Report of the Memorial Resolution Committee for
Margaret Harris Booker

In Memoriam
Margaret Harris Booker

Margaret H. Booker, Assistant Professor of Special Education, died on December 27, 1979 after a prolonged struggle with cancer. Margaret was born on May 27, 1919 in Fredericksburg, Texas and is survived by her husband, Charles E. Booker and a multitude of friends.

Mrs. Booker's educational background included Bachelors and Masters degrees from The University of Texas at Austin and additional work at the University of California at Los Angeles. Early in her career, she began a lifetime of education dedicated to handicapped individuals. Her first teaching experience in 1941 was in the public schools at Mission, Texas after which she taught at both Texas and Louisiana Schools for the Deaf. For several years she served as speech therapist for the Beaumont Public Schools before assuming the position as Coordinator for Special Education in the Dallas Public Schools.

In 1953, while with the Dallas Public Schools, Mrs. Booker joined the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin as a lecturer for several summer sessions in the Department of Educational Psychology. After teaching in Los Angeles for two years, she returned to Texas as Director of Special Education for the Spring Branch Independent School District in 1960.

In 1966, Mrs. Booker was appointed as Field Director of the Special Education Instructional Materials Center in the newly formed Department of Special Education at the University of Texas in Austin where she served until her death. An expert in the design of instructional materials, Mrs. Booker utilized her vast repertoire of skills to develop a collection worthy of a major university.

Courage, in marked degree was notable to all who knew her, for her
long struggle with cancer entailed numerous painful treatments. Her dedicated and conscientious ways kept her in the classroom for longer than many could endure and her teaching maintained its quality throughout.

The work of this remarkable woman involved a continuous contact with both the university and public school systems throughout Texas which was a stabilizing force in the field of Special Education. Most special educators in Texas and throughout the nation are familiar with her dedicated teaching and have enjoyed the personal warmth and poise which characterized this gracious and courageous woman.

Margaret Booker left a legacy to all those she touched throughout her life. The gift was the memory of a generous lady who gave freely of her time and energy. The lives of the handicapped whom she served diligently have been improved significantly. The lives and memories of her friends have been enriched by her presence.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Charles C. Cleland and J. Lee Wiederholt.
Dr. Peter T. Flawn, President
The University of Texas
at Austin

Bill D. Francis, Secretary
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