

Ella Gray Wilson Ennis

Her Care for Glenaire Residents will Continue

Ella Gray Ennis, former resident of Glenaire, was adored by staff and residents alike. Ella Gray was inquisitive and engaged and enjoyed her friendships with her Glenaire family.

Ella Gray was born on May 2, 1925 in Sampson County and grew up in the Spivey's Corner community. After graduating from high school, she studied at UNC-Greensboro (formerly known as Women's College) where she received her undergraduate degree in grammar school education. She then taught at Dunn High School for two years before enrolling at UNC-Chapel Hill where she earned a master's in physical education. As her career advanced, she served as Director of Health and Physical Education at Saint Mary's Junior College in Saint Mary's City, MD and taught health and physical education at Furman University in Greenville, SC. Upon returning to UNC-Chapel Hill, she obtained a PhD in physiology and served as a professor of physiology in the School of Medicine.



While a student at UNC-Chapel Hill, she met her late husband, Leon Martin Ennis, Jr., who taught accounting. After retiring from UNC-Chapel Hill, Ella Gray and Leon cared for her parents, George Leon Wilson and Lessie Lee Wilson of Chapel Hill. Ella Gray always appreciated the way her parents had cared for her and would frequently reference the travel opportunities her parents had made available to her as a young person.

After building their dream home, Ella Gray and Leon moved to Dunn. Ella Gray moved to Glenaire in 2006, and while her husband was not able to join her due to his declining health, she faithfully visited him on a daily basis at the nursing facility where he resided. With careful attention, she ensured his needs were met until he passed away. At that time, Ella Gray poured herself into the life of Glenaire becoming involved in many aspects of the community. She was cared for by her "special cousins:" Carolyn Lee Edwards, J. Whitfield Lee, Jr. and F. Graham Lee, Sr. until she passed away on February 11, 2016.

During her time at Glenaire, she had supported the work of The Presbyterian Homes Foundation, Inc. and

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Glenaire by making memorial gifts and additions to the Micou Browne Endowment. Ella Gray had shared that she had made provisions for a planned gift through her estate and was a member of the Glenaire Society.

Ella Gray's generous bequest of \$25,000 has been directed to the Micou Browne Endowment. Grants from this permanent fund are made on an on-going basis to support resident financial assistance at Glenaire. Because she made provisions for this gift, her care for her Glenaire family will continue in perpetuity.

"Ella Gray was very warm and upbeat and seemed to connect with others effortlessly. She was always interested in what was happening at Glenaire and was supportive of the work of The Presbyterian Homes," said Paul Gregg, Executive Director. "Her gift will help to provide security for those residents who may feel uncertain about the future. She will be missed and her generosity will always be appreciated."

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT CREATING YOUR PERSONAL LEGACY AT GLENAIRE?

Current and future gifts to The Presbyterian Homes Foundation, Inc. can be earmarked to support Glenaire in a way that reflects your personal philanthropic goals and priorities. If you would like to discuss the possibility of including The Presbyterian Homes Foundation, Inc. and Glenaire in your planning, please contact Marisa Ray, Director of Development and Public Relations, at (336) 886-6553 ext. 5118 or mray@presbyhomesinc.org. You may also wish to visit www.presbyhomesinc.org and "Ways to Give" for additional information and to view stories that highlight recent estate gifts received by the Foundation. Those who have made plans to include the Foundation and Glenaire in their plans qualify for membership to the Glenaire Society.