

RECOGNITION OF INAH MAE  
ABRAMSON

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, we all know those special people who just seem to epitomize selfless devotion and service to others. They cheerfully go about helping others in numerous ways that help to brighten countless lives, asking for nothing in return.

One such woman is Inah Mae Abramson, of Florence, AL, who was the subject of a recent article in her local newspaper. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the article, which appeared in the Florence TimesDaily, be printed in the RECORD after my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. HEFLIN. I want to commend and congratulate Inah Mae Abramson for the hard work, love of people, generous spirit, and genuine concern she always displays through service to those around her. She truly is a living example of civility, dedication, affection, and love.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Florence (AL) TimesDaily]

WORK THAT'S NEVER DONE: ABRAMSON BELIEVES IN PUTTING HERSELF LAST, DOING GOOD DEEDS FOR OTHERS

(By Lucille Prince)

The old saying "Man may work from sun to sun, but women's work is never done" still applies to Inah Mae Abramson, even though she retired 28 years ago.

When she is not busy in her office at home, she's out visiting the sick, the elderly or people in nursing homes working at the community center or attending a church meeting.

One of her pet projects is sending "sunshine cards," and she keeps an assortment of cards on hand. She has special cards that are sold by the United Methodist Women of Wesley Chapel, with proceeds going to missions. She is the secretary-treasurer of the historic cemetery located at Wesley Chapel.

A charter member of the Florence Business and Professional Women's club, she has served the club as president, secretary, treasurer, district director and member of the state board. For six years, she was chairman of the BPW Santa Claus, securing gifts for mental hospitals.

Abramson was once head of a BPW fund to secure a piano, stereo and speaker stand for Mitchell-Hollingsworth Annex. This was accomplished when Dr. C.F. Lucky made a memorial for his mother toward purchase of a piano. The club simply completed this project.

During World War II, she wrote regularly to all men from her church and places of employment who were in service, and she sent them small gifts.

"I love to do things for people," Abramson said. "My parents, James Emmett and Annie B. Darby Young, were Christians. Mama said that if you do other people good and put yourself last, you'll come out on top."

The various awards Abramson has received indicate that she listened to her mother.

In 1960, the Florence Business and Professional Women's Club named her Women of the Year.

In 1967, she received the first Special Citizen Award presented by the Muscle Shoals Chamber of Commerce. The award was given on Nov. 14, 1967, just 10 days before her marriage to Henry Benhart Abramson. The

chamber president at that time was the late Dick Biddle.

In presenting the award, Biddle said, "Miss Young, soon to be Mrs. Abramson, gives unselfishly to others each day of her life. She lives and appreciates people. Her family and friends know they can call on her anytime, and she is never too busy to help anyone in need. Realizing this, Gov. (George) Wallace chose her to serve as chairman of the Women's Division of Lauderdale County on the State Traffic Commission." (The purpose of the commission was to make motorists more aware of traffic rules.)

In 1987, she was named Alumna of the Year by the Central High Alumni Association.

Abramson was once given the title "Miss Methodism" by a district Methodist newspaper. This honor came because she was volunteer secretary for three district superintendents before the Florence District opened a full-time office.

A history enthusiast, Abramson has been a student of history all of her life. She likes to keep up with the current events, which, she reminds everyone, will soon become history.

She attended Beulah Elementary School, and was salutatorian when she finished Central High School in 1936.

"I decided on a business career and attended Bob Jones University, then located at Cleveland, Tenn.," she said. "My first job was with my cousins, Murphy Brothers Store in Central Heights. I later worked for one year at the county agent's office, then worked another year for W.D. Peeler, registrar at the courthouse."

In 1939, she accepted a job at First National Bank and worked there until 1945, the year that many men returned from World War II. She left the bank to operate Blue Bird Ice Cream and Sandwich Shop for one year.

"In November 1947, I was employed by Florence Clinic as secretary to a group of 11 physicians and remained there until October 1967," she said.

She vividly remembers that when the Sabine Vaccine Program was begun in Lauderdale County, Dr. J.G. Middleton was chairman. As an employee of the Florence Clinic, she became his assistant in setting up and promoting the vaccine program.

"My job was to help him set up places and times to give out the vaccine and to let people know that it was free," she said. "Since I was a member of the BPW Club, I solicited the club's help in promoting this cause."

She recalled that during the years she was with the bank and clinic, there were few electrical machines.

"There were no electric typewriters, and computers were unknown," she said.

"About that time, Florence was just emerging into growth," she added. "Working in the bank, I knew all the attorneys in Florence at that time. Being in the customer-service department gave me a chance to know most of the patrons of the bank. In the 1940s, bank statements had not caught on, and patrons brought their passbooks in to get employees to balance their bank books for them."

When she married at age 49, she gave up her professional career.

"I just started another career," she said.

Her husband was also an ardent church and community worker. As a couple, they spent much time and effort serving both the church and their community. He was one of the planners and board members of the Central Volunteer Fire Department, and she served as secretary.

Abramson said that she and her husband had 19 happy years before his death Oct. 24, 1986. She still lives in their home at Central, and she says that she is blessed with wonder-

ful neighbors and family who are constantly with her.

Wesley Chapel and Central will always have special meaning to Abramson. She was born in the Central Heights community Feb. 16, 1918. She became a part of the church when her parents took her to a service there at age three weeks. She became a member in 1929, when the church was a part of the Cloverdale Charge of three churches and another added later. She was the charge recorder for many years. When she returned from college, she became active as a teacher, youth counselor, treasurer and a member of the United Methodist Women, then called the Woman's Missionary Society. She was district counselor of youth subdistrict events and secretary of the district Christian Workers School.

One of her former employers once introduced Inah Mae Abramson as "a person who not only performs her work efficiently, with cheerfulness and zeal, but she always has a smile on her face and exemplifies a truly dedicated Christian woman whose work is never done."

BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE:  
NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I want to congratulate and commend the men's basketball team of my undergraduate alma mater, Birmingham-Southern College. Birmingham-Southern won its second national title in 6 years on the night of March 20 when it defeated Pfeiffer College of North Carolina 92 to 76 in the NAIA national tournament championship game.

The Panthers of Birmingham-Southern rolled through the tournament just as they did the season, winning five games here. They ended their magnificent season with 32 straight wins and a 35-2 season overall, a school record.

I ask unanimous consent that an article from the Birmingham Post-Herald on the Panthers' basketball championship game be printed in the RECORD. I heartily congratulate Birmingham-Southern Coach Duane Reboul and all his players for their hard work, team spirit, winning attitude, and overall class. They are the epitome of champions.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Birmingham Post-Herald, Mar. 21, 1995]

PANTHERS HIT PEAK: NAIA TITLE CROWNS  
SEASON

(By Richard Scott)

TULSA, OK.—It started with the lowest pre-season expectations in six seasons under Coach Duane Reboul.

It ended at the highest point in six years, with a national championship adding the perfect ending to a season of highs for the Birmingham-Southern Panthers.

The fifth-seeded Panthers continued their climb toward their peak performance last night by reaching the pinnacle of NAIA basketball, beating 11th-seeded Pfeiffer 92-76 for the title.

"It's hard to put into words just how we feel after what we've accomplished this year and what we've overcome," senior point guard Tommy Dalley said. "If you ever want to see what the word 'team' means, this is it. We've stepped up to meet every challenge."