

TESTA lost a long time advocate with the passing of Kathie Poff on Saturday, March 19th. A former president and board member, Kathie devoted her life to Earth science education in the state of Texas. Her children have asked that those wishing to honor her memory make a donation to TESTA in her name. These funds will be used to send a teacher to CAST each year. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to TESTA at the following address.

Gail Gant
TESTA President
1622 California
Houston, TX 77006

KATHIE POFF

Kathie Poff was born in Greenville, TX on September 4, 1936 and passed into the arms of the Lord on March 19, 2011 in Dallas, TX, at the age of 74. She is survived by three children: David Bush, Sarah Ellis, John Bush and his wife Suzy; and by six grandchildren. Kathie was preceded in death by her loving and devoted husband Norman Poff, and her parents Walter and Louise Remington.

Kathie had a long and accomplished career as an earth science teacher. For more than 30 years, she inspired her children to be hard working, maintain high moral standards, and be strong-willed in following life's passions. She was a long time member of LLUMC. Kathie received a BFA from SMU in 1958 where she pledged Tri-Delta Sorority; then, received her Masters in Science from Texas A & M Commerce in 1974. She continued in post-master education for an additional 13 years. Kathie was a dedicated and exemplary earth science teacher who inspired her students and her fellow teachers with her unwavering love and passion for earth science and education.

Kathie held many officer's positions in various science organizations and received numerous awards in the fields of earth science educators. She was a core member of the Texas Earth Science Teachers Association, serving as both historian and president. She continued to support the leaders who would follow in her footsteps by serving for many years on the TESTA Advisory Board. Her contributions to the organization were recognized when she was presented the TESTA Teacher of the Year Award in 1999. Kathie also served as vice president and secretary for the Science Teachers Association of Texas and was the STAT Regional Representative in the DFW Metroplex. She was the 1997 Program Co-Chair for CAST - Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching.

Her numerous awards included: receiving the Jake Kilby Science Teacher Award-1991; one of 125 teachers selected in the nation to participate in the NASA NEWMASST program-1991; the Southwest GSA Earth Science Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 1993; the Dallas County Geological Society Award in 1993, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Award for the development of a nature center on a school ground in 1994, the Parkhill Jr. High Golden Apple PTA Award in 1995; honored in the book dedication from Dr. Louis Jacob in "Lone Star Dinosaurs"-1995; Winston School Science Teacher Award for Service to Science-1997; and two-time winner of the Dallas Morning News Outstanding Teacher Award.

Over the years Kathie volunteered her knowledge and time by serving on planning committees for teacher conferences, workshops and field trips. She was diligently active in the campaign to improve the Texas earth science curriculum. She spent many days attending the state board of education meetings working enthusiastically to persuade board members to value earth science as much as she did. Kathie truly left an imprint of herself on Texas earth science education. She touched the lives of so many people and will be dearly missed.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to TESTA -Texas Earth Science Teachers Association.