



# Dr. Cynthia Ann Gillespie

JUL 9, 1949 - MAR 20, 2019



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## **Dr. Cynthia Ann Gillespie**

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**F**uneral services for Dr. Cynthia Ann Gillespie, will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday March 27, 2019 in the Cooper Baptist Church in Leesville with Rev. Edgar Evans officiating. Burial will follow in the Cooper Cemetery under the direction of Labby Memorial Funeral Home of Leesville.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 from 4:00PM until 9:00PM, and on Wednesday from 8:00AM until service time in the church.

Dr. Gillespie was a native of Pennsylvania but had made Vernon Parish her home since 1978. After receiving her education degree from Davis and Elkins college in Elkins, West Virginia, she taught three years in Randolph County schools in West Virginia before enlisting in the United State Army, serving her country where she was an NCO in the Signal Corp, a role that brought her to Fort Polk and Vernon Parish where she remained.

During her forty years in Vernon Parish, Dr. Gillespie continued to serve, this time serving the education system and its students and teachers as a teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal at Pickering Elementary from 1978 to 1994. When she left Pickering Elementary, it was to serve all of Vernon Parish as a Curriculum Supervisor and Curriculum Director for seven years, and ultimately as the Superintendent of Schools for seven years. One of the most notable and outstanding accomplishments for Vernon Parish Schools under her tenure as Superintendent was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between Fort Polk and the Vernon Parish School Board, as Dr. Gillespie recognized the unique issues of transitioning military-connected students



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and led the district to address those issues. Vernon Parish was one of the very first school districts in the country to address the needs of this particular population of students.

Beyond serving her school district, Dr. Gillespie served on the Board of Directors for Louisiana Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, served on the State Advisory Council for Louisiana's School Superintendent, and served on The Rapides Foundation's Board of Trustees from 2010 through 2015, serving as Board Chair in her final year on the board. She was also a current member of The Orchard Foundation's board. The experience Cindy brought to the table provided critical insight and valuable knowledge to The Rapides Foundation's work in Education, as well as to The Orchard Foundation.

While much of Dr. Gillespie's life was dedicated to education in the formal setting of the schools, she also dedicated much time to her church and the needs of the children in particular, serving as a preschool and children's Sunday school teacher for over 20 years. She additionally led the Ladies Bible Study and ministered to local nursing homes as part of the Women's Missionary Union. She was a valued member of the Louisiana Alpha Sigma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary organization of women educators, where she served as chaplain, recording secretary, and vice president. Her service also extended into the Vernon Parish community as she served on the Vernon Parish Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and was an avid member of the Vernon Arts Council.

Whether Dr. Gillespie was working in the school system or her community or her church, she was dedicated to serving others and their needs, especially children. She was never too busy to listen to others because of her love for others. She lived the motto she developed, and the Vernon Parish School District continues to follow today: "Every Child, Every Day, Whatever It Takes!"



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She is preceded in death by her parents, Robert & Ruth Gillespie; One Brother: David Gillespie; One Niece: Rhonda Brown

Cindy is survived by her three Sisters: Roberta Brown of Elwood City, PA, Donna Kelly and husband Tim of Elwood City, PA, Amy Ferrese and her husband Joe of Mars, PA; Several Nieces, Nephews, and Great Nieces and Nephews, and a host of dear, wonderful friends.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Cooper Baptist Church Life Center Fund.



## Tribute Wall

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ML

**Mary Redmond Lachney** posted:

So sad to hear of Mrs. Cindy's passing. She was such a kind hearted, loving, positive, and happy person. She was the definition of a true Christian woman and her strong faith always showed and brought happiness to those around her. She was always thought highly of and loved by everyone. She will always be missed and never forgotten. She is peacefully home now but, left a lasting impression to all those that knew her.

April 12 at 7:00 PM

DF

**Debby Franks** posted:

I am so deeply saddened to learn of Ms. Cindy's passing!! She was such a wonderful person and a joy to be around! She deeply loved our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and her church family! She appreciated each and every person who entered her home and made everyone feel so welcomed!! I know, without a shadow of doubt, she is running, NOT walking, or riding in a wheelchair to greet all her loved ones in heaven!! I have truly been blessed to have met her!! Many prayers to her family! I feel as though I know all of you!! She was so proud of her family and talked fondly of each of you!! You are all in my thoughts and prayers, as well as her sweet caregivers that I was also blessed to have met!! Love, Debby Franks (VAMC)

March 26 at 7:00 PM

CC

**Carrice Cummins** posted:

In loving memory of an amazing woman who touched the lives of so many. My life was so enriched because of the time we spent talking about teaching and learning. She will be missed but remembered always.

