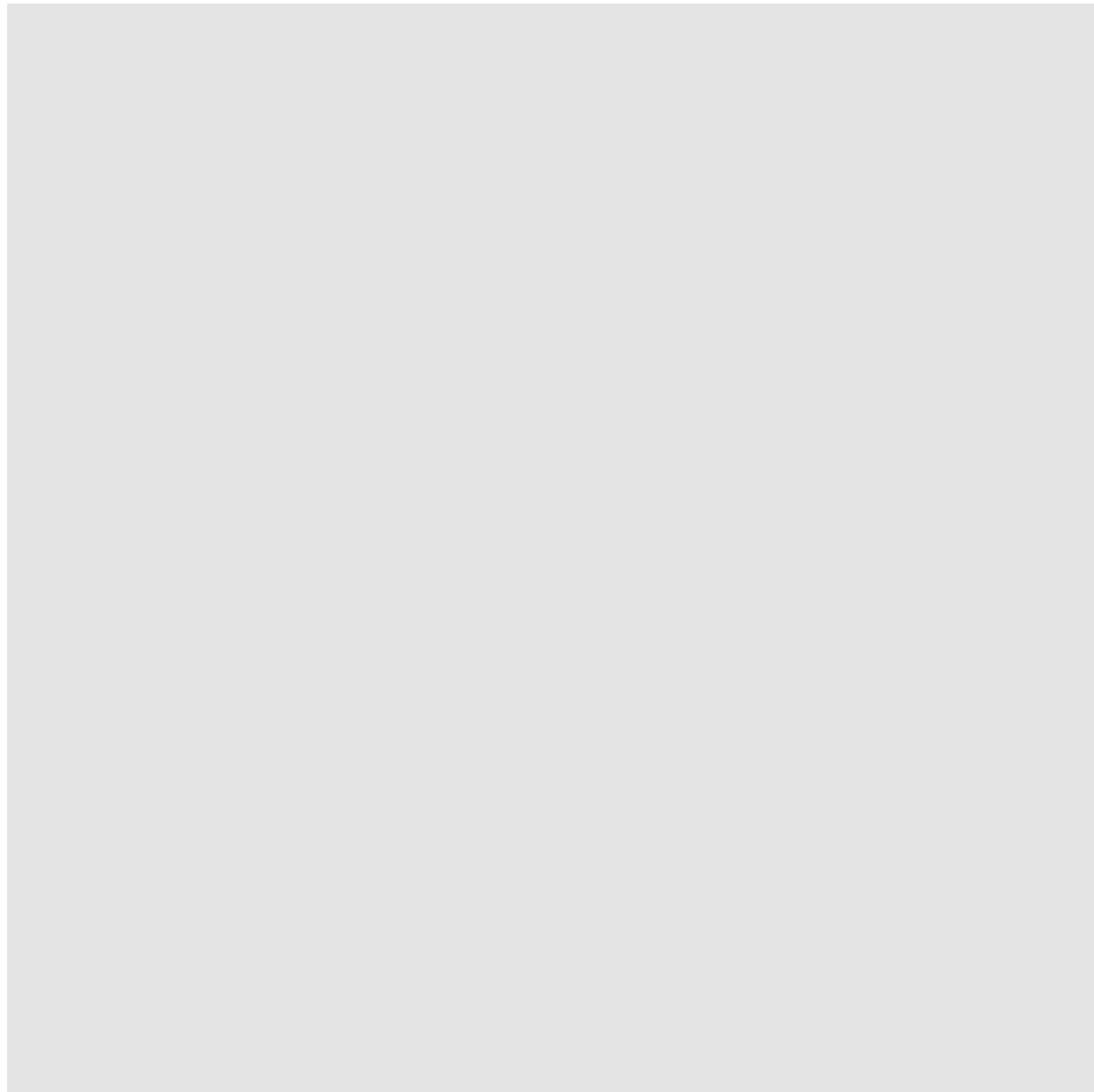


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Former school superintendent Lois Gray dies at 81

By BEN SHEROAN The News-Enterprise Feb 7, 2018 Updated 2 hrs ago



LOIS GRAY

Lois Gray, a revered educator who led Hardin County Schools for more than a decade, died Tuesday in Florida.

Gray, 81, also served as a principal in Fort Knox Community Schools and was a longtime member of the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents, serving as its chairwoman from 2002 to 2004.

“She paved the way,” said Nannette Johnston, who worked as an administrator for Gray and became the district’s superintendent in 2006. “I looked to her as a mentor and an encourager. She was the utmost professional.”

Her involvement and accomplishments were many, ranging from membership in Radcliff Woman’s Club to serving on the board of Kentucky Neighborhood Bank and heading the United Way’s fundraising drive in 1998.

Gray was named as the Chamber of Commerce’s Woman of the Year in 1995 and was named state Superintendent of the Year and National Educational Administrator of the Year.

She was HCS superintendent from 1992 to 2002, when she retired in the midst of a contract. She told the school board she wished to step aside early to spend more time with family.

In 2012, she served as keynote speaker at the first Hardin County graduation for WKU students at the Elizabethtown and Fort Knox campuses. A WKU graduate herself, she brought out her red towel for a celebratory wave, and shared a bit of her philosophy about lifelong learning with the new alumni.

“Just because you have a diploma in your hand doesn’t mean you’re done learning,” she said at the ceremony.

She is survived by her husband, David, an attorney who formerly was part of the Skeeters and Bennett law firm in Radcliff. Also surviving are their sons, Paul and Tom, and five grandchildren.

In retirement, the Grays have lived in Bonita Springs, Florida, and Lois died at a hospital there Tuesday after being transported from her home by emergency medical services, Paul said.

No arrangements have been finalized.

Paul said his mother will be buried in North Hardin Memorial Gardens in Radcliff with Nelson-Edelen-Bennett Funeral Home handling arrangements. The family plans to hold the funeral at Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff.

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