

## CORNERSTONE AWARD HONOREE

**Cornerstone Honoree, Pauline Merklin**, has been married for 50 years to her husband Ed, is the mother of six grown children and a grandmother to 14. She began her connection to the Gahanna-Jefferson School District by serving as a room parent, PTA president and chaperone for classroom field trips. All of her children attended and graduated from Gahanna, one of whom is currently a teacher at Middle School South.

Her involvement with the opening of Middle School East (MSE) in 1975 was one of her most vivid memories with the district. Known as the “Candy Lady” at MSE, Merklin was a vital part of raising monies to fund various school activities, game tables and warm-up outfits for the track team. As well, she volunteered in the library and was an active participant in the Athletic Boosters at Lincoln High School.

Merklin’s collaboration with the G-J district continued in 1988 as she served on a planning committee to develop recommendations to improve student educational programs, staff capabilities, and district operations and facilities. That same year she was appointed to the Gahanna-Jefferson Board of Education, serving as a member for six years. Her hard work and dedication to the district was apparent as she went above and beyond to visit the schools on a regular basis, asked for clarification and explanation of recommendations and district operations, and carried out her duties with the education and welfare of students foremost in her mind. Roger Viers, retired superintendent of Gahanna-Jefferson Schools, had this to say about Merklin, “Pauline is in my ‘wow’ group of board members with whom I have had the pleasure of serving. She was a superb member and served with distinction. She was always about excellence, giving unselfishly of her time and talents to the school district and community.”