In Memoriam

Nicki Keele

Ada Van Whitley passed away April 27, 2016 in Stillwater, OK. She was born on May 8, 1929 in Council Hill, OK to Jess C. and Myrtle Whitley. Ada attended Oktaha Schools all twelve years. She graduated from high school in 1947. She earned her undergraduate degree from Northeastern State College in Tahlequah with a degree in Business Education and Health and Physical Education. She received a Masters of Science degree from Oklahoma State University in 1961. She was then hired by OSU in 1961 and served on the faculty of Health Physical Education and Recreation (HPER).

While at OSU she taught HPER classes, was women's intra-mural director, and later served as coordinator of non-credit classes. She was the women's basketball coach from 1961-1973. Ada retired from OSU in 1988 after 27 years. Her early teaching experience was spent teaching in Barnsdall and Muskogee, OK and in Caney and Partridge, KS. Ada Van was a member of OAHPERD, a member of the First Presbyterian Church and was the driving force behind the creation of the Companion Animal Assistance Program (CAAP).

Ada was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Mary Cathers. She is survived by her cousins Ira Lee Boss and his wife Mable of Muskogee, Betty Jo Gregg of Ventura, CA, Sam Whitley and his wife Marilyn of Muskogee and Virginia Atkison of Wichita, KS, and numerous other cousins.

There was a celebration of Ada Van's life on June 11, 2016 in Stillwater, OK. Her internment was in Greenhill Cemetery in Muskogee, OK.

Reference: Stillwater News Press