

# ECHOES

Vol. LV No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

September 2020

**PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964**

### From the President:

Normally, writing an article in late July for a September newsletter would be an easy task. What can change in a month? Well, we all know the answer to that question.

Thanks to Zoom capabilities our Executive Committee has continued to work behind the scenes on behalf of our members. We know that some of our members are experiencing severe health problems, and for them we offer our heartfelt prayers. Most of us have been lying low to minimize the risk of becoming ill. And all of us are waiting for the day when this mess is behind us.

Looking forward, the September 23 General meeting will be held virtually via zoom. Please note the registration form for the meeting that is printed in this issue. You will see that if you wish to "attend" the virtual meeting, you will need to send your name and **email address** to Dr. Vest at his home address provided on the form.

Since we are not sure how many members will choose to register to "attend" virtually, we will be in uncharted waters regarding how we are going to pull this off. Given the potential for a large number, we may have to mute "attendees" in order for the presenters to be heard. We will cross that bridge when we get to it, but please be understanding of our situation. More information will be provided to those who register. Remember--In order to participate you **MUST** provide Dr. Vest with an email address to receive the invitation email closer to the meeting date. Information about our guest speaker can be found elsewhere in this issue.

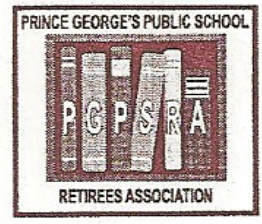
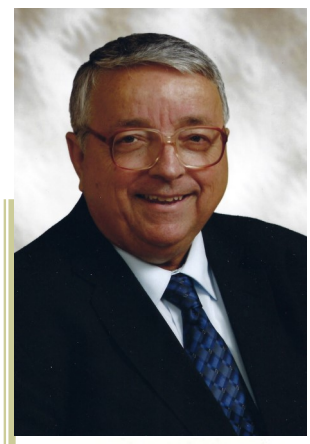
Please also remember that you can visit our organization website at any time of the day or night. That address is [pgpsra.org](http://pgpsra.org) and there you will find copies of past newsletters, calendars, photographs and a lot more interesting information.

PGPSRA continues to work with the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) to insure that due diligence is given to protecting our retirement pensions.

Meanwhile, we are all in this together, and we hope that you will do your part to stay safe. We hope that you will encourage retirees you know who are not members to join PGPSRA and MRSPA as soon as possible. There is strength in numbers.

Thank you for every act of kindness you have shown to fellow retirees and other residents of our community. Please continue to be strong.

Thanks and best wishes,  
George D. Denny, Jr., President



Contents	
President's Report	1
Officers/Committees	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Membership	3
Community Service	3
Bits and Pieces	4
Scholarship	5
Community Service	5
Remembrance	6
Reservation	7



## Update on Prescription Drugs

The high rise of copayments for this year, has affected all of us - active employees, **retirees** under 65, and retirees over 65. One major reason has been the huge increase in claims which has been more costly to the County than it has been in the past.

In addition, if you were in the Caremark prescription plan and was changed to SilverScript to find out that your particular prescription has been dropped by SilverScript, please feel free to call and express your concern. The more people who express a concern can make a difference. SilverScript – 1-866-235-5660

Addie Martin  
Liaison  
(301)-868-6081

### TREASURER'S REPORT – JULY – 2020

**OPENING BALANCES:**

Checking Account	- \$12325.86
Savings Account	- 126.86

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:  
NO RECEIPTS  
EXPENDITURES - \$1125.00

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

**BALANCES AS OF JULY 31:**

Checking Account	-11200.86
Savings Account	- 126.86
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>-\$11327.72</b>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Edward N. Vest



### Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

- President: George D. Denny  
(george.dilden@yahoo.com)
- President-Elect: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms  
(obridge@verizon.net)
- Past President/Nominating: Lorraine W. Johnson  
(johnson6608@comcast.net)
- Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret22@verizon.net)
- Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest@comcast.net)
- Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
- Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) &  
Leah Fowble (pepper3495@aol.com)
- BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)
- Bylaws: MaryLouise J. Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)
- Comm. Service: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
- Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)
- Historian: Don Conway (donconway5@icloud.com)
- Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)
- Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77gmail.com)
- Membership: Maryann M. Royall  
(maryakaroyall@aol.com)
- Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)
- Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof
- Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose  
(wmbrose@comcast.net)
- Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguinCI@msn.com)
- Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net)
- Scholarships: Vera J. Davis (301 452 350)  
& Brenda Barnes

# Congratulations

*on your induction into the  
2020 Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame*



Clareen Heikal      Jayne Johns      Maryann Royall

*Thank you  
for your  
volunteer  
services!*



## Senator Mike Miller Honored

The University of Maryland has announced that its main administration building will be named the Miller Building in honor of long-time Maryland Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. Sen. Miller was honored for his exceptional work in advocating for higher education that has resulted in convincing the state to invest in building and improving campus facilities that have included the arts, sciences, communications, and sports programs.

Sen. Miller began his political career as a Maryland Delegate in 1970, and was elected to the Senate in 1974, all the while representing District 27 (Prince George's, Calvert, and Charles Counties). By overwhelming votes among his legislative colleagues, from 1987 until January 8, 2020, he became Maryland's longest-serving Senate President. During his political career, Sen. Miller received many awards for his community and state work on transportation, housing policy, school construction, historic preservation, law enforcement, restructuring the electric utility industry, preserving the Chesapeake Bay, setting standards for Veterans' Homes and nursing homes, and numerous other projects, but his main focus has always been on education.

Senator Miller, with his legislative photographer, has for 20 years, welcomed our PGPSRA members who travel to Annapolis for our annual "Legislative Day" each March.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We welcome three new members to our membership. Our current total membership for the county is 1,258, with 80 Emeritus members, and 814 of these are dues deductible. As we move into a new year, our focus remains on increasing our number of paid memberships. I am encouraging each of you to make yourself responsible for 1 new member. Our motto is: "Each one brings one". Let us remind our retired friends of the benefits of being a paid member: Updates on health insurance and pensions, travel opportunities, legislative briefings, senior housing assistance, Consumer Education and so much more. You can also stay connected to MRSPA through Facebook and You Tube links.

Maryann M. Royall, Chairperson



## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **September** birthday wishes to a number of our Emeritus members: Ms. Beatrice Marshall of Washington, D. C. will be celebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup>; two ladies will be having their birthdays on the 6<sup>th</sup>: Mrs. Margaret Routten of Port Royal, S.C. will be turning 98 years-old, and Mrs. Marguerite Simpson of Washington, D. C. will be reaching her 95<sup>th</sup> year; Ms. Jane Hand of Catonsville will be observing her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>; two members will be celebrating on the 20<sup>th</sup>: Mr. Camillio DiMunzio of LaPlata will be turning 93 years -old, and **Mrs. Ruth Hanson of Annapolis will be reaching 100 years of age**; Mr. John Connor of Annapolis will be marking his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; and two ladies will be celebrating their birthdays on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mrs. Barbara Davenport of Glenwood will be having her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday; and Mrs. Martha Gibson of Tracy’s Landing will be marking her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Happy **October** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Mr. John Jenkins of Franklin, W.VA. will be celebrating his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Jerome (Jerry) Six retired from Friendly High School in 1999, and moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Fl., where he is enjoying life. He has fond memories of the personnel he worked with at Friendly H.S. and Upper Marlboro Jr. High. Since retiring, Jerry has traveled most of the globe! Unfortunately, he has been seeing stark evidence of global warming changes, especially in Alaska. He recently returned there after his last visit thirty years ago and was disappointed to see the dramatic shrinkage of the glaciers.

