

## Mrs. Joyce Brooks



**Mrs. Joyce Brooks** was born in Eastman, Georgia, on May 10, 1932, to Buddy and Opal Holder. She graduated from Cochran High School in 1950. She earned a Bachelor of Elementary Education from Georgia College in 1954 and a Master of Arts in Elementary Education from Fort Valley State College in 1981.

Mrs. Brooks taught in Houston County schools for 30 years, primarily at Perry Elementary. She was an enthusiastic, well-prepared, creative and caring teacher. She is known for her beautiful smile, servant's heart and mezzo soprano voice. Her talents are greatly appreciated, not only by her former elementary students and teacher mentees, but also by her church choir, Sunday School class and Akikta Club. Her many awards include Teacher of the Year, Woman of the Year and Who's Who of American Teachers.

Married to Robert O. Brooks for 50 years until his passing, the couple had two sons, Boyd and Mark. She retired in 1993 and currently resides in Clarkesville, Georgia. She cares for her 98-year-old mother and enjoys spending time with her children and three grandchildren who live nearby.

*"Mrs. Brooks and her beautiful smile melted any fears that consumed my nine-year-old mind. She radiated kindness and presented her lessons in a gentle way. If I didn't understand something, she was accessible and quick with an explanation that a child could appreciate. And there was her smile. Wide, warm and inviting."*

~ Deborah Roberts, former student

*"Joyce not only taught me to be a better teacher, she taught me to be a better person. She epitomizes southern charm and hospitality."*

~ Brenda Bullard, teacher mentee

