



## Lynette Gunnell Whitley

August 15, 2009

Lynette Gunnell Whitley, 78, died in her sleep on Saturday, August 15, 2009, in Fort Worth, Texas.

A native of Portsmouth, she was a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School and earned her Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree in Education from James Madison University. Mrs. Whitley worked at Merchants & Farmers Bank for six years before entering the field of education. In 1969, she began teaching accounting and data processing at Woodrow Wilson High School. In 1972, she and her colleagues launched the Portsmouth Public School System's Vocational Education program in Business at I.C. Norcom High School, where she taught for fourteen years. Mrs. Whitley became Business Education Supervisor for the Portsmouth School Board and retired in 1996 as Acting Vocational Education Coordinator. For many years, she was an adjunct instructor at the Portsmouth Campus of Tidewater Community College. She held memberships in many professional and civic organizations.

Mrs. Whitley was the daughter of H. Leroy Gunnell and Kathleen Brassell Gunnell. She is survived by her two children, her son T. Alva Whitley of San Diego, California and her daughter Karen W. McCarty, her husband J. Kenneth McCarty and their sons, David and Stephen McCarty of Fort Worth, Texas. Mrs. Whitley is also survived by her brother, Douglas L. Gunnell, his wife Anne H. Gunnell and their sons Chris, Todd and Jeffrey of Winston-Salem

and Wilmington, North Carolina, respectively.

A graveside ceremony, celebration and honoring of her life will be held at the Olive Branch Cemetery in Portsmouth at 11:00 am on Wednesday, September 02, 2009. Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel is handling the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, her family suggests that memorial donations be made to her grandsons' school, Covenant Classical School Facilities Fund, 1701 Wind Star Way, Fort Worth, Texas 76108 to honor her long standing love of children's education or to Centenary United Methodist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia.

# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Al and Family,

*All our family are deeply saddened by your loss. We love you and are thinking of you.*

*Linda and Jeff##imported-begin##Jeff and Evelyn Stanley and Linda, Scott, and Emily Tannehill##imported-end##*

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September 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen and Ken, Al and family: I want you to know that David and I, along with Hannah and Ben send our condolences at this time. I'm sorry not to be able to attend the service on Wed., but will be with you in spirit. The passing of your Mom must be a difficult thing. It seemed that her passing must have been peaceful, as she died in her sleep. We hope that all of you are well. It would be wonderful to see you at the upcoming CHS reunion. We send our love and prayers.##imported-begin##Barb Kersey##imported-end##

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August 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I was in Mrs Whitley's first class in 1972 at Norcom. Your Mom was responsible for changing the course of my life. She got me an interview to work after school for NAVELEX. Being a typical irresponsible teenager I blew off the interview and didn't show. When I came back to school she let me have it. Telling me I wasn't going to amount to anything if I didn't start taking responsibility for my self. She gave me a second chance and got me another chance at the job at NAVELEX and in December I will be retiring from there with 38 years service. She knew what she was doing when she told me I couldn't stick with anything. I think she knew I would try to prove her wrong. Your Mom was a wonderful teacher and mentor.##imported-begin##sharon girardi##imported-end##

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August 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember Lynette as a beautiful young girl, only a few years older than I. She was Doug's sister and a fellow "Creeker." Lynette was kind and generous and always willing to help. Her birthday was the same as my brother Dickie's, and one day when she was about 16 or 17, she came over to our house just to wish him happy birthday; it was a lovely gesture, I thought. She was a "teenager" while Dickie and I were only kids. By the time she became the teacher she'd always wanted to be I had moved away from Scotts Creek. Teaching was what she most wanted to be, and I'm sorry that I never saw her in that role.

I last spoke to Lynette several years ago when I tried to contact Doug about a Scotts Creek reunion. While ill even then she remained cheerful and helpful. Thank you, Lynette.

My wife and I extend our condolences to her family.

Mike Wright & Lin Drury##imported-begin##Mike Wright##imported-end##

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August 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM