

1988

Dr. Shirley (Douglass) Ball

Class of 1952



The superintendent of Mineral County Schools in West Virginia, Dr. Shirley Ball headed a school district with 7,000 students and a teaching staff of 400. At the time of her appointment in 1984, she was the only female county superintendent in West Virginia and the first in more than 50 years in Mineral County.

Prior, Ball served from 1982 to 1984 as assistant superintendent of the Spring Ford Area School District in Collegeville, Pa. after working for three years as the secondary principal of the Northern Potter Jr.-Sr. High School in Ulysses. Earlier employment included Norwin Senior High School and Elizabeth Forward School District.

As Mineral County's supervisor, Ball implemented a master plan for quality education in the county schools. She directed the development of mathematics and English competency tests and was a member of the teacher evaluation/incentive committee for the W.Va. Department of Education. She also developed a student attendance reward system resulting in 78 percent perfect attendance in junior/senior high school.

She was listed in *Who's Who in American Women* and in 1978 was selected by the Buhl Foundation and California University to implement a newly developed administrative internship program. She was also the first woman to receive a certificate of membership from the 1st Battalion of the 201st Field Artillery into "The Order of the First West Virginia." Ball was on the board of directors of the Potomac Valley Developmental Center and belonged to the Regional Education Service Agency VIII (chairman 1986-87), Delta Kappa Gamma and Phi Delta Kappa.

Before retiring, she was superintendent of schools in the Lehtighton Area School District.

She passed away Oct. 25, 2004.

Additional degrees: Master's degree, Duquesne University; secondary principal certificate, California University of Pa.; Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh

Additional study: Letter of Eligibility, St. Bonaventure University