

# THE GRE A BULLETIN

JOURNAL OF NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS OF GEORGIA

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 2

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

FALL 2021



## Covid-19 Cancels GRE A Convention Again

The GRE A Governing Board, after hearing from many of our members and our leadership team, decided to cancel the GRE A Annual Convention that had already been postponed from May until October! The Board was unanimous in its decision to again

cancel for this year. The fear of the ongoing virus was just too much for our membership to safely attend the meeting this year. The Board members expressed their disappointment in having to make this decision but felt all our members would understand.



**AREA 1**  
Early/Calhoun/Clay, Seminole

**AREA 2**  
Lee, Sumter

**AREA 3**  
Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Tift, Valdosta Lowndes

**AREA 4**  
Clinch, Waycross/Ware

**AREA 5**  
Golden Isles, Jeff Davis, Toombs, Wayne County

**AREA 6**  
Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham

**AREA 7**  
Ben Hill/Irwin

**AREA 8**  
Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Lamar, Peach

**AREA 9**  
Troup

**AREA 10**  
Coweta

**AREA 11**  
Laurens/Dublin

**AREA 12**  
Jefferson, Lincoln/Wilkes

**AREA 13**  
South Fulton, Newton

**AREA 14**  
Athens Area, Gwinnett, Morgan

**AREA 15**  
Cherokee, Cobb/Marietta, Pickens

**AREA 16**  
Catoosa

**AREA 17**  
Forsyth, Oglethorpe

**AREA 18**  
Dawson, Habersham, White

# Message From the President

## Let's Join the March

By Dr. Henrietta Gray, President



Henrietta Gray

Leadership Guru Dr. John Maxwell documents for us the difference between being a leader and a manager. He writes that management focuses on maintaining systems and processes, while Leadership is about "influencing people to follow." One way to cultivate such influence is breathtaking in its simplicity: Influence involves caring sincerely about others. It's from this backdrop that my leadership style is steeped in sincerely caring about and empowering others.

Having not had Area Meetings and the cancellation of our Convention at which I was looking forward to speaking to you about my Humanitarian Project, the March of Dimes. I had planned to speak to this choice in intricate and graphic details. The personal, face to face sharing was precluded. Therefore, I take this means and opportunity to ask you to Join The March—The March of Dimes.

The March of Dimes has always approached its mission with a spirit of adventure. March of Dimes was Founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt initially to combat polio. The Commitment to research and fund raising resulted in the vaccine research that led to the development of the Salk vaccine and the elimination of polio.

Presently, along with research, the overarching mission of the March of

Dimes has shifted to ensuring Healthy Moms and Strong Babies. The March of Dimes leads the way in the fight for the health of all Moms and Babies. The goal is to end preventable maternal health risks and death, and to end preventable preterm births and mortality.

When my husband was an MBA Candidate at Florida State University we gave birth to a baby girl born with a cleft palate that resulted in her death seven months later. A hospital bill that exceeded fifty thousand dollars was paid in full by the March of Dimes. We remained grateful and participated continuously in their fundraising activities. I ask you to Join the March and this Administration in fund raising for the March of Dimes.

Please take advantage of Engagement Opportunities:

LEAD—Join a Volunteer Leadership Committee in your Community.

FUND—Raise critical funds to bring real world solutions to millions of families.

VOLUNTEER—Become "hands on" with MOD programs in your community.

I call all of us to Action to ensure that Educators coming behind us will have healthy children to teach, empower and prepare to take their places as contributing members of society. I challenge you in your Leadership Role and Membership Role to

fully engage with March of Dimes and participate with MOD in your community. The form to make your contribution in the Name of GREA can be found on our web-site.

GREA, I am filled with gratitude, delight, and appreciation to all of you who have enabled me to send over \$10,900 to our Corporate Office by purchasing so many of the T-Shirts, pens and pins without the gathering of our Area Meetings and Convention. It is my prayer to God that all of you who have enhanced the Financial Coffers of GREA by purchasing this Administration's Paraphernalia will be richly rewarded and blessed.

