

The Buffaloes' Hall of Fame Inductee Romanetha Terry



Mrs. Romanetha Terry had a 55-year teaching career in the state of Arkansas. Mrs. Terry received her bachelor's in education (BSE) from Arkansas Agricultural Mechanical and Normal College (AM&N), now the University of Arkansas of Pine Bluff, AR (UAPB.) She went on to earn her MSE Degree in Early Childhood in 1975 from Henderson State University. She has done further study at an off-campus school from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas, Little Rock (UALR.) Mrs. Terry has amassed hundreds of Continuing Education hours during her career as a classroom teacher.

Mrs. Terry began her teacher career in 1958-59 in Prairie County, Hickory Plains, Arkansas. She taught in Altheimer, Arkansas, from 1963-67, then started teaching in Arkadelphia in 1967 through the next 48 years. During her years as a teacher, she taught first, second, and third grades as well as junior high as a long-term substitute. She began her teaching in Arkadelphia as a first-grade teacher and later became a kindergarten teacher during the early years of integration in the 1970s. She has taught nearly year-round in Head Start programs in Jefferson County and Clark County and most summer school programs in the district.

Mrs. Terry is currently an active Clark County Retirement Teachers Association member and attends local and state meetings when scheduled. She is a life member of the National Education Association/Arkansas Education Association, and she has a lifetime Arkansas teacher's license, a life member of the NAACP, and a member of Universal Evergreen Verbena Chapter No. 192 of the Royal Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Terry was initiated in Delta Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in March of 1974 on the campus of AM&N College, now UAPB. When the Chi Nu Omega Chapter was organized in Arkadelphia in 2003, Mrs. Terry became a charter member. She is a 50-year member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She served as president of the Sunshine Service Committee for ten years. She has been a guest speaker at several church ministries and other civic organizations. She is a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where her husband, the late Rev. A. William Terry, started and pastored. Presently, she is under the leadership of her son, Rev. L. Terry. While at Mt. Olive, she served as the pianist and Sunday school teacher. WMU president, youth leader, program coordinator, and many other positions where she was needed.

She has received local recognition from the news media and the community for her dedication and loyal service to education and the local school district over the years. In 1999, she was voted Teacher of the Year for the Arkadelphia Public School District. Mrs. Terry has been all things to many. She's been a friend, a counselor, a mentor, a guide, an educator. She's shown by example the way to lead one's life. She has given her students love – the greatest gift of all. In 2010, the Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce recognized Mrs. Terry for fifty-one years of service in education. Mrs. Terry was the second "Angel Award" recipient in June 2014 at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion during Treatment Homes Inc.'s 31st Anniversary celebration. The Angel Award is given to individuals who are "silent supporters" of Treatment Homes by making lasting financial contributions without expecting special recognition. For the past 20 years, Mrs. Terry has supported the work of Treatment Homes Inc., a nationally accredited outpatient mental health facility and child placement agency. The 41-year-old organization, founded by Consevella James, a professional social worker and 13 foster families, provides therapeutic foster care services for traumatized foster children with complex emotional and behavioral needs in a family environment. Alyse Eady of KTHV11 This Morning was the emcee for the celebration, and Governor Mike Bebee presented Mrs. Terry with a congratulatory letter of recognition.

During her career as an educator, she has rarely missed any days of school for multiple years. She takes great pride in never missing a day of school. Part of Mrs. Terry's philosophy is that all children can learn; if the world is to survive, we must educate our youth. Mrs. Terry continues to tutor students in her home at the request of their parents. She is the widow of the late Rev. A. William Terry. She has three sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.