Jane Addeo of Westminster, MD. retired in 1997 from Central High School. Following her retirement, Jane was an Adjunct in Spanish at Anne Arundel Community College and served as a volunteer in Adult ESOL in Annapolis. She also worked in private industry, teaching Spanish to IT personnel. Jane has enjoyed travels to Maine, New Hampshire, Hilton Head, and Savannah. She belongs to a Book Club and serves as a member of the HOA Board of Masters’ Retreat in her community. Jane looks forward to spending time with her family that includes three adult daughters and nine grandchildren.

Elizabeth Schlaefli retired from North Forestville Elementary in 1990. Six years later she and her husband relocated to South Carolina. Following the passing of her husband, Elizabeth moved to the Lakewood Retirement Community in Richmond, VA., to be near her daughters. There, she has been volunteering in the Thrift Store each week. She has enjoyed travel to Germany to visit her sister and her family. Elizabeth has four children, twelve grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren!

Claire Beth of Takoma Park retired in 2014 from Rogers Heights Elementary. She continued her work in education by serving as Director of the College Park Nursery School from 2014 until 2019. Since then, Claire has volunteered in her nine-year-old grandson’s public school classroom. Claire and her husband (now in their 70’s) have become parents again, to their grandson, due to the 2018 death of his mother and their daughter. They have one other grandson. Claire and her husband have enjoyed two Viking Cruises: a River Cruise in Europe, and an Ocean Cruise through the British Isles. They look forward to more travel and adventures once the coronavirus is manageable.

To contribute to “BITS & PIECES” contact [JannetteWundrow@comcast.net](mailto:JannetteWundrow@comcast.net) or 301-390-7324

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### *Community Service*

***Welcome back PGPSRA fellows to a new year (2020-2021). Community Service is off and running by way of ZOOM. Zoom allowed us to communicate with each other from our homes.***

***We were able to have our transition meeting in June and our first collective meeting for 2020-2021 in August. The Corona virus-19 Pandemic caused us to stop mid-way in our quest to serve our selected schools in 2019-2020, as a result, we have decided to continue serving J. Frank Dent Elementary, Forest Heights Elementary, Glass Manor Elementary, and one new addition Brandywine Elementary. Our High School selection continues to be Surrattsville .***

***We realize this year of activity will be challenging in that the School System will be conducted virtually. Please pray for our success in assisting these schools with their needs for the children as they function virtually. We look forward to the challenge.***

***Community Service members want to thank everyone who contributed to our cause and we hope you will continue to do so during the new school year.***

***Submitted by,***

***Courtney Pringle***



## Scholarship News

The Scholarship Committee of PGPSRA has had a great loss this past year. Mrs. Delores Brown, co-chairperson of our committee passed after a brief illness in May. The committee will continue to strive for all that she believed “**all students should be able to have a higher education**”. This year we had fewer students applying for our scholarship. Each year fewer students are majoring in education. The members made personal contacts with the school counselors trying to reach out to the students.

Naomi Barrett will receive a \$1000.00 scholarship to attend Towson University. She graduated from Henry Wise High School. Naomi plans to major in early childhood education. We will hear from her in our next newsletter.

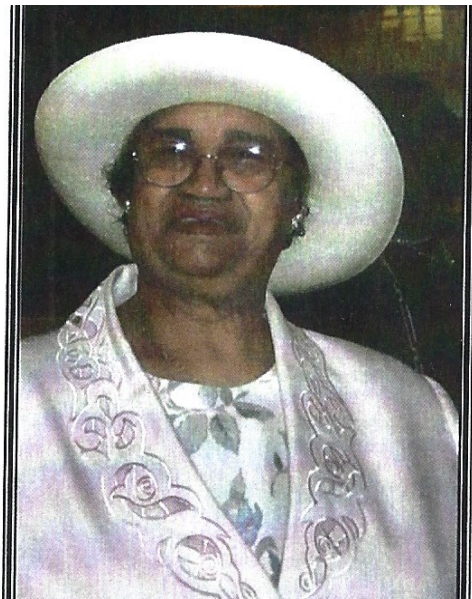
The committee has four members, Vera Davis, Helen Butler, myself and our newest member, Past President Lorraine Johnson. We will meet later in August to review our goals for the coming year.

