

Kathryn Shehane

July 1, 1927 – January 24, 2015



Kathryn Milner Shehane was born July 1, 1927, in River View, Alabama to the late Eva Milner Shehane and James Vernon Lee Shehane. Her mother was a native of that area and her daddy was born in Harris County, Georgia.

She attended eleven years of public school in her hometown but finished three years of high school at Valley Vocational High School in Fairfax, Alabama. Kathryn lost her father at the age of eight, leaving the family in poor financial straits. When Kathryn asked her mother if she would be able to go to college her mother replied, “I think we can do that.”

Kathryn earned her B. S. in Education from Jacksonville State Teachers’ College and majored in English. She obtained her first teaching position in LaFayette, Alabama, teaching English and Physical Education. She had an interest in high school sports for girls. Alabama did not permit girls to participate in interscholastic athletics at that time, so she applied for teaching positions in Georgia. She interviewed in three school systems, but decided to teach eleventh grade English and coach “B” team girl’s basketball. Her first year of teaching at Douglas County was the first year that the county had a twelfth grade.

In ten years, Kathryn made two trips to the state tournament where her teams won their first game each time. Her team’s best season was 21-1 in 1958. When her interests began to focus on counseling, she obtained a Masters Degree from Auburn University in Guidance/Counseling. The next step was to obtain a Specialists’ Degree from Georgia Southern.

After teaching and counseling for several years, her interests in administration culminated in adding administration to her Specialist’s Degree through more study at West Georgia and Georgia State. Her assignments were at Turner Middle School in Lithia Springs for nine years and Fairplay Middle School for one and a half years. After leaving Fairplay Middle School she became Douglas County School Superintendent and served the Douglas County Board of Education for eight years.

During this time, Alexander High School, Dorsett Shoals Elementary, Factory Shoals Elementary and Chestnut Log Middle schools were built.

After four years of retirement, she ran again for superintendent and won a third term from 1993-96. She was the last elected superintendent. The superintendent is now appointed by the Board of Education.

Kathryn Shehane's career in education spanned 44 years. She was named by the Chamber of Commerce, Douglas County Citizen of the year in 1995. Kathryn served on the Board of Directors of West Central Technical College, the Douglas County Retardation Association, the Douglas County Public Library Board and the Emory-Parkway Hospital Board.

Auburn University named her one of its 100 Outstanding Women Graduates in celebration of the admission of women to Auburn University.

Kathryn was the recipient of the Douglas County Pathway of Service for her Lifetime Education and Three Time Douglas County School Superintendent service to the education of the children of Douglas County.

Kathryn lived in Douglas County for over sixty years and had a deep personal invested interest in its progress.