

Georgia insight

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"She hath done what she could."

Mark 14:8a

"...and having done all... stand."

Ephesians 6:13c

Georgia Insight, Special Memorial Edition

The Life & Love of Robert Deadwyler

Present with the Lord: March 6, 2013

By Sue Ella Deadwyler

At my request, fully mounted tires and wheels were added to Robert's casket. It was unusual, but very appropriate. Robert was one of a kind and I was delighted when the funeral director agreed to make his home-going as mischievous as he was.

I had often said, "Robert, when you get to Heaven and find there are no cars, you'll ask for a transfer."

He never denied it, so for visiting time his casket was modified with tires and wheels, which were removed before the funeral began.

With that, Robert's brand of fun was added to a sad situation. Everyone enjoyed the levity and declared, "That's Robert!"

You might have heard Robert say, "I like to have fun and I'm going to have fun," because he said it so often and that's what he did. He kidded wherever he was and, if you ever met him, you probably kidded WITH him. He enjoyed people and people enjoyed him.

He was a southern gentleman who'd rather hug the women than shake their hands. If we were in a crowd, I'd always find Robert with a group of women. In fact, he had a unique ministry with the widowed women in one of my Sunday school classes of mature ladies. Week after week, I had noticed how much those hugs meant to the ladies who, most likely, hadn't had a hug all week. So, the hug line on Sunday morning was Robert's unofficial faithful ministry to wonderful ladies who needed it most!

But, Robert wasn't born a full-grown lady-hugging Christian man. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia on March 3 and celebrated his last birthday three days before he died March 6th. His birth year was his forward gear (he'd like that analogy) that brought him onto earth and this month his reverse gear kicked in to take him into Heaven to meet his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. That was the saddest day of my life, which has been irretrievably reversed.

Robert had a full and meaningful life filled with as much fun as he could manage. His dad, Ralph Campbell Deadwyler, married Nellie Laura Greene. They produced Robert and his baby sister Gloria Jane, who grew up to become the bride of Bernard Anthony "Bud" Flatley.

Soon Robert was old enough to go to school and enjoyed telling about the little girl who sat in front of him. Back in "the day," inkwells on the desks got many a boy in trouble, because, inevitably, a pigtail got dipped. It was great fun, until the little girl screeched and the teacher lowered the boom on sweet little Robert. I think he mentioned something about a dunce cap and a corner.

However, he DID mature enough to serve on the yearbook staff, join the Reserve Officers Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) and become Cadet Major Robert Deadwyler, second in command as Battalion Executive Officer. As such, he trained the other cadets to march in cadence. Just last year, one of those cadets told Robert how good he was as an instructor, but those boys just couldn't seem to "get it." He was awarded a Military Training Certificate for completing the prescribed course of instruction in the Junior Division Reserve Officers' Training Corps. For special ceremonies, I was his sponsor, because I was his high school sweetheart.

R.O.T.C. was a natural choice for Robert. As a Roosevelt High School junior, Robert had enlisted in the Service Company, 122nd Infantry, Georgia National Guard. At the end of that four-year term, in the rank of private first class, and his honorable discharge in hand he re-upped for three more years; earned the rank of Sgt. E-5; and was honorably discharged again. Soon, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and attained the rank of sergeant first class within a few months. Subsequent enlistments resulted in three additional honorable discharges.

Robert and I married within months of graduation. Our two children, Robert Daniel and Ginger Sue were and are loved and loving. The children of Dan and Sandra Patrice are our grandchildren – Amanda Cheree, Robert Daniel, Jr. and Chris Bailey.

Robert loved the Lord and his family, but they weren't his only love. His natural mechanical engineering talent, that allowed him to drive or fix or modify or repair or improve or invent (if necessary) practically anything, guided him into another love – the automotive field – where he worked briefly with an auto repair shop, drove a gasoline tanker-truck for Texaco, but was soon moved into the Texaco Bulk Plant office in Doraville. From there, Texaco transferred him to North Carolina to manage the bulk plant in Paw Creek. Eight years later, upon Robert's request, Texaco transferred him back to the Atlanta corporate office as an accountant and in that position he took early retirement to avoid a departmental transfer to Texas.

Soon, he and a friend established Auto Parts Mart in Cumming. Later, Robert became sole owner and changed the name to Robert's Auto Parts. Is there any doubt what he sold there? After selling that business, he worked with other auto parts companies – always becoming a part of management – including Genuine Parts Company (NAPA) in Norcross, from which he retired a second time as assistant manager of the Main Branch. After several months of retirement, he returned to work part-time at a NAPA store closer to home. Not only did Robert have a passion for automotive vehicles, he loved the parts that made them work!

Robert loved showing his classic metallic midnight blue Ford Mustang he had restored to a pristine condition with most of its original parts and pieces. It (the car), obediently and quickly, earned several trophies at car shows. He restored his Dad's 1969 Chevrolet Impala, painted it a strikingly beautiful raspberry color and won a trophy the first time he showed it. Actually, the children selected the Impala as their favorite of the show. So, Robert received the children's trophy, which was 'way taller than all the others. He was so proud!

Last fall, Robert sold that 1966 Mustang and bought a 1999 Corvette painted gold-metallic magnetic red (a beautiful dark red). He planned to enter it in the Norcross Car Show this spring. Incidentally, most metallic paints contain flecks of silver, but Robert's Corvette has gold metallic, a special tribute for my husband who had a heart of gold!

