



Get your local daily news, special offers
& more delivered right to your inbox!
SIGN UP NOW >

http://www.glasgowdailytimes.com/news/longtime-educator-community-leader-walbert-dies/article_b50fa102-0d46-11e8-8870-876666c443b4.html

EDITOR'S PICK

FEATURED

Longtime educator, community leader Walbert dies

BY MELINDA J. OVERSTREET moverstreet@glasgowdailytimes.com 11 hrs ago

Golda Walbert



GLASGOW – Friends and family members say Golda Walbert was passionate about education and her community involvement on many fronts.

The Rockcastle County native who had lived in Barren County since the mid-1950s died Thursday after a lengthy illness at the age of 93 at NHC Healthcare of Glasgow. She had touched many other lives along the way.

After beginning her career in her home county and then Harlan County, she moved to this area and became supervisor of instruction at Barren County Schools. She retired from the school system in 1990, but she then taught education courses at Lindsey Wilson College and Western Kentucky University.

In 2014, she was inducted into the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame.

At that time, Sen. David Givens, R-Greensburg, was among those who told CNHI journalist Ronnie Ellis about his first time meeting Walbert.

"She makes you think you're the apple of her eye, but when I got here and was trying to get over there to say hello, she was surrounded by men who also thought they were the apple of her eye," Givens said, according to the report published in the Glasgow Daily Times at the time. CNHI is the Daily Times' parent company.

Gary Ransdell, then-president of Western Kentucky University, where the Hall of Fame is housed, told Ellis he'd been on the job all of three days in 1997 when someone told him he'd better get over to Glasgow.

"When I got there, standing at the front of the line was Golda Walbert," Ransdell said. "The first thing she said was, 'I know you're new on the job, but we need a building for a Western campus at Glasgow.'"

Tom Walbert, Golda's stepson, said she was the primary fundraiser for WKU to get a campus here.

"She was instrumental in securing WKU for Glasgow," he said.

John Robert Miller, the Republican representative on the Barren County Board of Elections, got to know Walbert pretty quickly after she came here, he said. When the Glasgow Daily Times asked him about her significance to the local Republican Party, Miller said, "She was the Republican Party."

"She was just such a brilliant person," he said. "And she was all business, and we were fortunate she belonged to the Republican Party."

For several years, she was simultaneously president of the Barren County Republican Women's Club and chaired the Barren County Republican Party.

"She was a very, very intelligent person and a really good friend, and so efficient, and she was one of a kind. She was a really good speaker, too. She was one of the best speakers you ever heard. Any subject you wanted her to speak about, she could do it," he said.

She remained active with the party for as long as she was able, Miller said. Even when she couldn't get around on her own, she was good help on the phones, he said.

“She was an asset to the county,” Miller said. “She was definitely a friend. That's for sure.”

On June 6, 1964, she married Earl Walbert, Tom Walbert said.

She was still in education, but after they married, she did what she could to help him with his business, Walbert Trucking, Tom Walbert said. She would work with the drivers and “whatever he needed her to do there,” and she took pride in it, her stepson said.

When Earl died in 1970, it was during tobacco season, and a decision had to be made about whether the business was going to fulfill its contracts to haul tobacco that week, Tom said. He had come home from Arkansas, and the two of them talked it over until about 3 a.m. one night, and they agreed to keep the business going. For the first year, it was a joint effort, and they ran it under Earl's estate, and then they reached an agreement through which Tom officially took over the trucking business on his own, he said.

“But she was most helpful to my dad at that time,” he said.

Tom was already a young adult when Golda and Earl married, and he said she was always supportive of him with his education, especially.

“She stepped in as best she could as a mom,” he said.

When Tom's wife's parents were in a wreck and her mother was in the hospital four days before succumbing to her injuries, “Golda was right there by her side,” he recalled.

“She was just always where she needed to be, willing to whatever,” Tom said. “Anything going on with us, she was always right there to support.”

It wasn't just family members, though. He recalled a former student of Golda's telling him that she had once taken him, as a child, to the store and bought him winter clothes and shoes when he was in need.

