

# LIFE TRIBUTES

## Fox was respected, innovative educator

**By John MacCormack**  
STAFF WRITER

Each time she cooks an omelet or a batch of biscuits from scratch, Andrea White fondly recalls Mrs. Fox, her wonderful home economics teacher at Garner Junior High School almost six decades ago.

"I was 13, and she was the kind of woman I wanted to be: She was gorgeous, ladylike and just seemed so patient with us. Sort of like an older sister," said White, 70, of Austin.

"She was one of those teachers who sticks in your mind. And I know for a fact there are a lot of little girls out there, who are now old women, who remember her," she added.

Sarah Fox, 82, devoted her life to education. She died Sept. 13 in San Antonio of pneumonia.

After teaching home economics from 1961 to 1968 in the first of her three stints at North East Independent School District, Fox later taught a year of kindergarten. Then, from 1984 to 1998, she was a community edu-

cation specialist and created a program for pregnant young girls and new mothers to try and keep them in school until graduation.

Former North East Superintendent Richard Middleton said Fox stood out among the many teachers he knew.

"No. 1, she was such a refined person. In those years, the homemaking teachers were the epitome of being well-educated, well-dressed and well-mannered. They were role models," he said.

"And Sarah was always looking for new avenues to deliver services and programs. She went from homemaking to adult education," Middleton added.

Fox also taught classes at Trinity University, the University of the Incarnate Word, and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

"She was very dedicated in her teaching. She loved to come up with new curriculums and be creative. She just had a brilliant mind in that respect," said Pat Wiseman, whose friendship with Fox began in 1954 at the

UT-Austin, when the two were pledges at the Chi Omega sorority.

Another college friend, Beverly Lewis, recalls Fox as "kind, joyous and a lot of fun."

"In college, she was a straight arrow. And based on her character, in the sorority she was elected to kind of keep the rest of us in line, with our actions and our dress. And I don't think she ever deviated," she said.

Fox went on to get a master's degree at Texas State University and a doctorate at Texas A&M University.

Born in Lampasas, she moved to San Antonio after graduating from UT-Austin but never lost touch with her family ranch.

"She was raised in town, and her dad was a full-time rancher and farmer. He was also the county judge and a tractor dealer," recalled her son, Bradley Fox, who still lives in Lampasas. "She was the youngest child, and she'd go everywhere with him, when she wasn't in school."

The ranch near Lampasas has been in the family since



Staff file photo

**Sarah Fox was a teacher at Garner Junior High.**

the mid-19th century, and Fox visited regularly.

"She loved redoing her grandfather's old sheepherder's cabin. And, she loved to look at the wild plums in the creek, check the water in the stock tanks, and when we had sheep in the 1970s, she loved checking them," her son said.

At Alamo Heights United Methodist Church, Fox and Wiseman started a reunion group after their "Walk to Emmaus," a spiritual retreat. She was also active in Stephen Ministries, which provides comfort to people who are grieving.

Fox was involved with a San Antonio chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, an international philanthropic

### Sarah Northington Fox

Born: Feb. 25, 1936, Lampasas  
Died: Sept. 13, 2018, San Antonio

**Preceded by:** Parents Rucker Lee and Elizabeth Northington; sister Dell Berry.

**Survived by:** Son Bradley and daughter Elisabeth; sister Betty Millican; former husband Joe Bill Fox, five grandchildren.

**Service:** Held Thursday at Oak Hill Cemetery, Lampasas

organization that promotes educational opportunities for women. She served as president of Friends of Hospice, San Antonio.

"She was a very vivacious leader, a visionary who came up with creative ways of educating the public about hospice care and the end of life," recalled Ginger Cave, the longtime executive director of the hospice group.

And the secret to making the perfect omelet? Andrea White still remembers it, decades later.

"It's all in the timing, and she taught us exactly when to fold the omelet over in the pan," she recalled.

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