

## HALL OF DISTINCTION

### Class of 2021 INDUCTION CEREMONY

Thursday, September 30, 2021

### Amos & Ida McDannel

Much of what we know about Amos and Ida McDannel comes from the stories about their dedication to the Canton Local community and their love for students and staff.

Amos McDannel served the Canton Local School District for 48 years as a teacher and then principal of North Industry Elementary School. Mr. McDannel was recognized for his loyalty to his fellow man and God, which was exemplified by his concern and compassion for children.

In 1955, the Canton Local School District named an elementary school in his honor. Amos passed away in 1954, one year prior to the building construction. Interestingly, one of his first students, Charles Firestone, served as the architect for construction. More than 650 people toured the new building at the first open house on November 14, 1955.

Ida is quoted as saying, "On the day the school was dedicated, I stood on the platform wiping tears from my eyes ... I know Amos would have been so proud."

Ida McDannel was known as the "first lady of Canton Local Schools." Mrs. McDannel shared her husband's passion for education, serving on Parent Teacher Organizations and planning events for children and families.

The beloved couple made it their life-long practice to help young people obtain an education and become successful in their chosen careers.

The couple's dream of building a home in Waco was dashed when the bank failed, and they lost their life's savings. An "old man" loaned them some money and the couple purchased a tiny one-room loft across from Waco School. "Things would freeze at night, we had a coal bucket and a water bucket and one lamp," recalled Ida for a story in the Canton Repository. "But we had each other, and we were happy."

The hard-working couple also had a humorous side. One tale tells of Amos stopping at a gas station, Ida using the restroom, and Amos driving away, leaving her stranded. Then there is the story about the time the pair attended Martin Lutheran Church and when they arrived, somehow there was a chicken in the car. The story goes that they left the chicken in the car all during the service and took it back home to live with them.

Ida was always doing good for other people. She made lye soap to send overseas and put pennies in them so those receiving the bar would have a pleasant surprise. She also sewed dresses for little girls living in India and New Guinea.

When we announced on Facebook that we were looking for more information about Amos and Ida, community members shared sentiments such as "Mrs. McDannel made us all feel like we were her grandchildren when she would visit Amos McDannel Elementary for special programs." Also, "I loved Mrs. McDannel. She came to all our little concerts. We were all so very proud to sing for her and were on our best behavior!"

Amos and Ida lived modestly. The couple had no children of their own but made it their life's mission to care for the wellbeing of others. They sent financial assistance to more than 30 boys studying for ministry. After her husband died, Ida opened her home to those serving intern-pastorships at her church.

Upon her passing, Ida left the family's wealth to Capital University. The university established the Ida E. McDannel Scholarship in 1963 to recognize students without regard to financial need.

Amos and Ida's legacy of servant-leadership was reflected in the motto displayed above their kitchen table. "Only one life will soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last."