celebrate birthdays, sent cards, and just continued to show the love and respect they had for Gladys. Some of Gladys' many hobbies were traveling, needlework, watching the Dallas Cowboys, and talking on the phone.

Gladys received numerous honors and awards over the years. She was chosen "Educator of the Year" at East Central College and also received the "Ambassador"

Merit in Management which made her the first woman in Oklahoma to receive the honor. She was also State President of Oklahoma Business Education Association. Positions of Civic Leadership included serving on the Board of Directors at Tulsa Teachers Credit Union for many years and also serving as Chairman. She was an active member of the Retired Teachers Association, and wrote many letters and made many phone calls to politicians over the years in support of Public Education—she was a true advocate. She was a long time member of Alpha Delta Kappa, a teacher's sorority that focused on altruistic endeavors.

She always wrote the most beautiful handwritten messages when corresponding with others. She was the epitome of a “people person” and could often be found chatting with strangers wherever she went...often ending up as friends. She truly left the world a better place.

- Adapted from <https://ninde.com/tribute/details/2694/Gladys-Whetstine/obituary.html>