Please contact me with any concerns, questions, ideas, or observations. I am here for you and Empowered to serve you in excellence.



## A Word from the President-elect

By Joe Boland, President-elect



Joe Boland

Maybe not.

My first convention was in Savannah in 2011. It may have been our first time to have a convention in Savannah, and we have not been there since. We had a great time at the convention. Savannah is such a fantastic city. Dorothy Wilson was our President and host. Her theme was "Building a Gigantic Organization."

Dorothy taught for 27 years at the same school in the same

classroom—business ed (VOT) at Tompkins High School, now Woodville Tompkins High School. She retired in 1990.

She still stays active with her church, her Bible study group, her monthly lunch with her fellow Zodiac members, and her sorority. She called Dr. Henrietta Gray her protegee because she had encouraged her to run for leadership positions.

Dorothy is an Emeritus Member of GREA and is still involved in the Chatham County REA. She certainly believes in the motto of Fellowship, Service, and Support. She is most proud of us owning our own building and all the bricks that help pay for the building and that honor our fellow educators.

We are all better off for having Dorothy Wilson and Henrietta Gray as GRE Presidents.



Dorothy Wilson

# TRS in the News

By L. C. (Buster) Evans, Ed.D  
Executive Director, TRS of Georgia



Buster Evans

of our lives.

In this edition of TRS news, I wanted to focus on some of both the positive as well as challenging impacts that COVID has had on our membership and/or the TRS fund and operations.

**One of the Best Years Ever.** Despite the frustrations COVID has brought into our lives, let me begin by highlighting the fact that our TRS investments have had one of the best years we have had in a very long time. Our investments gains for FY 2021 were at 29.2% which was the single best year we have had since 1986! When you compare our fund's gains to a number of other large pension funds in the country, our returns certainly appear to be above average. While we know that some years will be better than others based on historical observations, it certainly means a lot to the sustainability of our fund when we experience gains that are well above our assumed rate of return which is now at 7.25%.

**Rates of Retirement.** Initially when COVID came on the scene, there were fears that we would see a huge increase in retirements. For the year ending June 2020, 4 months after COVID began to wreak havoc in the US, we actually saw a significant drop in the rates of retirement. For the year ending June 2021, we saw the retirement rates increase back to normal levels. Where will we end up this year? While it is a bit too early to tell, my observation is that COVID is beginning to really impact our active educators. Our administrators are challenged to find teach-

ers and substitutes especially when situations demand quarantining people. It seems whatever decisions are made, someone is quick to criticize the decisions. Hardly a week goes by that I don't talk to multiple educators who share much frustration, and it is my early guess that we will see a greater number of retirements this year. Please keep our educators in your prayers and on your minds.

**Fewer Withdrawals.** We also have tracked the number of our members who are leaving the profession and withdrawing their TRS funds. I am pleased to share we have seen fewer "withdrawals" which we interpret to mean that not as many educators are leaving the profession in their first few years of service. There may be several reasons for this, but it may well mean that many people in the workplace have determined that right now may not be the best time to seek a new career.

**Increased Deaths.** One of the most disheartening data trends we have observed was the increase in death rates among our retirees. For 12 consecutive months beginning in April 2020, we saw noticeable year over year increases in death rates. Fortunately, that trend has broken. For the past several months (since more widespread vaccination availability), we have seen reductions in death rates. We do hope that trend continues.

**Fewer Retirees Wanting to Return to Work.** Unfortunately, we have seen a reduction in the number of retirees wanting to return to work in schools. While we completely understand that decision, it has made the work of educational administrators more challenging as they often rely on the expertise of retired educators to substitute and fill critical needs positions in schools.

In closing, we look forward to whenever that time will come when we can see more of you in person. Meanwhile, we wish for each of you good health and happiness as you continue to enjoy your retirement!

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## Ramblin' Around With the Executive Director

By Bill Sloan, Executive Director



William Sloan

The fall season is my favorite time of the year with the tree leaves turning red and yellow here in North Georgia. Also, it is college football time across America. It is a great time to be alive and a retired educator in Georgia. We are all blessed.

