

IN MEMORIAM



Ann Chipley

► Ann Whitmire Chipley, a leader of AAUW's national staff for nearly 10 years and a longtime AAUW member, died Dec. 24, 1996, at her home in Warrenton, Virginia, after a two-year battle with colon cancer. She was 55 and had served as Association director since 1993. A formidable, outspoken woman who could still a roomful of colleagues with a probing question or dissolve it in laughter with her dry Southern-accented wit, Ann was a familiar and beloved figure to many. She was at once demanding and encouraging, serious and fun-loving, and demonstrably committed to extending women's education and clout through personal activism.

Before joining the AAUW staff in 1987 as director of the Program and Policy Department, Ann was director of legislative programs (now called public policy) on the AAUW Board of Directors. An active member of AAUW since the 1970s, Ann also served as North Carolina AAUW state president, state program vice president, and chair of the Committee on Women, and president and program vice president of her Rocky Mount (NC) Branch. She was a life member of AAUW and a member-at-large at the time of her death.

Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Ann earned her bachelor of arts degree from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, in 1963. She taught high school Spanish in Raleigh for three years after college and was the women's editor of the *Rocky Mount Telegram* for several years. Later she served as executive director of the North Carolina Council on the Status of Women, one of the largest state women's commissions, and government relations director for the North Carolina United Way.

While a North Carolina resident, Ann was chair of the Rocky Mount Citizens Advisory Council, member of the Board of Trustees for the Rocky Mount Children's Museum, campaign

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manager of North Carolinians United for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and chair of the North Carolina ERA-PAC. She was also a founder of the Rocky Mount Area Women's Network.

Ann's skills included program planning and implementation, understanding legislative systems, public speaking, workshop facilitation, creative problem solving, and grassroots organizing. She gained graphic design and layout skills from a five-year business partnership with her husband, Tom, an industrial design consultant.

In spite of living up north for a decade, Ann never lost her distinct Southern accent. She loved the mountains, and accepted a two-hour daily commute to Washington as the happy price for living 30 minutes from the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah National Park. She enjoyed riding motorcycles and took several trips throughout the country with Tom. She could always be bribed with frozen yogurt, especially Ben and Jerry's Cherry Garcia, or a new toy, such as a Slinky or puzzle. Her Washington office was filled with wind-up toys.

Ann and Tom, whom she referred to as a feminist and close to perfect, were married for 31 years and have two daughters, Carter Chipley of Warrenton and Kate Chipley Scattergood of Cary, North Carolina, and a granddaughter, Shelby. Ann adored Shelby and, at her AAUW retirement party last fall, she shared gifts of toys from her colleagues with her granddaughter. Ann is also survived by her mother, Sarah Henderson Adair of Orlando, Florida, and two sisters, Mary Frances Lawson of Orlando and Beth Carr of Cary.

At Ann's request, contributions may be made to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund or to the AAUW Educational Foundation to help complete the Ann Chipley American Fellowship Endowment, established by the Foundation Board of Directors in 1996. ◀