



Hollins Mourns Death Of President Nora Kizer Bell

Roanoke, Va. – Dr. Nora Kizer Bell, president of Hollins University, died on Saturday, January 24, of complications from pneumonia.

“The Hollins community is shocked and saddened by this terrible news,” said Lisa Valk Long, chair of Hollins’ Board of Trustees. “Nora was a remarkable leader and a charismatic fundraiser. She was a champion of the liberal arts and established herself as one of the nation’s leading advocates of single-sex education as an important option for young women, a message she delivered at every opportunity.”

“The tenth president in Hollins’ 162-year history, she authored opinion pieces on single-sex education for such prominent publications as *USA Today* and *The Christian Science Monitor*.

Bell, 62, was named president of Hollins in March 2002. She took office in July of that year and was officially inaugurated in February 2003. In her time at Hollins, she revamped the university’s development efforts and oversaw significant growth in student applications.

“Nora had a vision for the future of Hollins as a top tier academic institution,” added Long. “And just as important, she left a plan that the trustees are committed to carrying to completion.”

A native of Charleston, West Virginia, Bell was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Randolph Macon Woman’s College and held a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She began her academic career at the University of South Carolina, where she taught for 16 years beginning in 1977 and headed the university’s first Center for Bioethics. She went on to serve as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Texas from 1993 to 1997. That year, Bell became the first female president of Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, and led the school until 2002.

Among her achievements, Bell received The Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian award presented by the governor of South Carolina for service to the state. *The Macon Telegraph* named her “Professional of the Year” among Georgia women in 2000. In addition, she authored the book *Conflicts in Health Care: Who Decides?*

Bell is survived by her husband, Dr. David A. Bell, president of Macon State College in Georgia; two daughters, Elizabeth B. LaFitte of Columbia, South Carolina, and Caroline B. Keller of Atlanta; a son, Thomas P. Bell of Macon; and four granddaughters. Also surviving are her father, John O. Kizer of Charleston, West Virginia, and a brother, Dr. Steve Kizer, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Funeral arrangements are pending. Memorial services are also planned for the Hollins campus and will be announced as soon as details are confirmed.

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January 25, 2004