“People are always saying what she did for them,” Tom said. “She was compassionate with her schoolchildren – anybody she met.”

Golda Walbert was active at First Presbyterian Church, where she was a member, elder and Sunday school teacher, and with several other community organizations as well, including the Glasgow Business and Professional Women, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Glasgow-Barren County Chamber of Commerce. Tom recalled that she held every office possible, including the top one, with the local Order of the Eastern Star.

He said she had memento book at least 2 inches thick, full of all kinds of certificates, awards, news clippings, etc.

“Her main focus in life, I think you could say, was education, and the Masonic organizations, Eastern Star and so forth, meant the world to her,” Tom said.

Golda Walbert also wrote a weekly column for the Glasgow Daily Times from 1999 – Glasgow's bicentennial – through the end of 2014.

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell sent the following statement to the newspaper:

“I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of my dear friend of more than three decades, Golda Walbert. Golda began her career teaching in a one-room school house, and through tireless work for her students and colleagues, she later became the guest of honor in the Kentucky State Capitol Rotunda as an inductee into the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame. Golda was a force of nature, and she left an indelible mark on her students and her community. A fearless woman of principle, she was a leader in the Republican Party who I always wanted to have on our team. Elaine and I send our deepest condolences to her family and friends. Golda will be truly missed.”

Glasgow Mayor Dick Doty said he probably first met Golda Walbert through his father, but then also through his wife and her family in relation to the Glasgow Business and Professional Women's Club.

“Golda was instrumental in that club, also hugely involved with politics, so our paths crossed frequently, but then also as a friend, as a customer and in many respects, so I knew her quite well. She was a wonderful lady and will be missed.”

He said he only came to know her, though, after she had retired.

“From where she came to where she ended up her career was a delightful story to hear; she was very accomplished in her work,” he said was the thing that most stood out to him about her.

In 2008, in an interview for a Glasgow Daily Times “Her Story” magazine, she told then-Daily Times editor James Brown that she had taught people from ages 5 to 54.

“If I had to live my life over beginning today, I'd become a teacher,” Golda said. “It was always important to me that no matter how well I did myself while I was working, I wanted to leave some people behind that I had influenced to be teachers or to be better teachers. Taken as a whole, that is my accomplishment.”

0 comments



Sign in

0 people listening

		+ Follow		Share	Post comment as...

Newest | Oldest

This Week's Circulars

Hover for **Circular**

Hover for **Circular**

Hover for **Circular**

Powered by

Glasgow Daily Times Events

FRI 9	FabLab: Origami Valentine Pocket Mary Wood Weldon M... Glasgow, KY												
SAT 10	FOL: Chocolate Around the World Mary Wood Weldon M... Glasgow, KY												
MON 12	Lego Robotics Mary Wood Weldon M... Glasgow, KY												
TUE 13	Project Linus Mary Wood Weldon M... Glasgow, KY												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>FRI</td> <td>SAT</td> <td>SUN</td> <td>MON</td> <td>TUE</td> <td>WED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </table>	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	9	10	11	12	13	14
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED								
9	10	11	12	13	14								
<input type="text" value="See all events"/> <input type="button" value="+ Add your event"/>													

Glasgow Daily Times Events

FRI 9	FabLab: Origami Valentine Pocket Mary Wood Weldon M... Glasgow, KY												
SAT 10	FOL: Chocolate Around the World Mary Wood Weldon M... Glasgow, KY												
MON 12	Lego Robotics Mary Wood Weldon M... Glasgow, KY												
TUE 13	Project Linus Mary Wood Weldon M... Glasgow, KY												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>FRI</td> <td>SAT</td> <td>SUN</td> <td>MON</td> <td>TUE</td> <td>WED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </table>	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	9	10	11	12	13	14
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED								
9	10	11	12	13	14								
<input type="text" value="See all events"/> <input type="button" value="+ Add your event"/>													

**REPORTERS,
EDITORS AND
PHOTOGRAPHERS
CREATE REAL NEWS.
JOURNALISM YOU
CAN TRUST.**



[#SupportRealNews](#)

