

# Hall of Fame

## Mabel H. Mickle – Kershaw Elementary Fourth-Grade Teacher

**M**able H. Mickle, a life-long resident of the Kershaw area, had a career in education which spanned over 38 years. Her teaching career began in a one-room school in Kershaw County, where she served as the administrator, teacher and custodian. Through school relocations and advancements in public education systems, she was later able to focus her skills and attention on classroom teaching. She completed her career in a modern multi-classroom facility in Lancaster County as a well-respected math teacher. When asked, Ms. Mickle stated that a good teacher has to love teaching, love children and make sure each student knows it. Throughout her long teaching career, she has followed that ideal and has had an impact on thousands of students and their parents. One of her greatest assets was her ability to treat each student equally without preconceived bias or prejudice, thereby, allowing each to flourish and perform at his/her best. Mrs. Mickle was instrumental in affecting a smooth transition in the early phases of integration of schools in Kershaw. She was selected as the first black to teach at Kershaw Elementary. She has been honored by civic and community organizations for her dedication to students and her commitment to education. In 2013, she was named by the town council as the Grand Marshal of the Kershaw Christmas Parade, the first black given the ceremonial title. She will also be honored by the alumni of Hillside High School at its all-classes reunion in Washington, D.C. in July 2015. She has often been called on for advice and support by town and county leaders, educators and former students. In retirement, Mrs. Mickle continues her commitment to education, serving on committees on education policies and teacher evaluations. She served on the Lancaster County Council on Aging and assisted educational researchers from Tennessee State and South Carolina State in researching and



gathering data from rural families. She participates each year in the National Role Models Conference, which assembles representatives from diverse colleges and universities committed to improving access to higher educational and professional employment for under-represented populations. Mrs. Mickle has been a lifelong member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and she organized the first Junior Missionary Society at the church. Her supportive nature and compassion are validated by the number of former students who continue to greet her as their favorite teacher. Mrs. Mickle was married for 62 years to the late John T. Mickle and has three daughters and a grandson.

Deborah Mickle Griffin

- Kershaw Elementary (previously called Northside Elementary) Teacher .....33 Years
- Heath Springs Colored School Teacher .....2 Years
- Ebenezer Elementary Teacher..... 1 Year
- Red Hill Elementary Teacher ..... 1 Year
- Flat Rock Elementary Teacher ..... 1 Year
- Lancaster County Council on Aging Board Member
- LCSD Teacher Observer/Evaluator .....3 Years
- Minority Access Inc.
  - National Role Models Volunteer ..... 1 Year
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Lancaster Chapter
  - Charter Member ..... 40+ Years
  - Chapter President .....3 Years
- National Education Association .....Member
- American Legion Auxiliary .....Member
- National Council of Negro Women .....Member
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.....Member
- Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Heath Springs
  - Member/Deaconess
  - Organized first Junior Missionary Society
  - Operated & furnished first church nursery 10 Years
- Mt. Moriah Baptist Association
  - Honored as Woman of the Year ..... 1 Year
- Hillside Alumni Organization
  - Outstanding Educator ..... 1 Year
- Town of Kershaw
  - Grand Marshall 2013 Christmas Parade
- Lancaster County Council on Aging Board Member

[Click to watch Mickle's induction](#)