Covid is still raging across our great state, and it forced us to cancel our convention once again. We hope to have one in May 2022 at Stone Mountain. This virus has touched so many people and we all pray it will stop soon. Please get your shots and wear your masks!

President Dr. Henrietta Gray has graciously volunteered to allow Past President Jo Ann Tomlinson to have her tailgate party at the Tuesday night banquet as she has had to miss three times on trying to have her convention. The convention is the culmination of the reign of the GREA President and now Jo Ann can have her time on Tuesday night. Dr. Gray will have Wednesday for her celebration. Thank you, Dr. Gray!

I wish to thank each local unit president who served the previous two years and now this year for your excellent work on having in person and/or virtual meetings. You have done a great job in keeping your local unit alive during trying circumstances. We only lost one local unit because no one was willing to stand up

and lead their group during this pandemic. I hope they will revive themselves in the coming year. It takes real leaders to step up and lead during a crisis. Thanks again to all of you!

Membership has continued to increase, and we now have over 32,000 members. Credit goes to so many people for our continued growth as you work daily on the local level across our state to recruit new members. Thanks so much to AMBA for their continued support of GREA as they recruited well over 1,000 new members for us last year.

We have decided to list the award winners for the last two conventions in this *Bulletin* on page 6. Thanks to those units who lead the state in membership growth. We will award the trophies for the last two years at the convention in May.

Johnny Smith is doing an outstanding job with our GREA Facebook page. We have over 60 local units who regularly send him pictures and articles for our page to share with other locals across Georgia. Is your unit sharing information with everyone? He can help you get started if you are not presently involved in this activity.

Have you visited our web site [www.garetirededucators.org](http://www.garetirededucators.org)? It is full of information about our organization. Check it out!

Once again be safe and be thankful you are a retired educator in Georgia.



# News From GREA Local Units

**Cherokee REA** will once again partner with Cherokee County School District's Ralph Bunche Pre-K Center to provide support for both staff and students. A Staff Breakfast is planned for October along with a Holiday Luncheon in December. Sweet treats will be provided to all staff in February. Students recently received large tubs of toys to utilize on the playground, including balls and trucks, cars, and princess carriages. In the Spring, Cherokee REA will sponsor a butterfly project allowing students to witness the hatching of butterflies to release along with flowers for campus beautification. Collection drives for supplies for school nurses are also planned. Additionally, Cherokee REA will continue to award a \$3,000 scholarship to a student(s) accepted into Reinhardt University's Price School of Education. The 2021 scholarship recipients are Laura Howell and Maria Allison, both MAT (Master's in Art of Teaching) at Reinhardt and children of local retired educators.

**Clayton County REA** met face to face and virtually via Facebook Live on August 17, 2021. There were seventeen members present, and several others were present online. Two members, one in Canada and one in Colorado, have enjoyed the virtual meetings as they have been able to be a part of our organization by means of computer. Our speaker was David Brown, Greenhouse Manager and Resident Floral Designer for the Hills and Dales Estate in Lagrange, Georgia. David taught horticulture at Jonesboro High School in Clayton County and at Southern Crescent Technical School in Griffin. He gave a Power Point presentation on the home and particularly the gardens at Hills and Dales. Our group was especially thankful to be back at "home" at the Jonesboro First United Methodist Church in the remodeled Christian Activities Building which has been renamed in memoriam for Millie Sharkey, an active member of the church and an active member of our organization.

**Cobb-Marietta REA** is happy to be meeting in person again at the Marietta First United Methodist Church. At the August meeting, we presented Nelle Purvis GREAs Emeritus Membership Award for distinguished service to retired educators of Georgia through their contribution and participation in GREAs.

Nelle served C-MREA as President in 1994-1995. She has taken on the chairmanship of the Sunshine and Calling committees, and she is the amazing force behind the thousands of decorated lunch bags for the MUST Summer Lunch program. She has supported and participated in the Davis Direction Foundation and the Marietta First Baptist Church. Because of her many years of devotion and leadership in the classroom, Nelle has guided and given hope to thousands of children in some of the most challenging schools within our community.

