

The Lifetime Service Award was established to honor persons who have been exemplary in service to Murphy High School. There have only been four previous recipients of this award, Lolette Tanner 2005, Francis Sibley 2007, Ann Inge 2008 and Linda Sparkman 2011. You can see by the length of time since the last presentation just how special this award has come to be. The recipient of the Lifetime Service Award this year is Carmen Kearley.

Carmen was a 1982 graduate of Murphy High School and the class salutatorian. She played in the band, was inducted into the National Honor Society and was an outstanding senior in English, Science, and Social Studies. She also participated in the Junior Historic Society, the Girls Service club, and the Latin Club.

After finishing her tenure at Murphy, Carmen attended the University of Alabama and somehow found her way back to Murphy High School where she started teaching. At first Carmen taught English, then Pace English and finally Honors English. Carmen was not content with teaching alone. She became the Junior Varsity Cheerleading sponsor for several years, the girls Soccer sponsor, the Scholars Bowl sponsor, as well as other activities too numerous to mention.

Eventually Carmen pursued an interest in librarianship and became the Murphy librarian. This is an extremely important position at any school, and particularly at Murphy High School as she was also the Media Specialist and had to deal with many issues relating to being a modern librarian.

For a number of years Carmen has been an integral part of the Murphy Alumni Association having served as a Board Member in various capacities, including President of the Alumni Association. She has been our “go to” person when we needed information about anything having to do with Murphy High School. She has been our liaison in helping to prepare for the Hall of Fame Ceremonies each year as well as serving on the Hall of Fame selection committee.

Carmen went above and beyond the call of duty after the 2012 Christmas Day tornado struck Murphy. Because of the damage to Murphy High School, Carmen knew that many important historical artifacts could and would be easily lost as soon as any type of cleanup and renovation work began. Carmen enlisted the aid of others and took many items to her home as well as to the Carlen House for safe keeping while Murphy was being renovated.

Carmen always keeps us informed on important issues concerning Murphy. She has more than demonstrated her love of Murphy High School and has worked diligently to help preserve its proud heritage for future generations. She has been called Murphy’s watch dog and has lived up to that name very ably. Carmen more than deserves the Lifetime Service Award. On behalf of The Murphy Alumni Association, we present this award and thank you for your dedication and service.