



The Tucker family, Hubert, Jerry, Gwen and Steve moved to Warner Robins when Gwen was 12 years old. They purchased one of the five homes available for sale in Warner Robins. The one they chose was within walking distance to the newly built Tabor Junior High. There Gwen quickly became involved, made friends, and tried out for the cheerleading squad. Thus beginning a love of cheerleading that lasted through her high school years.

As a high school student Gwen was very involved in student council, class officer, pep club, and cheerleading. Gwen was selected as Miss Northside in 1965 and graduated in 1966. After high school she attended Georgia Southern College until her marriage to Larry Giles. Larry is a graduate of Perry High School but he and Gwen always purchased homes that kept them in the NHS school district. Both their sons, Mark and Michael are graduates of Northside. Mark Lettered in football for the Eagles, was selected Mr. Northside in 1987 and graduated that same year. Michael also attended NHS where he was a stand-out student in industrial arts. He started his business, Southern Structures, while in high school, and he still runs it today. He married his high school sweetheart, Tammy Benningfield Giles who is also a Northside graduate and is an Associate Broker at Golden Key Realty. Larry and Gwen have three amazing grandsons, Coy, Grayson, and Riley, and one great-granddaughter, Blakely Gray.

During her sons' high school years, she and Larry became involved with the Northside Boosters Club where Gwen served on the Executive Board for three years and became the first female President. She has fond memories of battling the 'old guard' and convincing them they would make more income if they raffled a diamond ring rather than a rifle. She even convinced them to raffle a car. They kicked and screamed, but they got on board and raffled a blue Mustang convertible and made a lot of money in the process!

Gwen has enjoyed opportunities to interact with Northside students in different capacities through the years. She has been blessed to financially support various programs, she has spoken at career day, judging the Mr. and Miss Northside contests as well as sharing the stage with Mr. Horne as co-MC: a special and treasured memory. She traveled with Ray and NHS students to New York many times to see Broadway shows. She can personally attest that Northside's Drama Department could perform on Broadway and awe theatre goers there!

Gwen became a licensed Realtor in 1973. While working at another brokerage early in her career, she quickly learned that the business was not run the way she thought it should be. The obvious solution was to start her own company which she and partner Jean Coleman did in October 1979. They were the first ever real estate company in the area that was owned and managed by women. For seventeen consecutive years, Golden Key Realty was the number one real estate brokerage in Houston County. Gwen has managed the company through its forty year life and finds joy in helping empower her agents while also sharing her love of real estate with her clients and customers. Gwen's quest to be the best she can be has led to furthering her real estate training by obtaining the Georgia Realtors Institute Designation as well as Certified Residential Specialist and the Certified Residential Broker Designation. She was recently awarded the status of Realtor Emeritus from the National Association of Realtors.

As of 2020, Golden Key Realty has 29 licensed Realtors, 7 administrative employees, and a fully-staffed full service Property Management division. The company was founded with the Golden Rule in mind: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. With that business model and mission statement, it is no surprise that Golden Key Realty survived the economic downturn. For Gwen, her company is an extension of her family, and she frequently prays with and for anyone who crosses the threshold of the building. It is a gift that God has given her, and she strives to be a good steward of this gift.

Gwen credits her success to a supportive and understanding family, a community that embraced a female-owned business, mentors who were there to offer advice, and, her heavenly Father who opened the door and gently pushed her through. Growing up she sometimes envisioned herself as a school teacher or the President of the United States, but never considered that she would one day own a successful business. Obviously Gods plan for her life was a perfect path for her. To God be the glory.

What does Northside High School mean to you?

I credit Northside with giving me the opportunity to grow and learn many helpful life skills. It nurtured my competitive spirit, encouraged my participation in endeavors I might otherwise have avoided, and, introduced me to people who became lifelong role models and friends.