This past summer Nelle celebrated her 90th birthday. Congratulations to Nelle!

**Coffee Atkinson REA** presented Satilla Regional Library Director, Rodney McElveen, a monetary donation in memory of their deceased members for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The donation will be used to purchase children's books for the public libraries of Coffee and Atkinson counties. This is a project of the local unit of the Georgia Retired Educators Association.

**Dalton Whitfield Murray REA** held its second summer leadership meeting in August to finalize plans for the 2021-2022

year. The first unit meeting of the year was held in September, and new officers were elected and installed. Penny Howerton, Area 16 Director, conducted the installation ceremony. Officers are: Sandra Derrick, president; Gary Cochran, president-elect; Laura Griffin, secretary; Sara Davis, treasurer; and Terry Phelps, past president. Penny shared with the unit the latest information from GREAs and TRS. The meeting also featured a remembrance ceremony, led by Terry Phelps, honoring members that have passed. Sonya Planzer, membership chair, shared details of a service project for DWMREA to some area schools dealing with special circumstances.

**Dawson County REA** began the 2021-2022 year with a great meeting at Lumpkin Campground. We enjoyed the morning worship service under the arbor. Frank and Elizabeth Nix welcomed us to their cabin where we were able to enjoy a fabulous lunch. We are excited about another year filled with food, fellowship, and fun.

**Floyd/Rome REA** has been holding their meetings virtually. They have made plans to meet virtually on September 13. President, Juanita King has been meeting with a committee to revise the bylaws to be published in Floyd-Rome REAs handbook.

**Griffin-Spalding REA** held all of their meetings via Zoom due to the pandemic. We are indebted to representatives of AMBA for setting us up and guiding us through the process. We surprised ourselves with our ability to adapt to this new technology. Our first meeting of the new year will be held September 20, 2021, at 11:30, on the University of Georgia campus in the Flynt Building, located at 106 Stuckey Drive. We are looking forward to seeing you at the first meeting of the new year! Handbooks will be ready, and President Hill will present some recommendations from the Executive Board, as well as goals for the new year.

**Houston County REA** held its first meeting of the year in its old location for the first time since March 2020. Reginald Thorpe, a paraprofessional at Thomson Middle School (TMS), was presented with an HCREA Scholarship of \$1,500 from Brev Hunt who has managed the Scholarship Trust Fund since it began in 1995. Reginald was introduced by his principal, Dr. Scott Wynn, who both taught and coached Reginald while he was a student at Northside High School and hired him later to be a paraprofessional at TMS where he has seen him grow as an educator. Reginald said he was humbled to be chosen as the scholarship recipient, and after completing his undergraduate degree on December 9, 2021, he plans to begin his masters degree in January 2022. Three people, Joe Smith, his wife Babs, and Carolyn Stonehouse, were recognized as Emeritus members, meaning they are at least 90 years old and no longer have to pay dues to HCREA. Joe Smith, age 91, rarely misses a meeting. After the July death of Leon Tompkins, a former HCREA president and one of its most active members, many paid tributes to him by sharing special memories they had of him. His wife, Emily, an HCREA member, and two of his three daughters, Beth Braunstein and Cindy Bookout, were there, because his daughters wanted to hear what others had to say about their dad. Since his death, \$715.00 of donations have been made in his memory, and all those donations will go to the scholarship fund.

**Muscogee REA** Executive Committee voted to conduct our first general meeting of the year via ZOOM out of concern for the

safety of our members. We plan to resume luncheon meetings as soon as possible. Our first general meeting was held on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. President Vickie Hardaway called the meeting to order and welcomed all who were able to attend. Ethel Patrick led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided three inspirational quotes in remembrance of 9/11/2001. Additional information provided at the meeting including announcing our MREA humanitarian projects for this year. They are the state project, March of Dimes and our local project, Juvenile Diabetes. Also announced were two part-time job possibilities for MREA members. The local Boys and Girls Club has partnered with MCSD for after school tutoring and has several positions available. MCSD has a 49% job opening for a Special Education Teacher in their Hospital Homebound department.

