

## NANCY L. BENTON Track Dedication

Homecoming, October 16, 2010, was a special day as MSD honored its longtime, revered track coach and physical education teacher, Nancy Benton. Nancy passed away in 2003 but her spirit and legacy live on at the school.

Over twenty members of Nancy's family—along with the Homecoming crowd—came to the dedication ceremony of the Nancy L. Benton Track to hear and see expressions of love and memories from her family and friends.

Nephew Mark Benton spoke of her love of life and her dedication to sports and shared how much of a wonderful athlete she was in her playing days. Nancy won many awards as a student at the Georgia School for the Deaf and then at Gallaudet College (now University) where she played basketball, volleyball, and softball. But her legacy began at the Maryland School for the Deaf where she coached Track and Field and won fourteen ESDAA (Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association) championships as well as three National Championships. Appropriately, she was named Deaf Prep Track and Field Coach of the Year in 1992. Nancy coached in the Deaflympics four times: in 1989, 1993, 1997, and 2001! Mark closed his speech by saying: "Our family has been touched by the kindness of the staff and students here at MSD. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for bestowing this wonderful honor on Nancy."

Tiffany Granfors was a member of the track team under Nancy's tutelage and remembered her as a very special person and a great friend to many girls, including herself. "Nancy was always the first person on the track, getting it prepared for her team. She was always available to talk to anyone who needed to talk or be comforted. Nancy was clearly a teacher at heart and always made sure every track member received attention regardless if she was an elite athlete or a beginner." Tiffany also disclosed that many of Nancy's athletes who graduated from MSD have since become accomplished athletes and leaders, thanks to Nancy.

MSD's track will be known from this day forward as the Nancy L. Benton Track. When passing by the Behrens building, please look at the beautiful Nancy L. Benton plaque mounted on the side of the building.

—Scott Morrison, Director of Physical Education, Summer Camps, Facilities and Fields, FC, [scott.morrison@msd.edu](mailto:scott.morrison@msd.edu)



Dedication of Nancy L. Benton Track



Nancy's nephew, Mark Benton (above left), addresses members of Nancy Benton's family as well as the Homecoming crowd who gathered for the Dedication Ceremony.



Lamar Benton (Nancy L. Benton's brother) and his wife Elizabeth pose for a picture beside the Nancy L. Benton Track plaque which is mounted on the Behrens Building on the Frederick Campus.

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## Community

### Nancy Louise Benton, Physical Education Instructor

**M**s. Nancy Louise Benton, 58, of Frederick, Maryland died on December 6, 2003 at her home. Born on October 4, 1945, she was the daughter of the late James Garland and Edna Mae Porter Benton. She is survived by two brothers, James Lamar Benton Sr. of Powhatan, Va., and Travis Gene Benton of Duluth, GA. She was preceded in death by her sister, Norma Lanelle Benton. She was a physical education instructor and coached track and field and cross country at the Maryland



School for the Deaf, and also coached track and field at several

Deaf Olympics. She loved camping, animals, and all of God's creations. She also enjoyed visiting the covered bridges. Memorial services were conducted on December 9, 2003 at Eylers Valley Chapel in Sabillasville with Rev. Jeff Walter officiating. She was buried in the church cemetery. Contributions may be made in Ms. Benton's memory to American Ovarian Cancer Association, 500 N. E. Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton, Florida 33431.

*Please send news of marriages, births, deaths, anniversaries, awards, and special occasions to:*

**Mary Sue Boxer**

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