Dr. Marea Black Succumbs

Dr. Marea Belfield Black, who moved to Broken Bow in 1973 after retiring as a college educator in Kansas and carved a niche as a community activist and volunteer in McCurtain County, is dead at the age of 91.

She died at her home this morning in Broken Bow.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the First United Methodist Church in Broken Bow, with the Rev. Don Martin and the Rev. Chuck Darby officiating. Burial will follow in Marea Black Hochatown Cemetery under the direction of Nation Funeral Home of Broken Bow.

When the retired Pittsburg State University education professor and her late husband, Dr. William A. Black, came to Broken Bow in 1973, they planned to join their son, William V. Black, in a tourism-related business venture to promote southeastern Oklahoma tourism.

Shortly afterward, their son died of an unexpected heart attack, and Dr. Marea Black threw herself into volunteer work through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Like a whirlwind, she became an advisor to the Senior Citizens Center, served on the KEDDO Advisory Board, served on the Blood Bank, helped man a line for battered wives, wrote and directed skits for a weight-control group, helped Broken Bow musical productions - and did innumerable other deeds for the community.

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Marea
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When her husband died in 1983, she became even busier than ever.

For her work as a volunteer, she was selected as an "Outstanding Older Oklahoman" in 1980 for the state and presented an award by the legendary L.E. Rader, director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

She has also been honored by the American Association of Retired Persons and other groups for her volunteer efforts.

Born Oct. 29, 1902 in Emporia, Kan., she received a bachelor's degree in education in 1948 from Pittsburg State Teachers College in Pittsburg, Kan; a master's degree from the institution in 1949, and a doctoral degree in 1987 - at the age of 84 - from Columbia Pacific University in San Rafael, Calif.

Survivors include two nieces, Pauline Belfield of Kansas and Kay Ryan of Michigan; two nephews, Donald Belfield of Alaska, Robert Belfield of Pittsburg, Kan., and Bob Walling; and a sister-in-law, Hazel Black.

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