**Paulding REA** wishes to congratulate the 2021 PREA Scholarship winners: Breanne E. Cox, art teacher at East Paulding High School, seeking a Master's Degree in Art and Design; Linda

Hill, paraprofessional at South Paulding Middle School, seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Education; and Elizabeth Sanders, clerk at Paulding College and Career Academy, seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Our organization is proud to contribute to furthering the educational goals of these women.

**Pickens County REA** started the school year off by thanking staff members at each school with a variety of treats. Several PCREA members generously donated individually wrapped cookies, chips, and treats so we could show our appreciation to each staff member at our schools. We collected and delivered almost 600 goodies to our schools. As retired educators, we truly appreciate what it takes to serve our county in this capacity, and we thank every staff member for their contribution to Pickens' students. We held our first meeting Wednesday, September 8, 2021, via Zoom. Due to the increase in Covid numbers it was decided to exercise an abundance of caution and hold our first meeting virtually. We hope to participate with in-person meetings later this Fall.

**COVID can't keep  
local units from  
meeting. Members  
embrace  
technology to meet  
via Zoom.**



**Give this to a friend. Recruit a new member for GREA!**

2021-2022		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone #		
EMAIL		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>AUTOMATIC DUES DEDUCTION (A.D.D.)</b> # _____ <b>SS# or TRS Retirement # is required.</b> My signature below authorizes TRS to deduct <b>\$2.00/month</b> from my TRS pension payment. This authorization will remain in effect until I choose to terminate it by notice to Georgia Retired Educators Association.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$27 ONE YEAR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$360 LIFE</b> Send check with this card to the address below. Make check payable to GREA. Local Unit/County _____		
<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b> CONTROL # _____ DATE _____		
Signature	Date	

Return this portion to: Georgia Retired Educators Association • P.O. Box 1379 • Flowery Branch, GA 30542

**GREA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

DETACH HERE, RETURN THIS SIDE

**Georgia Retired Educators Association**  
**2021 - 2022 Membership Card**

Name



**Fellowship — Service — Support**  
**Membership July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**  
**Dr. William G. Sloan, Jr.**  
**Executive Director**  
**Dr. Henrietta Gray**  
**President 2021 - 2022**  
 Website: [gareti.educators.org](http://gareti.educators.org)



# New Membership Award Winners

GREA is blessed to have so many local units working very hard to increase our membership totals. The life blood of any organization is its members and the more we can gain the more benefits we can offer and have more influence in the political arena. The units listed below did an outstanding job and we wish to recognize them for their work. These are the top 5 in each category.

## 2019-2020

### Class A—1-60 Members

1st Place	Stewart (16)
2nd Place	Macon
3rd Place	Randolph
4th Place	Brooks
5th Place	Charlton
	Wilcox

### Class AA—61-149 Members

1st Place	Washington (80)
2nd Place	Columbia
3rd Place (TIE)	South Fulton
	Pike
5th Place	Oglethorpe

### Class AAA—150-299 Members

1st Place	Sumter (84)
2nd Place	Coweta
3rd Place (TIE)	Bulloch
	Wayne
5th Place	Tift

### Class AAAA—300-450 Members

1st Place	Athens Area (45)
2nd Place	Coffee/Atkinson
3rd Place	North Fulton
4th Place	Golden Isles
5th Place (TIE)	Houston
	Troup

### Class AAAAA—450 And Up Members

1st Place	Cobb/Marietta (129)
2nd Place	Decatur/DeKalb
3rd Place	Dougherty
4th Place	Gwinnett
5th Place	Cherokee

*A special congratulations to these units for winning 1st place in their classification.*

Class A	Stewart
Class AA	Washington
Class AAA	Sumter
Class AAAA	Athens Area
Class AAAAA	Cobb/Marietta

## 2020-2021

### Class A—1-70 Members

1st Place (TIE)	Brooks (7)
	Hancock
3rd Place	Greene
4th Place (TIE)	Brantley
	Charlton
	Decatur County

