

# Tupelo Middle School



1009 Varsity Drive  
Tupelo, MS 38801

THE BRIDGE TO EXCELLENCE

662-840-8780  
FAX 662-840-1831

Dear TPSD Board of Trustees:

The Tupelo Middle School Long Range Planning Team received a request by Cynthia Colburn to rename the Civic Auditorium in honor of her father, Mr. Bill Rieves. The TMS LRPT reviewed the provided information and based on our meetings' consensus we feel the recommendation rises to the occasion for the TPSD Board of Trustees to consider appointing a committee for input and further recommendations.

Therefore, we request a Special Committee determine the next course of action and timeline regarding this aforementioned request received from Ms. Cynthia Colburn. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

I am sincerely yours,

Kristy R. Luse, Ph.D.  
Principal

## **Bill Rieves – Nominee for Naming of Civic Auditorium in his honor**

### **Military Service:**

- 1944 – 1946 Served in US Navy (Pacific) during WW II
- Mr. Rieves turned 18 on March 16, 1944 and left Wren High School the first of April 1944 to join the Navy. He never “graduated” from high school. The principal told him and the other two young men who left that he would hand-deliver their diplomas to their mothers in May.

### **Educational:**

- BS and ME degrees from MSU
- 1950 – 51 teaching in Golden, MS
- 1951 – 53 Teaching principal and coach in Nettleton, MS
- 1953 – 1958 Teaching principal at Rankin Elementary
- 1958 – 1961 Principal of Milam Jr. High
- 1961 – 1971 Principal of Tupelo High School (current Tupelo Middle School)
- 1971 – 1986 Assistant Superintendent of TPSD
- 1986 - 1987 Acting Superintendent
- Total of 38 years in education in MS with 34 in Tupelo

### **Highlights during educational career:**

- Driving force for the building of Civic Auditorium and its use for Tupelo High School and the community
- Directly involved in the issues of consolidation and desegregation of Tupelo Schools – 1968 – 1970
- Mid-1960’s – THS first school district in Mississippi to purchase and use “Drivotainers” (simulated cars) for teaching drivers’ education
- 1968 – first person to receive the MS Association of Secondary School Principal’s Award for Innovations in Teaching for leadership in team-teaching, flexible scheduling of classes, resource centers or instructional material centers, use of achievement groups in class scheduling, and educational television in the classroom
- 1968 MS Educators Association Innovator Award
- Instrumental in the vision and development with Lee County Schools for the building of Lee-Tupelo Vocational High School, opened in fall 1972

### **Community Service:**

- 1993 Citizen of the Year for Tupelo/Lee County
- Served on Lee County 4-H Council for 6 years, Lee County March of Dimes in the 1970’s, and Board Member for local Red Cross in 1990’s
- Served as member and president of Tupelo Luncheon Civitan (4 terms)
- Served as MS AARP State Director
- Served as MS PEERS Northern District Board member, retiring in May 2014
- Served as Chairman of Steering Committee for establishing Lee County Shepherd’s Center
- Harrisburg Baptist Church member for 61 years, deacon, Sunday School teacher for 52 years
- Southern Baptist Christian Educational Fellowship President for 15 years – educators who work within the framework of Baptist missions to sponsor home and international educationally related mission projects
- Current President of Avonlea Retirement Community Association

In his years with Tupelo Schools he was known for saying, “Be slow to criticize what is thrust at us and try to understand what the ultimate outcome will be for our students.”

**District:** Tupelo Public School District  
**Section:** F - Facility Expansion  
**Policy Code:** FB - Naming of School Facilities

## **NAMING SCHOOL FACILITIES**

The Board will consider requests from citizens, school personnel, or school related organizations to name a portion of a building, a single facility on a campus with multiple facilities, or a specific area on a school campus for a person who is deceased or a retired educator, provided the person nominated has special significance and that person has made an outstanding contribution to the school or school district. At least five years shall have elapsed following the death or retirement of such individuals prior to the consideration of the naming of facilities in their honor or memory.

Because the scope of school facilities will ultimately limit recognition through naming of school facilities, the Board authorizes establishment of specific areas in each school for the purpose of recognizing individuals who have special significance to the students, school, school district, and community. Individuals recommended for recognition in these areas must meet requirements previously stated for consideration in naming of school facilities.

The special areas in each school must meet design requirements that do not prevent educational use of the area by students. In addition, the areas must be approved by the principal and must receive the recommendation of the school's Long Range Planning Team. Final approval of the areas of recognition will be made by the Board of Trustees.

A request to name a school facility will be referred to a committee appointed by the Board for their input and recommendations. Recommendations for recognition in approved special areas will be considered by the Board based on the recommendation of the principal and the Long Range Planning Team.

All schools will be named for geographic or historical locations.

## **NAMES ON PLAQUES**

Building plaques will recognize the contributions of the citizens of the district by inclusion of the following statement: "This Facility Was Paid For By The Taxpayers Of The Tupelo Public School District." A building plaque on projects involving new construction or major renovations to existing facilities will include the names of all members of the Board of Trustees and all superintendents serving the district from the initial approval of the project to the time of substantial completion.

The building plaque will provide the following additional information:

1. Official name of the facility
2. Board approved substantial completion date

3. Names of Board members listed alphabetically
4. Names of superintendents
5. Project Architect
6. General contractor

**Adopted Date:** 1/23/2001  
**Approved/Revised Date:** 2/18/2013