Sarah Manly, 1927-2007

Furman University
Sarah Manly, 1927-2007

Sarah Gillespie Manly ’48, longtime educator and civic leader in Greenville, died December 20 in New Delhi, India.

She had been visiting a mission and school for widows and children in Ranchi in association with a group called Dining for Women when she suffered a heart attack, from which she did not recover. She was 80.

A cum laude graduate of Furman with a degree in biology, she later earned a master’s degree from Clemson University. She taught chemistry and physics at two local high schools for 12 years and taught physics at Clemson for four years. She also worked as an ophthalmic photographer and retinal angiographer with her husband, ophthalmologist Basil Manly IV ’47, from 1976-96.

She was elected to three terms on the Greenville County School Board, serving from 1976-88, and from 1988-92 she was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. In 1991 she was named state Legislator of the Year by the South Carolina School Boards Association.

Active in Greenville’s First Baptist Church, she was a founding member of the Alliance for Quality Education, a tutor with the Greenville County Literacy Association and a longtime volunteer with Meals on Wheels and the Guardian Ad Litem program, which helps protect children in the court system.

In 1994 Furman inducted her into its chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the academic honorary society, and she served on the advisory board for the university’s Richard W. Riley Institute.

Eunice Farmer Gaines ’55, November 19, Campobello, S.C. She was a retired teacher from Spartanburg County (S.C.) District I.

Julian Milford “Juby” McKinley ’55, November 16, Anderson, S.C. He was a retired pastor, school principal and farmer.

Fred Eugene Robinson ’55, September 10, Greenville. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having retired as a colonel after serving during the Cold War. He was also retired from Leon H. Robinson and Son Insurance, Inc.

Viola Taylor Lang ’56, September 23, Slater, S.C. She was retired from Greenville County Schools, where she taught from 1939 to 1979.

Paul Marshall Hart ’52, October 7, Hudson, N.C. He was a retired United Methodist minister and had served a number of North Carolina pastorates.

Robert Long ’52, October 8, Columbia, S.C. He served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years as a chaplain and retired as a commander. He went on to be pastor of North Trenholm Baptist Church in Columbia for 13 years and Pine Belt Baptist Church for 10 years.

Arlene Whitfield Blakely ’53, October 14, Greenville. She was a retired teacher from the Oconee County (S.C.) School System.

Charles Jerry Canupp ’54, October 3, Anderson, S.C. He was a retired chiropractor who in later years was president of Allenwood Plastics and was a sales manager for American Sentry. He was a former Mason and had been active in the Jaycees, Lions Club and Rotary Club of Anderson.

James Irvine Ransbotham ’54, August 21, Fayetteville, N.C. He was a decorated U.S. Army officer who flew helicopters and fixed wing aircraft during three tours in Vietnam. He was named an honorary crew chief for the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds in 1997.

Dorothy Jean Manly Tripp ’54, November 15, Charlotte, N.C. She retired from the City of Charlotte in 1997. She also spent 25 years with the America.

Robert Adair Williamson, Sr. ’54, October 30, Anderson, S.C. Following service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he was minister of music at First Baptist Church of Lancaster, S.C., for eight years and then spent 31 years as minister of music at Northgate Baptist Church in Greenville.

Joseph Earl Crook, Sr. ’55, October 2, Inman, S.C. He became associate pastor at First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C., in 1959 and later served churches in Woodruff, S.C., and again in Spartanburg.

He was also director of the Vera Parsons Adult Center at the Charles Lea Center in Spartanburg. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving in Japan.

Hugh Chandler Fortson ’55, October 29, Greenwood, S.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and a Baptist minister. He retired from Victory Baptist Church in Moncks Corner, S.C., in 1986 and then served as interim pastor of several churches and as senior adult minister at West Side Baptist Church in Greenwood. He also volunteered with the Faith Home.

Eunice Farmer Gaines ’55, November 19, Campobello, S.C. She was a retired teacher from Spartanburg County (S.C.) District I.

Julian Milford “Juby” McKinley ’55, November 16, Anderson, S.C. He was a retired pastor, school principal and farmer.

Fred Eugene Robinson ’55, September 10, Greenville. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having retired as a colonel after serving during the Cold War. He was also retired from Leon H. Robinson and Son Insurance, Inc.

Viola Taylor Lang ’56, September 23, Slater, S.C. She was retired from Greenville County Schools, where she taught from 1939 to 1979.