



Judy E. Nelson Way – Class of 1961

“My most vivid memory is playing the part of lady of the castle in the Induction my senior year since I became completely caught up in Southeast’s unique theme of knighthood when I attended the Induction as an eighth grader, and the feeling never left.”

High School Memories

I lived at 1125 E. 77th Terrace. My sister Suzy Nelson Lightle also graduated from Southeast in 1964.

I participated in penthouse, Thespians, spring plays and other speech activities. I was also on The Tower and Crusader staffs and the senior business committee.

Shamefully, I admit that current events didn’t have much impact on me in high school since I seemed to be so caught up in my own teenage life. I became much more aware of current events when I entered KU after graduation. It’s hard for me to look back and see how most of us never questioned why there weren’t any African Americans in our school, or for that matter, many Jewish students. (When Marlborough students finished seventh grade, it seemed that it was always the case that the Jewish kids went to Southwest, and the Christian kids went to Southeast.)

I remember that when Preston Washington became the first African American student at Southeast, it caused lots of talk and speculation among the student body at first, but once he enrolled and began classes, it was no big deal. (I’m sure that Preston has an entirely different take on the situation!)

High school is tough in so many ways, but I loved Southeast and its traditions, enjoyed my classes, friends and activities, and I’m so pleased

that three of my best friends at Southeast, Patty Carpenter, Mateel Brown, and Penni Grier, are my best friends today.

Memorable Classes and Teachers

Speech and Drama, Miss Fetters

Newswriting, Mr Hanan

Biology, Mr Flappan

Senior English, Mrs. Wilson

Crusader, Mr. Tira

Eighth grade common learnings, Miss Falke

Beyond Southeast

Away from school I spent time with my friends, dating, attending sorority meetings and functions, enjoying my family, attending church and church activities, and working at summer jobs after my junior and senior years.

I attending the University of Kansas and taught Spanish.