We want to extend a special thank you to the members who have donated special contributions to the Scholarship fund. We have received over \$2000.00 to add to our annual budget of \$4,00.00. These donations will add funds for mini grants to be used for books and other essential needs for students continuing their education.

Submitted by: Brenda Barnes Scholarship Chairperson

## WE'VE LOST ONE OF OUR MOST DEDICATED

**Dolores Brown** was one of our most dependable and active members in PGPSRA. We lost Dolores in May of this year. If you wanted a job done, a committee chaired, phone calls to be made, new members welcomed: Dolores was your woman.



Dolores was a Fairmount Heights native and graduated in 1959 from Bowie State University with a Bachelor

Degree in Education and taught in Prince George's County schools for 35 years before retiring. That didn't stop our Dolores! She then worked for several more years in schools in the system.

She held many responsibilities in PGPSRA. Her work with our Community Service Committee and with the Scholarship Committee continued to help maintain our focus on helping students in the county.

Dolores will be missed by us all. We love her lovely hat, but our hat is off to her!

### Remembrance

Dr. Carol Holland 11/13/2019

Agnes Waters 12/10/2019

Jessica L. Clark 12/09/2019

Sonya Hamilton

Patricia Griggs 12/10/2019

Dr. Joseph Harrison 12/27/2019

Ulyses Curry 12/27/2019

Joan Rothgeb 3/16/2020

Karen Fisher 2/20/2020

Terrence Burke 2/28/2020

Anne Noyess 3/20/2020

Anna Miley 3/28/2020

Steve Smith 4/01/2020

Mary V. Foley 5/02/2029

Irene O. Green 5/09/2020

Natalie Straley 6/18/2020

Sunhild M. Kennedy 6/30/2020

Pauline Lyles 6/30/2020

Charles C. Gallagher 7/09/2020

Larry E. Davis 7/15/2020

Elizabeth L. Clarke Rich 7/19/2020

**Jayne Johns and Linda Butler, Chairs.**

## RESERVATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Our September 23rd meeting will be held virtually! Due to this COVID-19 pandemic and the need to “distance” there is not a venue that will allow us to meet safely.

You must let Dr. Ed Vest know that you plan to attend! Please email him your name and email address no later than Sept. 16 to be on the list. You will then receive the invitation to join the meeting that will be opened at 11:am on the 23rd. You will also receive an agenda, by email, for the meeting

**Ed Vest .....homevest552@comcast.net**

This is going to be a most fun experiment. We may see people we have not seen for ages who are not able to attend. If you’re feeling new to the idea....ask your children or grandchildren! Feel free to bring your own lunch and refreshment!!

### Speaker for September

We will have a speaker for our meeting. Kristi Kidd, who was to present her program in March, will join us to talk about her Oasis Senior Living Program. This is designed to give us information on how to make life decisions as we age.



### From our Inspiration Chair, Dan Williams

Four elderly men went into the pro shop after playing 18 holes of golf. The pro asked, “Have a good time out there?” “Yes, The first old man replied. I had three riders.” The second old man added, “I had five riders, the most ever.” The third old man chimed in, “I had seven riders, same as last time.” The fourth old man concluded, “And I had 12 riders. Beat my old record.” After the old men left, another golfer approached the pro and said, “I’ve been playing golf all my life and thought I knew all the terminology. What’s a rider?” “When you hit the ball far enough to get in the golf cart and ride to it.”



Dan thought we needed a good chuckle these days!



## PGPSRA

Dr. Edward N. Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net



---

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)**

---

**VISIT THESE WEBSITES [www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org) and [www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)**

If you have not already done so,  
send your email address to Dr. Vest

To get the latest, quickest news.