



Citizen News Editor

In life, two longtime members of the Pilot Club of Athens served their club and their community faithfully. In death, they are being remembered by the Pilot Club and one of the organizations they helped.

The service organization recently presented two lasting memorials to the McMinn Senior Activity Center in honor of deceased Pilot Club members Elda McSpadden Walker and Reba Kyle Henderson.

According to Ruth Atkins, chairman of the Pilot Club of Athens\' Lasting Memorials Committee, in the event of the death of a member of the Pilot Club of Athens, the club honors the deceased with a lasting memorial to a worthy community project.

For many years, Atkins said, the club said goodbye to a deceased member by sending flowers for the funeral. "One day it occurred to me we are a service project club, why are we not doing something in their memory in benefit to the community," she said.

From there, the Lasting Memorials initiative was developed. Since it was established, deceased Pilot Club members have been honored in a variety of ways - Lectern Bibles for members' churches, a seating bench for the elementary school where one Pilot taught for more than 25 years, among others.

"We appreciate the contributions of these Pilots while they were still active with us and we don't want to forget them when they're gone," Pilot Club of Athens President Kay Coker said.

In honor of Walker, who passed away on Dec. 15, 2010, and Henderson, who passed away on Feb. 28, 2011, two picnic tables were presented to the Senior Center in Athens. Atkins said the tables are lightweight, will fold and hang on a wall for storage, and plaques are being placed on the tables to acknowledge the person for whom they were donated.

Atkins said Walker was a charter member of the club, which was organized in 1941. She served the club as president in 1949-1950. "At the time of her death, Elda was an honorary member of the club, but continued her attendance up until just a short time before her death," Atkins said.

Henderson, a Pilot since 1967, "contributed much to the club with her artistic talents by providing beautiful decorations and table arrangements for special meetings and conventions," Atkins said.

According to Currier, Walker often visited the Senior Center on Friday night to dance and for lunch on Tuesdays. "She was determined she was going to get out and continue to do things," Currier said.

Henderson's husband, John, is a regular visitor to the Senior Center. While she was not a regular at the Senior Center, Henderson supported the various programs there.

"I believe she'd really appreciate what they have done," John Henderson said of his late wife.

Currier said the tables will be put to use, providing outdoor seating for Senior Center members who want to picnic. Also, plans are under way to construct a 24-foot by 24-foot pavilion, which is where the tables could be used on a regular basis. "We plan to build a picnic pavilion on the other side of the shuffleboard court," Currier said.

Currier said the idea came from Sabrina Hardy, a Tennessee Wesleyan college student performing community service through TWC's Center for Servant Leadership. Currier said Hardy paired up with the Senior Center for the pavilion project. So far Hardy has raised nearly \$400 toward building the pavilion; she is asking for money and materials for the project, Currier said. "We're hoping we can get some help with labor and mostly only have to pay for materials," Currier said.

Email: [autumn.hughes@dailypostathenian.com](mailto:autumn.hughes@dailypostathenian.com)