

Throughout her lifetime, Marcia Emily Gray Weinacker was known as an accomplished athlete, a champion of education, a strong business woman, and demonstrated a love for family and faith that represented Murphy well. Marcia was active throughout her years at Murphy; she belonged to the Freshman Club, Knitting Club, Modern Dance Club, and Pysch. Club. She topped all these off with work on both the Hi Times and the Mohian. After graduation, she went on the University of Alabama, earning her bachelor's degree in 1949.

She married Robert Weinacker in 1952 and played on and coached the Weinacker's successful Southern Rebels women's basketball team. Marcia was the first female coach of a boys' CYO basketball team. Weinacker was also an accomplished tennis player, winning multiple state titles in singles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles. She was nationally ranked in singles play and participated in tournaments in the United States and Europe. Her last state title was won in 2000 when she was 72 years old! She has been inducted into the Greater Mobile and Alabama Tennis Halls of Fame. Her love of tennis inspired her to teach her own and other children citywide to play and even provided racquets to those who needed them.

In 1969, Weinacker earned a degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Alabama and went on to establish the first of three Montessori schools in Mobile. She also spent seven years training teachers for the Head Start Program.

After her husband Robert's death in 1982, Marcia added running his business to her list of activities. She oversaw the acquisition of land and building of the Weinacker's Shopping Center on Government St. All these activities were intertwined with the raising of the couple's nine children.

Her contributions to her community in addition to sports and education took the channels of service through her membership in the Mobile Junior League, where she eventually served as president; and her active membership in her church. She also gladdened the spirits of many Mobilians in her five decades of parading with her mystic society.

I don't think it could be said better than through the concluding paragraph of her nomination essay: "Since its founding in 1926, Murphy has emphasized the importance of a well-rounded educational experience in mind, body, and spirit. Marcia Weinacker's accomplishments and dedication in athletics, education, and business, as well as her devotion to her family and faith have earned her a position in Murphy Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. Her life is one that demonstrates the mark of a true leader, that is one who serves by serving others.

Marcia Gray Weinacker award will be accepted by her daughter, Sue Weinacker Gunn, MHS Class of 1979.