



PANHANDLE STATE
FOUNDATION



Margaret Wright Scholarship

Est. 2009

Ms. Wright was born and raised in Optima and graduated from Guymon High School. PAMC was the college of her choice. While at PAMC, she served as President of the Student Council for two years and was the first woman to be elected President. She graduated with the class of 1945. Ms. Wright was a driver's education instructor for the Guymon High School for 22 years before resigning to complete her requirements for her Masters Degree in 1970 at Southwestern. Upon graduation, she accepted a position as Assistant to Oklahoma Governor, David Hall, as an advisor on Highway Traffic Safety. It was in this position, that she not only advised the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, but served as an advisor to colleges and universities, in establishing and coordinating teaching curriculum in highway traffic safety and driving education programs. Margaret held the position as assistant to the Governor for six years.

In 1976, Margaret left the Governor's staff to return to her real love of education. In her new role, Margaret designed, supervised and administered the

Driver's Education Programs for all state high schools. After 38 years of service dedicated to education, she retired in 1986.

Margaret was active and served on the Foundation board for many years. Ms. Wright was been a faithful and generous contributor for over 30 years. Her support of education, OPSU and the Foundation has earned her the honor of being named a 2007 Distinguished Contributor. She passed away January 11, 2016.

Margaret Wright, 92, passed away Monday evening, January 11, 2016 at Autumn Leaves Memory Care in Oklahoma City. The only daughter of pioneer family, Paul L. and Margaret (Riffe) Wright, Margaret (Sis) Wright was born March 17, 1923 at Optima, Oklahoma. She attended Optima school through 9th grade and graduated from Guymon High School in 1941. Margaret received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Panhandle A&M, Goodwell, and later earned a Masters of Education Degree from Southwestern State University in Weatherford. She also performed graduate studies at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater and Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Miss Wright taught in Guymon Public Schools from 1948-1970, where she taught Health and Driver Education, leading several GHS Driving Contest State Championship teams. In 1970, Margaret began a career with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Governor, as a Safety Education Specialist and later as Coordinator for the Department. She was a member of the Civil Air Patrol, serving as a trained flight observer on search and rescue missions and served as an aerospace education officer for Tinker Air Force Base, achieving the rank of Major. Professionally, Margaret was a member of Phi Delta Kappa and Business and Professional Women Association. She enjoyed traveling, bridge and was a competitive golfer and bowler. Margaret served on the OPSU Foundation and was a lifelong member of Victory Memorial United Methodist Church. She was predeceased by her parents, Paul L. and Margaret Wright; two brothers, George W. Wright and Jesse Wright; sister-in-law, Hazel

(Mrs. George) Wright; and niece, Margaret Fabian. She is survived by sister-in-law, Dorothy (Mrs. Jesse) Wright of Canon City, Colorado; nephews, Bryan L. Wright and wife, Donna, of Guymon; Paul W. Wright and wife, Loraine, of Canon City; great nephew, Chris Wright of Guymon; dear friends, Jo Baker and LaNetta Rae Bunger of Oklahoma City; and many other Wright and Riffe relatives.

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Memorials may be given to the OPSU Foundation, c/o Henson-Novak Funeral Directors, P.O. Box 1306, Guymon, OK 73942.