



When Judy Moore was in the third grade in Savannah, her teacher asked for volunteers to go to the chalkboard to work math problems. Regardless of how much she waved her arm, she was not chosen. Under her breath she said to herself, “One day I’m going to be a teacher and then I can write on the board whenever I want.” Judy entered the University of Georgia in 1970 intending to teach high school math but in her junior year changed her major to journalism. She graduated from UGA with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, majoring in advertising and earning a double minor in marketing and quantitative analysis. She went on to earn a Masters Degree in Mathematics Education from Georgia College, and a Specialist Degree in Administration and Supervision from Georgia College & State University.

Judy’s father, a high-school dropout and World War II veteran, lied about his age when he was 16 in order to join the Army where he had a distinguished 20-year career. He earned his GED, retired from the military, and used the GI Bill to go to college and obtain his teaching degree. He began a second career of teaching social studies in Savannah, continued with college earning a Masters Degree from Duke University, and eventually became a high school principal. Judy is the youngest of four children. The oldest, her sister, Pat, was also a high school math teacher until cancer took her life.

Judy’s first eight years as a math teacher were in private schools. In 1981, she began her public school career at Southwest High School in Bibb County, and 15 years later came to Northside High School as a teacher for ten years and the API for two. Sue Burrell encouraged her to apply

for a math opening at Northside, and Judy will be forever grateful to Mr. Ed Dyson for hiring her. Ms. Burrell, Mr. Dyson, Dr. Kathy Stanley, Dr. Charlotte Moore, and Jane Adams showed Judy that traditions matter at Northside, that “family” is reserved for all who enter its doors, and that excellence is the expected outcome of everyone who is a Northside Eagle. She attributes her success at Northside to colleagues like Janann McSwain and Elaine Tignor who supported her with their talents and constructive criticism. She was the TAPP Coordinator and a math specialist at Middle Georgia RESA and retired in 2011 due to health problems. She has also been a part-time instructor at Brewton Parker College, Macon State College, Mercer University, Wesleyan College, and Georgia Military College. Judy was Northside’s 2003 Teacher of the Year and a runner-up for Houston County Teacher of the Year.

While in high school, Judy was active in many organizations; as a teacher, she wanted to encourage students to get involved. She worked with Beta Club members in successful campaigns for both state and national offices and in award-winning talent presentations, while at the same time serving as Georgia’s State Beta Sponsor from 1995-1997. Mr. Dyson asked her to be Senior Class Sponsor, and she served in that position for eight years beginning two new traditions: the Senior Slide Show and the Senior Breakfast. She designed the printed programs for both the Miss Northside pageants and the spring musicals for Brian Barnett, and principal Tim Scott asked her to take over the commencement exercises for graduation.

Conrad Nix asked Judy to do the football team’s run-through signs, and she continued doing them for ten years for both Nix and Kevin Kinsler. Two of her favorite signs were the one saluting veterans when a state playoff game was on November 11th and the one remembering Chris Johnson at the State Championship game against Ware County. In 2013, Coach Kinsler asked Judy to coordinate pregame activities in celebration of Northside’s 50th year. After meeting with him, she met with principal Greg Peavy where they discussed school wide activities, and later met with retired teachers who became part of the festivities. With input from Dr. Peavy, Jennifer Dollar, Mrs. McSwain, and Mrs. Tignor, she designed a logo for the 50-year celebration, which later had the “50 Years” removed, and what remained is now Northside’s logo.

The highlight of Judy’s 38-year career was on March 14, 2003 when her two honors geometry classes walked to Westside Elementary School to present notebooks they had made for every fourth grade student. Judy’s students had studied their math standards and created worksheets to cover those standards. Throughout the year, Judy’s students corresponded with Westside students, and each fourth grader received a personalized notebook crafted with their interests.

The most unforgettable day of Judy’s career was at Northside on May 24, 2001 when she tripped over a student’s pocketbook, fell and broke two bones in her right arm and dislocated her shoulder. Judy never missed a graduation while a teacher or administrator, and the fall did not prevent her from attending graduation two days later which was Mr. Dyson’s last as Northside’s principal.

Judy is a member of Central Baptist Church and president of the Houston County Retired Educators Association. As a former member of the Greenbriar Garden Club, she was on committees to decorate the post office on Russell Parkway with patriotic Christmas decorations and the installation of the Gold Star Memorial at the Museum of Aviation. In year-end evaluations, when Judy asked students to describe her in two words, the ones appearing most often were creative and crazy. To this day, she still claims to be both.

What does Northside High School mean to you?

When Ed Dyson brought me to Northside High School, he changed my life forever. The “Northside Family” is not a myth; it is my reality and the answer to a prayer.”