

HEF Presents Third Annual *Retired Teacher of the Year Award*

On May 28, 2008 the Harrisonburg Education Foundation recognized the *Retired Outstanding Teacher Award*. This award was developed to recognize and honor a retired teacher from the Harrisonburg City School System. This year's award winner is Ms. Julia "Judy" Grandle.

Julia "Judy" Harrisonburg and Public Schools. graduating from School in June of married, had a son, of college work, of Science degree Mathematics and a Studies and Madison College. Busy with two sons responded to a call Waterman and began when her oldest son



Grandle was born in attended Harrisonburg Three years after Harrisonburg High 1943, she was completed four years and earned a Bachelor with a major in minor in Social Psychology from

at home, she from the principal of Elementary School substitute teaching started school. "I felt

I would not become a full-time teacher until I became certified. So I started my master's program in the first televised classroom and finished up in 1963 as our oldest son graduated from HHS." During those years, she and Jimmy welcomed their third son into their family. She earned a Master of Science degree in Mathematics from Madison College and began her 24-year career as a teacher at Harrisonburg High School.

Mrs. Grandle served five years as the chairperson of the Mathematics Department at HHS and 21 years as the advisor of the SCA (*Student Cooperative Association*). As SCA advisor she and her husband traveled with students to the National Student Council Association meetings in Texas and Florida. In 1977, she accompanied students from HHS and Langley High School in Falls Church to the White House for a VIP tour and sat in the front row during a Rose Garden ceremony as Gerald Ford signed a bill. They each received a pen from the Presidential Pen Box and were invited onto the porch to shake the President's hand. The Langley students were part of a domestic exchange program that Mrs. Grandle helped to start.

In their second year of teaching at HHS, she and her best friend, Choral Music Teacher Nancy Hackman, staged a musical. Mrs. Grandle did everything that was not related to music or drama, like arranging all of the contracts, securing or making the costumes, handling ticket sales and advertising, supervising the cast and crew backstage and assisting with the set. The spring musical became an enduring program at HHS.

Mrs. Grandle is the author of the book, *Pot of Gold*, published in 1985 by Vantage Press, NY—the true story of her struggle to raise a son with Spina Bifida. It chronicles her love, faith and perseverance and her son’s strength, courage and determination. She was told her son would not live long, but he has proved the doctors wrong. She was told that she could not care for him, but she did. He even began walking with braces at the age of two.

In 2007 Gerald Baliles, former Governor of Virginia and Glenn DuBois, Chancellor of Virginia’s Community Colleges presented Mrs. Grandle with the Award of Leadership in Philanthropy from the Virginia Foundation for Community Colleges. A Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship honoring Mrs. Grandle was awarded the previous fall.

Commenting on the recognitions bestowed on her, Mrs. Grandle said, “For me, one of the greatest honors I received was the BLUESTREAK AWARD in 1987 for outstanding service to HHS.” The Retired Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award is sponsored by Summit Bank.