March 26 at 7:00 PM

TW

**Tim Ward** posted:

It was a pleasure working with and for Dr. Gillespie at the Vernon Parish School Board, she was a great lady and leader, she was always kind and caring for everyone and especially the students of Vernon Parish. It was privilege to know and work with her.

March 25 at 7:00 PM



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KE

**K Evans** posted:

I am so deeply sorry for your loss, may the Father of tender mercies comfort your hearts. He (God) promises that we will see our loved ones on Paradise Earth. Please take comfort in that guaranteed hope. (John 3:16; John 3: 28,29)

March 25 at 7:00 PM

AS

**Akeshia Singleton** posted:

Dr. Gillespie was a dedicated community leader and educator. It was an honor to benefit from her service leadership at The Rapides Foundation. She will be greatly missed.

March 25 at 7:00 PM

LS

**Larry/Senn Senn** posted:

Cindy was a very special person to us. We love you so much and will never forget you. We will see you again some day. We are praying for Cindy's family. Cindy will always be in our heart. We are so bless to have know Cindy. We are going to miss you so much.

March 25 at 7:00 PM

JB

**Janice Bagley** posted:

You were a great educator and a very nice person. May you rest in peace.

March 25 at 7:00 PM

MT

**Mike Taylor** posted:

Cindy was such a special person who loved, children loved people and loved the Lord. I wish I could be there but I can't. With tongue in cheek, I can say it's her fault. She was the one who convinced me to be a teacher 27 years ago and I have to be with my students tomorrow here.

March 24 at 7:00 PM



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CM

**Cary McGuffee** posted:

My heart is saddened with the loss of a good friend. Cindy was a wonderful person inside and out. She truly cared for everyone regardless of their station in life. One of the best educators that I have had the pleasure to be associated with. She always made you feel special.

March 23 at 7:00 PM

CL

**Charles Lewis** posted:

You were one educator that truly put students interest first

March 22 at 7:00 PM

BM

**Brenda Midkiff** posted:

It has been a great pleasure of having you as a friend. You will be greatly missed in Pickering. My condolences to the family and Ms Cindy Rest In Peace

March 22 at 7:00 PM

LD

**Laura Dausat** posted:

Special lady! So devoted to education. She will be missed.

March 22 at 7:00 PM

SS

**Sandy Smith** posted:

Praying for Cindy's family. Cindy was one of the sweetest people I have known. Another Angel has been added to our Lord's home in Heaven. Rest in peace my friend, you will be missed by a lot of people.

March 22 at 7:00 PM

BJ

**Bill & Gwen Jones** posted:

You're going to be missed praying for your family ,,Bill & Gwen JonesLeesville La.

March 21 at 7:00 PM



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DW

**Dody Wallace** posted:

Loved. Working with Ms. CINDY. Ur family in my prayers.

March 21 at 7:00 PM

EC

**Esther Carag** posted:

My Dearest Miss Cindy - I love you so much and will never forget you. I'm so glad you are happy in Heaven and feel no more pain. You have positively affected more people than we all could possibly count. What an incredible and beautiful Angel God allowed us all to know and love.

March 20 at 7:00 PM

NY

**Nathan Young** posted:

A great woman

March 20 at 7:00 PM

BW

**Belinda Watkins** posted:

A wonderful soul. I will always love you. My kindergarten teacher. Rest well.

March 20 at 7:00 PM

TR

**Terry Reeves-Roddy** posted:

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times. You were a friend to many and like family to most. You will be greatly missed as you have been greatly loved. I know I will see you again. Enjoy your healthy new body my sweet Sister/friend.

March 20 at 7:00 PM

GR

**Gail Stannard Rikard** posted:

Such a good friend to my parents. Always enjoyed talking to her at the old Woodlands. Very upbeat and positive. She will be missed.

March 20 at 7:00 PM



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JS

**Jennifer Smith** posted:

I'll miss you until that day when I see you again.

March 20 at 7:00 PM

PR

**Priscille Rodriguez** posted:

As the days and weeks pass, and as you return to life's routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends.

March 20 at 7:00 PM

BS

**Buddy & Sherry Scott** posted:

In loving memory of a wonderful person. We will love you and miss you always.

March 20 at 7:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Cynthia by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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