

# Texas PTA Life Member Honorees

Please enjoy reading the bios of these two fabulous members of our list of Honorees that were inadvertently left out of the published program from our recent banquet.

## **Mrs. Rachel Delight Walker**

Education and community are two cornerstone values Rachel Walker remembers with each heartbeat. She is the third generation of women in her family to work in education. As an alumnus of Memorial Elementary School, Bowman Middle School, and Williams High School – her East Side Pride is foundational. However, after moving she graduated from Plano Senior High School and went on to attend East Texas State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Studies in Business Administration from Dallas Baptist University. Rachel credits the sacrifices and determination of her living grandmother, Cynthia Delight Burns (retired Dallas ISD) and mother Debra Hawley (Daffron FANS Manager) for paving the way to create a prosperous future for her.

Rachel has worked in Plano ISD for over seven years with the eSchool program and as a campus secretary at Beaty Early Childhood School. You will now find Rachel on the campus of Collin College as the Administrative Assistant for the Communication & Humanities Division. And while working full time, she also serves as the President for Meadows Elementary School PTA. Rachel also serves on the School Based Improvement Committee for Meadows - as well as the Key Communicator for her campus. Mrs. Walker has also had the honor of sitting on the AVID panel as a parent advocate as Meadows was a national demonstration site this year. Her volunteerism pours out and into the community as well, as she serves on the Plano Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Committee for the City of Plano. However, her heart warms at Greater New Birth Baptist Church in East Plano, where she serves as Youth Director, under the direction of her beloved childhood Pastor, Charles R. Terry, Sr.

Rachel would also like to honor her husband, Lee Walker, Jr. for being such an amazing support for her – as he, too, sits on the Meadows PTA Board, as Parliamentarian. Also, her three children: Jaida Nichole, a freshman International Baccalaureate student at PESH, Marc D'Sean, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Football University invitee who attends Armstrong, and Anaiyah Delight, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade PACE student and #4 state ranking gymnast, who attends Meadows.

## **Mary Jo Lewis**

Mary Jo Lewis has dedicated her life to students. It seems like she's willing to tutor students 24-7 to help them succeed *OR* she'll drive all over Texas to cheer her students on in their competitions. It is clear that for MJ teaching is a calling.

An Oklahoma native, MJ started teaching at Plano Senior High in 1972. To say that she is one of the legends at Plano is an understatement – it seems she can recall most of the students and recount their stories, and they can remember all the effort she poured into them and her unique classroom rituals. She has taught GED students since 1979 and also can be found many evenings offering the admission "\$5 special" to sports fans at the PSHS gym while grading

papers and supporting her Wildcats. Watching people trying to get past her for free or reduced price can sometimes be as entertaining as the game!

Her son and daughter-law, Mark and Rebekah Lewis, are PSHS grads. Their son is a graduate of Washington and Lee Law School and recently made MJ the proud great-grandmother of twins!

Our PTSA is thrilled to be able to present this award to Mary Jo Lewis for giving the PSHS students her complete dedication and loyalty for the last 42 years!