

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC ALABAMA

May 27, 2020 Evening Edition

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## **Memorial for**

**Antoinette "Anne" (Stallworth) Givens**

**March 20, 1936 - November 21, 2019**

**AFWC Past President 1984 – 1986**

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Anne Givens, a native of Vinegar Bend in Washington County, Alabama, was the daughter of Montgomery Carleton Stallworth, Jr. and Stella Burwell Stallworth. She passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family and friends. She was 83 years old.

The three things she cared about most in her life were God, her family and her country. She lived a very accomplished life.

She received her elementary and secondary education at Fruitdale School, graduating as Valedictorian of her class. An avid sports fan, she served as scorekeeper for the boys' basketball team.

Mrs. Givens earned degrees in Religion and English from Huntingdon College in Montgomery and later in Education and Music from Mobile College (University of Mobile). She did post-graduate work in Career Education at the University of Colorado.

She first taught in the Mobile County Public School System. Following that, Mrs. Givens served as Director of Religious Education at St. Francis Street Methodist Church in downtown Mobile and later was Assistant to the Pastor at Toulminville Methodist Church.

Her family was instrumental in founding Wesleyan Christian Academy, where Mrs. Givens served as Assistant to the Headmaster.

During high school, Mrs. Givens had become associated with Citronelle Woman's Club. She later served as President of Citronelle Woman's Club. Mrs. Givens and her mother were instrumental in founding the GFWC-P.I.N.E.S Club of Washington County and the GFWC Southern Belle Juniores.

Mrs. Givens worked with adult non-readers and, through the GFWC-P.I.N.E.S.

CIP project, helped establish the Washington County Library's READ program.

She served as Chairman of President Alice Rhodes' Project, "Brighten the Night in Alabama." President Annette Tucker appointed Mrs. Givens as Juniorette Director. Mrs. Givens served as Third Vice-President during Madie Poole's Administration and was Chairman of GFWC's Southern Region Conference held in Tuscaloosa.

In 1983, she received GFWC-Alabama's Outstanding Volunteer Award. That year, the office of First Vice-President/President-Elect was vacated and Mrs. Givens was selected by the Executive Committee and Board, to fill the vacancy. She was installed as President at the state convention in Mobile in April, 1984.

President Givens began her administration in a most impressive way - she visited with First Lady Nancy Reagan at a White House coffee. While in Washington, D.C., she also attended a White House briefing on world problems, especially to Central and South America. During the Reagan Administration, Anne served as the GFWC liaison for the American Security Council.

As the theme for her administration, President Givens chose "GFWC-Alabama. A Power for Good." The President's Project was "Doing Our Part to Keep America Great." She chose Praying Hands as her logo.

At the end of her administration, President Givens was honored in Citronelle with "Anne Givens Day." State and local political leaders and state officers of AFWC were on hand to present "Anne Givens, This is Your Federation Life." As part of the day's celebration, President Givens received resolutions from the State Senate, the State House of Representatives and the Governor. She also received plaques from the City of Citronelle and from the Citronelle General, the Citronelle Junior and the Citronelle Juniorette Clubs as well as the GFWC-P.I.N.E.S. Club.

Following her term as GFWC-Alabama President, Mrs. Givens was appointed by President Phyllis Roberts as GFWC Chairman of International Affairs Department. At the end of the administration, President Roberts and Mrs. Givens were presented marble eagles in recognition of their "Peace through Strength" efforts. Past President Givens continued to work with Adult Literacy and Adult Education. She taught weekly Bible Studies in her home and led the local clubwoman in various projects.

In 1992, Past President Givens received Washington County's Outstanding Volunteer Award from the South Alabama United Way.

Her husband, Alfred Wesley Givens, better known as Buddy, was an avid AFWC Booster who traveled many miles with Anne to AFWC and GFWC meetings and events. They were married 59 years at the time of her passing. She considered her greatest accomplishments being her children and grandchildren. Buddy and Anne have three children, Al Jr., Malia Antoinette and Stella Nadeen. Their grandchildren include Jacob, Hannah, Sarah, Emily, Collin Anne, and W.J. "Wesley".

Her visitation and funeral were attended by many at the Chapel at Buddy's

Corner where their home is. Many club women will remember this interesting and peaceful place as club and districts meetings were hosted at Buddy's Corner.

Below are a couple of quotes by Anne which are wonderful examples of her leadership skills, caring heart and sense of humor. Such an impact she had on others who knew her well or just an acquaintance.

*"If people could remember only one thing about my administration, I would want it to be that we were able to reach the local clubwomen. I also would like for them to remember that we stressed being a power for good. The ladies didn't realize how powerful they could be if they worked together."*

*"My health wasn't good during my administration, but the one thing I could eat was pickles. I visited as many local clubs as I could and when I would go, I would be at the head table. Often, there would be a jar of homemade pickles sitting there. I got a lot of those as well as baskets of fruits and homemade jellies. The people were so very generous."*

May we pause a moment in memory of  
**Antoinette "Anne" (Stallworth) Givens**  
AFWC Past President 1984 - 1986



The plaque pictured left with detail above is engraved with each past state president's name and years of service and is displayed proudly at the AFWC Headquarters in Birmingham.

**Note to members:** Mrs. Givens would have been memorialized at our annual 2020 AFWC Convention this past April. A \$100 memorial donation was made in honor of her to the AFWC General Scholarship Fund.

Christine Steele  
2018-2020 GFWC Alabama President