

Career educator shakes community with sudden death

Life-long educator Glenda Houston Hughes, 60, passed away Sunday night about 9 p.m. after she collapsed at her home in Milan.

Ms. Hughes was rushed by ambulance to Milan General Hospital where she was pronounced dead.



Glenda Hughes

Among many other things, Glenda will be remembered for her detailed organizational skills, creative and innovative ways to reach students, and a demanding quest for quality workmanship from her peers during her 34-year tenure.

Glenda was truly zealous and passionate about her responsibilities to educate children of all backgrounds.

Glenda believed in having faith in her students, while listening and loving them at the same time. She once wrote, "We must teach students to feel good about themselves and have a positive attitude toward life. We must give them their wings and let them fly."

She also believed that an administrator's job was to make the faculty as happy as possible, because "happy teachers make happy students," she once wrote.

Glenda was a 1967 graduate of Milan High School and was a majorette and member of the band.

She continued her education at the University of Memphis and UT Martin where she earned her Bachelors degree, followed by a Masters, and a +45 diploma in Administrative Supervision.

Ms. Hughes taught school at Bradford (1971-'74), Milan ('75-'79) and Collinwood ('79-'82). She taught at Park Avenue

Middle School in '83-'84 and served as a Guidance Counselor at Trenton from '84-'89.

She served as Principal and Guidance Counselor at Collinwood.

She was Principal at Milan Middle from '89-'99, and Principal at Milan Elementary from '99-06, when she retired.

Glenda worked in almost every

aspect of secondary education, and served as principal on the elementary, middle school & high school levels.

In 1991-'92, Glenda was named Principal of the Year by the Tennessee Association of Middle Schools, and she was a finalist for Tennessee Principal of the Year in 2002.

In 2006, Glenda won the Milan Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year award.

Along with her life-long friend and classmate, Lacey Jacobs Mallard, the two educators were selected as the 2007 Milan alumni honorees.

While nominating her good friend as Educator of the Year, Mallard wrote, "Glenda's desire is to always do what is best for the students. She met opposition head on and stood her ground as a champion. She always stands firm for what is right. She stands behind the students and her faculty."

Glenda served on the MHSAA Board of Directors and was a past president of the association.

She was a past president of the Milan Education Association, a charter member of the Milan Junior Auxiliary, and served as a legislative lobbyist of TEA in Washington D.C.

She was a State Career Level III Educator and a member of First Baptist Church.

Glenda is the daughter of Dewey and Dorothy Houston and sister of Donna Houston, MHS class of 1966. She and husband Ronnie Hughes, a Class of 1961 grad, have four stepchildren: David Zarecor (Class of 2000), Rhonda Hughes Darnell (Class of 1985), and Robin Hughes Darnell (Class of 1988), and Allen Zarecor.

A memorial fund has been set up at The Bank of Milan in honor of Glenda. All funds collected will be used to enhance the educational projects that she loved.

Funeral services for Ms. Hughes were incomplete at press time.