### Class AA—71-149 Members

1st Place	Fannin (28)
2nd Place	Walton
3rd Place	Early/Clay/Calhoun
4th Place	Berrien
5th Place (TIE)	Rabun
	South Fulton

### Class AAA—150-299 Members

1st Place (TIE)	Columbia (27)
	Wayne
3rd Place	Tift
4th Place	Waycross/Ware
5th Place (TIE)	Ben Hill/Irwin
	Coweta

### Class AAAA—300-450 Members

1st Place	Sumter (44)
2nd Place	Douglas
3rd Place	Carroll/Heard
4th Place	Houston
5th Place	Athens Area

### Class AAAAA—450 And Up Members

1st Place	Cobb/Marietta (98)
2nd Place	Cherokee
3rd Place (TIE)	Chatham
	Gwinnett
5th Place	Bibb

*A special congratulations to these units for winning 1st place in their classification.*

Class A	Brooks and Hancock
Class AA	Fannin
Class AAA	Columbia and Wayne
Class AAAA	Sumter
Class AAAAA	Cobb/Marietta

# New Product Provides Index Crediting Options Along with Principal Guarantees

The new Fixed Index Annuity (FIA) from the AMBA suite of benefits is attracting smart savers and retirees across the country. The FIA provides multiple indexed interest crediting options along with tax-deferred\* growth and future income options.

The FIA can be used for tax-qualified plans such as 401(k), 457, and both traditional and Roth IRA plans. After-tax plans including brokerage accounts, mutual funds, CDs, savings accounts, and money markets may also be used to fund the new FIA.

If you're concerned about losing money in the next market correction, consider using the FIA to secure a portion of your assets and guarantee future use for retirement activities and income needs. The tax-deferred\* treatment of the FIA allows for more compounding and growth potential.

Long-term interest rates are at an all-time low, forcing banks and credit unions to pay little to no interest on deposits and CDs. Consider an investment in your retirement's future to increase your assets, interest earning potential and savings.

Contact your AMBA representative today for a no-obligation association benefit review: [amba-review.com/GREA](http://amba-review.com/GREA) or call 866-619-6463.

**Fixed indexed annuities may not be suitable for all.** To help determine if an annuity meets your unique financial situation and liquidity needs, consult a licensed insurance agent. In addition, please thoroughly review all marketing materials, specimen contracts and riders, buyer's guides, and forms related to the annuity for costs and important details. Insurance agents do not give investment, legal, or tax advice. Annuities held within qualified plans do not provide any additional tax benefits. Withdrawals may be subject to income tax, and a 10% federal income tax penalty may apply to withdrawals taken before age 59½. Additionally, surrender charges and a market value adjustment may apply if you withdraw more than the penalty-free amount in a year. Fixed indexed annuities guarantee a minimum interest rate on all or a percentage of each contribution over the life of your contract, less any withdrawals and/or deductions and early surrender charges. Fixed indexed annuities offer a fixed interest option and index interest options. Annuities with index options may be referred to as equity index annuities. The index options are not securities; you are not investing in stocks or in the indexes themselves. The credited interest rate is linked, in part, to gains in any combination of indexes. Keep in mind, you are not actually participating in

the market or investing in any stock or bond. Guarantees are based on the claims-paying ability of the insurer.

\* Taxes are deferred until withdrawals are taken, and tax deferral is available only to individuals. Under current tax law, tax deferral is a basic feature of qualified plans. Placing qualified funds into an annuity does not provide any additional tax benefit. AL1245v0721



## Spotlight Ads Top Ten Units For 2021

For many years local units have sold ads to local businesses in their county for \$50 and each unit shared \$25 of it with the state office to help offset the cost of the annual convention. This will be the last year of this activity. Local units may still sell the ads, but in the future, they can keep all the money. Here is the top 10 for 2020-2021. This past year you sent \$26,630 to the state office for the convention. Thank you so much for your past help in this activity.

