

Mrs. Officer, who died in 1985, was married to Robert Officer. She is survived by her two children, Nancy and Steve, a graduate of Tennessee State University, followed her mother's footsteps and is an elementary school teacher in Detroit, Michigan. She is married to Willey V. Hancock. Steve, a graduate of Tennessee State University, and the University of Tennessee, is a county agent with the University of Tennessee Extension Office in Smithville. He is married to the former Cathy Gwen and has two sons, Bryan and David. Mrs. Officer is

BIOGRAPHY
of
LEONA LUSK OFFICER

Mrs. Leona Lusk Officer was born November 25, 1917. She graduated from Bernard High School in McMinnville, Tennessee, May 17, 1937. She graduated from high school in her 20's because rural transportation was a problem. There was no busing, therefore, it was difficult for her to get to school.

She entered college at Tennessee State University, formerly known as A & I University in the spring of 1945. She transferred to Tennessee Technological University on January 3, 1964 after Tech desegregated.

She taught school, cared for her family, and went to college off and on for more than 20 years. Mrs. Officer would go to school in the summer, most years taking one or two classes. She substituted at Darwin Elementary and High School and at Wallace Smith School in Sparta. On August 28, 1965, Mrs. Officer graduated from TTU with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, becoming the first African American to do so. After receiving her degree, she worked in Warren County as a home bound teacher, and worked with the disabled.

Mrs. Officer, who died in 1973, was married to Robert Officer. She is survived by her two children, Nancy and Steve. Nancy, a graduate of Tennessee State University, followed her mother's footsteps and is an elementary school teacher in Detroit, Michigan. She is married to Wiley V. Hancock. Steve, a graduate of Tennessee State University, and the University of Tennessee, is a county agent with the University of Tennessee Extension Office in Smithville. He is married to the former Cathy Gwen and has two sons, Bryan and David. Mrs. Officer is remembered as a loving and dedicated mother who had a dream of becoming a college graduate. She fulfilled that dream with hard work and dedication.

Today we are honored to have with us, her children, Nancy and Steve, and their families. Mr. Marc Burnett, Vice President of Student Affairs will introduce them.