

Introducing...
Nita Buell Black
Class of 1955
Hall of Fame, 2011



Nita Buell Black grew up in Powell, graduating from Powell High School in 1955 and gaining her degrees at UT and Union College in Kentucky. She taught at Pleasant Ridge, Heiskell, Brickey, Grace Christian Academy, and Powell High School. She taught a total of 52 years, with 35 as an English, drama, and speech teacher and as Head Senior Sponsor at Powell High. She served as secretary of the Knox County Education Association, as a representative of KCEA, and as a delegate to Tennessee Education Association where she served on various committees.

Nita's teaching experience included mentoring some University of Tennessee student teachers at Powell High School. Her interest in English led her to join the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the regional arm of that same organization in East Tennessee. She also served as a consultant in the publication of a drama textbook. She influenced many students, many teachers, and many about-to-be teachers over her teaching career.

Nita has been very active with the Powell High School Alumni Association as President-elect, President, and Alumni Advisor. Her community service includes teaching a Sunday School class at Sharon Baptist Church where she has also chaired a variety of church committees and directed the church productions. She has advised and aided many graduate groups in planning their reunions, one in recent days for former Heiskell Elementary School students. She is currently serving on the Knox County Library Board. Her most recent Powell community project includes working with a group of former students to establish a performing arts center, the Powell Playhouse. Awards include nomination for the East Tennessee English Teacher of the Year, Teacher of the Month at PHS, and certificates from the American Legion Post 2 for her support of the Legion's speech contests. She is very proud that the PHS auditorium was named in her honor in 2005.

Nita, we salute you and your life contributions!