

In Memoriam

Norma Hunt Hayes

Quota International of Magnolia, Arkansas, United States

January 4, 2016



A tribute is a means of recognizing a person for the deeds that they have done. Quota International of Magnolia recognizes a leader, an encourager, and a true friend to Quota and all Quota members through the world. So, we call attention to our own Norma Hayes, who has played all these rolls in our club, district, and international.

Norma was born and raised in Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas. She was the daughter of William Osler and Olive Odell (Whitehead) Hunt. She and her future husband, Charles Hayes, grew up in the same neighborhood. They became engaged in the summer of 1957 and were married in March 1958. They traveled for 16 years before returning to Magnolia to live.

After graduating from high school, Norma attended and graduated from St. Vincent Infirmary School of Nursing in Little Rock, Arkansas, and served her community as a Registered Nurse for 45 years. She started her career in Shreveport, Louisiana, worked three years during the Vietnam War in a United States Army Trauma Burn Unit, and retired from Magnolia City Hospital after 25 years as Director of Nursing. She received Nurse of the Year Award, Outstanding Nurse Executive Award, and the Arkansas Hospital Association Chairman's Award.

She was a very active member of Macedonia Baptist Church. She gave of her time to assist her new pastor in "getting to know the folks in her church and community," and worked tirelessly to raise money to remodel the church's parsonage.

Norma joined Quota Club of Magnolia, Arkansas in 1983. I will mention three talents that Norma shared with Quota. They were her organizational, leadership, and persuasive talents. She was excellent in organizing meetings or social events. She led by example. If something needed to be done, now was the time to do it and she was willing to do what needed to be done. Norma could talk to you about doing something and never actually ask you to do it but by the end of the conversation, you were willing to do it just for her. One of Norma's favorite fundraisers was selling pecans each fall. She always sold more cases of pecans than any other member in our club. Even after she was no longer able to attend our club meetings and as recent as this past November, Norma still sold pecans by calling one of us and giving us names and phone numbers of some folks who wanted to purchase our pecans. Norma served two terms as our President-- during the years of 1985-1986 and 2000-2001. She was awarded Outstanding Quotarian of the Year Award (known locally as the Jewel Pin Award) in 1999 and then again in 2002. She served two terms as Governor of the 23rd District in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. Other District Offices she held was Lt. Governor and District Secretary/Treasurer. While serving as Governor, Norma's advice to all Quotarians was to stay involved and you will enjoy Quota more.

Norma often invited local Quotarians to her home for a fun party night or a special dinner. She also invited out-of-town Quotarians from both our district and other locations across the Quota World to come to her home and spend the night instead of staying in a local motel.

Norma loved to travel to District and International Conventions and participate in the activities. She served on many committees on the International level. But most of all, she encouraged other Quotarians to travel and enjoy all of Quota. She was a great traveling companion and we, in the Magnolia Quota Club, have found memories of the unusual things that happened while we were on these many, many trips.

She was a strong advocate for education, having all four of her children receive a college degree. And it was for this reason and to honor her memory that Quota International of Magnolia, Arkansas, has established the Norma Hunt Hayes Nursing Endowment Scholarship at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. Our New Year's Eve Gala this year is planned as a fundraiser to complete the endowment.

Written by Lu Waters on February 26, 2016