

ROSE M. BULLIS



Rose M. Bullis, Nevada's first female school administrator, passed away on January 19, 2009, in Reno. Rose was born in Franktown, Washoe Valley, Nevada in 1912. Her parents, Savina and Antonio Sala, natives of Grossotto, Italy, owned a ranch in Washoe Valley which later became known as the Lightning W and Thunder Canyon Golf Course. Her early education was in a one-room schoolhouse on this ranch, built by her father.

In the 1920's her parents sold the ranch and the family moved to Reno. Rose attended Southside Elementary, Northside Junior High, Reno High School, and the University of Nevada, where she received a bachelor's degree and teaching credentials in 1934. She later received a master's degree from the university in Administration and Supervision. Rose's teaching career began in a two- room schoolhouse in Lyon County. After two years she returned to Reno and subsequently taught at Billingshurst Junior High, Veterans Memorial Elementary School, and Northside Middle School.

In the 1950's she became the first female administrator in Nevada, and the first Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator. She is credited with pioneering administrative positions for women in the district. In the mid 1960's Rose was appointed Director of School/Community Relations, a position she held till her retirement in 1979. She then volunteered at the College of Education, University of Nevada, Reno, for 22 years, teaching graduate level classes and advising graduate students.

Rose's accomplishments as an educator are numerous. She wrote "Let Freedom Ring," a textbook for teaching patriotism, and a history of Washoe County schools from 1857 to 1912. She developed and directed the district's summer school program for many years, and wrote a grant for and directed the first local Headstart program. She was a driving force in the preservation of the Glendale School, and is credited with getting several school bond issues passed. Her weekly television show, "Lifelong Learning," was aired on Channel 4 from 1964 until 2003.

Rose was a member of the National School Public Relations Association, American Association of School Administrators, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Delta Kappa, Soroptimist International of Reno, and the Assistance League of Reno. She was a founding member of Reno Little Theatre. Her awards include a Distinguished Service Award from the College of Education, President's Medal from UNR, Soroptimist Woman of Achievement, PTA Excellence in Education News Reporting Award, and the Nevada Education Hall of Fame. The Rose Bullis Center for Teaching and Learning is named in her honor.

Rose was preceded in death by her brother, Frank Sala. She is survived by her son, Gary (Louise) of Reno; grandson, Eric Bullis of South Lake Tahoe and Davis, CA; granddaughter, Jennifer Bullis (Mark Kummer) and their son, John Benjamin Kummer of Bellingham, WA; and nephew, Frank Sala, Jr. of Reno.

Services will be held at Our Lady of Snows Catholic Church, 1138 Wright St., Reno, on Wednesday, January 28, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations will be appreciated to the "Bullis Education Scholarship Endowment," account # 175001. UNR Foundation, 127 Mackay Science/162, Reno, NV 89557-0162.