

Hall of Fame

**Willye M. Newburn
Talley**



Willye M. Newburn Talley, a distinguished retired educator, resides in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her work experience includes classroom teacher for Prescott Public Schools, North Little Rock Public Schools, and the Little Rock Public Schools. She was known to her students as the type of teacher who was caring and cognizant of all those who needed a helping hand. She was tolerant and patient with those who struggled to learn and/or understand. She encouraged all her students to excel above and beyond their expectations. Her students, parents, and coworkers will long remember her as an outstanding teacher who thoughtfully and respectfully held her students to high standards, and as someone who has equipped her students with a strong foundation for future learning.

Her civic and volunteer endeavors are equally impressive. As a citizen who grew up in the Mt. Morriah Community, Mrs. Talley was instrumental in founding and sponsoring the Mt. Morriah Rural School Reunion. The reunion convened for more than ten consecutive years. She is quite knowledgeable of all things regarding the Mt. Morriah Rural School; she is caretaker for many of the artifacts relating to the school. Her research into the Mt. Morriah Rural School has inspired others to seek information on Black rural schools in Clark County. She is a member of a civic social club, L'Elite Incorporated, which serves to promote the community with academic scholarships for youth and L'Elite does other charitable work as well. She is an active member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She has served on numerous Peake High School Alumni Committees for years.

Willye was educated during her early, formative years in the Arkadelphia Public School System, graduating from Peake High School in 1962. Her first eight years were spent at the Mt. Morriah Rural School. While attending Peake High School she excelled academically and participated in many extra curricular activities like basketball and 4-H Club. She served three years as Student Council Vice-President, and in 1961 she reigned as Homecoming Queen. After graduating from Peake High School, she attended Henderson State University, Shorter College, and Ouachita Baptist College. She was one of Ouachita's first African American students to graduate in 1967. She later earned her Master's Degree from Ouachita Baptist University.

Her religious affiliations include Mt. Morriah Baptist Church, Mt Zion Baptist Church where she worked as a Sunday School Teacher, served on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Committees, and she is currently active at Bethel AME in North Little Rock, AR.

Mrs. Talley is married to Johnny Talley, Jr. of Prescott, Arkansas. Together they have one son, Jonathan Talley. Jonathan graduated from Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN with a degree in Computer Science. He lives in Lithonia, Georgia. Her parents were Willie A. and Mattie Rene Newburn of the Mt. Morriah Community.

The Buffaloes' Foundation, Inc. 2015 Inductee