1st Place	Jeff Davis County
2nd Place	Crawford County
3rd Place	Wayne County
4th Place	Muscogee County
5th Place	Cook County
6th Place (TIE)	Tift County & Waycross/Ware
8th Place	Chatham County
9th Place	Stephens County
10th Place	Pickens County

## Honor Roll Plaza—A Legacy Via Bricks

By Jesse Hunter

The GREA is blessed with the Honor Roll Plaza, an area in front of the Museum displaying almost 3,000 bricks that honor educators, families, civic leaders, and others. Have you purchased one? Time is running short to purchase one as we currently have 85 bricks available. These remaining bricks cost \$75 each. As we have visitors to the building, a paramount interest is to find their brick(s) and others that they know. In the lobby is a computer dedicated to finding the location of all bricks. So, get a brick card to complete and mail it to GREM. You will be part of the legacy of GREA.



Jesse Hunter

**Honor educators, friends,  
family and others with an  
engraved brick on our  
HONOR ROLL PLAZA!**



**Price Reduced  
Only \$75  
(Tax Deductible)**

Purchaser Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Memorial ☐ Honorarium

**Information to be engraved on brick:** (18 characters and/or spaces long, up to 3 lines tall)


If you wish to order more than one brick, please write the engraving information for the other brick(s) on a separate sheet of paper. Brick will not hold more letters or spaces than the boxes provided.

**Send to: Georgia Retired Educators Museum, Inc. P.O. Box 2001, Flowery Branch, GA 30542**

Check Enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledgment Card to be sent to the following address:

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# GREA Loses a Giant of a Leader

Past President Mary Long passed away on Monday, July 19, 2021. Mary was 89 years old, and her funeral was held at the First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville. She was President of GREA in 2003-2004.



Mary was the original creator of the GREA Museum. She started our museum in a small single room at our former offices in Gainesville. She continued working diligently on it until she was forced to resign due to the poor health of her husband. Mary deserves so much credit for what our museum is today.

Mary was born in Lawrenceville and graduated from Lawrenceville High School. She went on to earn college degrees from the University of Georgia and West Georgia College. She taught in the public schools for 34 years. She was appointed to a statewide task force on education by then Governor Jimmy Carter.

Mary authored many books including one about her hometown of Lawrenceville. She gained a lot of fame by writing a book on Old Georgia Privies. She toured the state taking pictures of outhouses. She created a scholarship program using proceeds from her books and speeches. She was a well known humorist who entertained many people with her stories. She also wrote a column for the Gwinnett Citizen newspaper and was known as the historian of Lawrenceville.

If you ever met her, you would like this lady instantly as she was such a pleasant person. She had planned her funeral down to the minor details. She was a big time Georgia Bulldawg fan and she requested that a violinist play the Georgia fight song "Glory, Glory" as the family filed in and out of the church. She wanted her funeral to be a celebration of life and not a typical funeral. Her pastor, two sons and one granddaughter all told several funny stories about her that had the church laughing. What a great tribute to her was her service.

Mary was one of the greatest leaders in the history of GREA. She will be greatly missed! If you would like to donate to her scholarship fund you may do so by sending it to: First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville, 165 S. Clayton St. Lawrenceville Ga. 30046 Attn. Mary Long Scholarship Fund

## GREA

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## Bulletins by Email

Would you like to get your *GREA Bulletin* by email? Approximately 12,000 of our members are now getting their *GREA Bulletin* by email each quarter. The people who get it by email receive it approximately 2-3 weeks before the print edition is mailed to our members. In addition, the email copy is totally in color where the print edition is only partially in color due to the high cost of printing in color. GREA also saves approximately .50 per copy that is sent by email. You can see GREA is saving approximately \$6,000 per *Bulletin*. If you would like your copy sent by email simply email us at [greas3@greas3.org](mailto:greas3@greas3.org) and we will be happy to put you on the email list. Thank you for considering getting your *Bulletin* by email.

### GREA OFFICERS

Dr. Henrietta Gray, President  
Joe Boland, President-elect  
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### GREA BULLETIN

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