Appropriately, he was buried in a midnight blue casket with gold pin stripes (color of the Mustang and his Chevy van) and his casket had wheels on it. The funeral director said they'd never had a request like that before, but it was done. Those wheels were the surprise and delight of all who came to see him, but they were removed to present a more sedate appearance during the funeral. When the Lord created Robert, he made him uniquely gifted, loving and loved. He will be sorely missed and his leaving has left an un-mendable break in my heart and life! He was my man and I loved him with all my being! I trust Robert found his mom and dad and my mom and dad in Heaven right after he was greeted by the Lord Jesus Himself!

Massachusetts: Straight Students Lose Rights; Transgender Students get Special Rights H.B. 119, H.B. 427 & H.B. 429 Could Usher the Same into Georgia

Some students may feel uncomfortable with a transgender student using the same sex-segregated restroom, locker room or changing facility. This discomfort is not a reason to deny access to the transgender student. – Massachusetts Public Schools Guidelines

Morally neutral sexuality classes have created a culture of confusion and moral decline that's being forced on all of us, including our youngest kids. Straight students have their privacy invaded and are expected to accept it as normal. Surely, that can be stopped here in Georgia.

On February 21st the *Associated Press* said the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education had just issued directives for handling transgender students in schools, to enforce a 2011 transgender anti-discrimination law that took effect July 1, 2012. The guidelines allow students to decide whether to identify as their birth-sex or the opposite sex or re-name themselves or whether parents are notified about it. The Massachusetts law states:

“No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.”

The words “gender identity” and “sex” are not synonyms. One is an anatomical fact; the other is how the anatomy is used. Gender/transgender/transvestitism guidelines for Massachusetts schools explain the difference as follows:

- *Gender expression* is the manner in which a person represents or expresses gender to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, activities, voice, or mannerisms.
- *Gender identity*, as defined in [the law], is “a person’s gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person’s physiology or assigned sex at birth...”
- *Gender nonconforming* is used to describe people whose gender expression differs from stereotypic expectations. The terms “gender variant” or “gender atypical” are also used.
- *Transgender* is an umbrella term used to describe a person whose gender identity or gender expression is different from that traditionally associated with the assigned sex at birth.

According to the guidelines, students who choose to switch from male to female or vice versa may appear to be either sex, consistently or spasmodically, whenever they decide. Whichever identity they claim, hourly, daily or longer, is acceptable. Their garb-of-the-day determines which bathroom, locker room and changing area they choose to use at any given time.

The following comments reflect the attitude of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education non-discrimination policy on gender identity. Actually, the policy boldly discriminates against straight students, though they are in the majority. Consider this:

“Some students may feel uncomfortable with a transgender student using the same sex-segregated restroom, locker room or changing facility.”

“This discomfort is not a reason to deny access to the transgender student.”

The dignity, morality, innocence and modesty of straight students are abused to accommodate deviant lifestyles. Morally neutral sexuality classes create confusion and moral decline that's being forced on everyone, including our youngsters. That must be stopped in Georgia!

Gender/Transgender Bills in Georgia: H.B. 119, H.B. 428 and H.B. 429

Alert: It's too late for them to pass, but they must not be attached to other bills.

House bills introduced this session could bring the Massachusetts BOE guidelines here, unless the majority party exerts its power to protect the culture and students of Georgia.

Republicans are a majority in both House & Senate; Republicans are a majority in all House committees; Republicans decide which bills pass or are defeated.

H.B. 119 introduced by Representative Marin is this year's hate crime bill, elevating "gender, gender identity & sexual orientation" to civil rights status. It affects tax-funded facilities, including schools and colleges. Current Georgia law treats all "offenses because of bias or prejudice" equally, with no special protected class of people. If H.B. 119 passes, the words "bias or prejudice" would be replaced with "the victim's race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin." Crimes against those six victim-groups could be punished 50 percent more severely than for identical crimes committed against anyone else.

ACTION: Oppose. Call all or several. Judiciary Non-Civil Committee: Representatives Golick, Ch., 404 656-5943; Pak, V-Ch., 656-0254; Hightower, Sec., 656-0152; Abrams, 656-5058; Atwood, 656-0152; Ballinger, 656-0254; Coomer, 651-7737; Cooper, 656-5069; Dickerson, 656-0314; Gravley, 656-0325; Ramsey, 656-5146; Randall, 656-0109; Setzler, 656-7857; Strickland, 656-0109; and Willard, 656-5125. (11 Republicans, 3 Democrats, 1 Ex-Officio)

H.B. 427 by Representative Drenner could prompt affirmative action in employment based on at least seven sexual orientations – LGBTQAI. It inserts "sexual orientation" in the non-discrimination list of the Fair Employment Practices Act of 1978 and amends it as follows:

"Sexual orientation means a person's actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or gender related identity or expression."

ACTION: Oppose. Call all or several. Industry & Labor Committee: Representatives Hamilton, Ch., 404 656-5132; Nimmer, V-Ch., 651-7737; Kirby, Sec., 656-0177; Broadrick, 656-0202; Bryant, 656-0298; Dawkins-Haigler, 656-0287; England, 463-2245; Fleming, 656-0152; Floyd, 656-0314; Lindsey, 656-5024; Marin, 656-0314; Meadows, 656-5141; and Pruett, 463-3947. (9 Republicans, 4 Democrats)

H.B. 429 by Representative Waites could alter bullying policies to stop opposition to alternate lifestyles, which is the impetus for constant bully revisions. Some states define bullying so broadly that a mere disagreement about gender/transgender/transvestite is said to be bullying.

ACTION: Oppose. Call all or select several to contact. Members of the Education Committee: Representatives Coleman, Ch., 404 656-9210; Casas, V-Ch., 656-0254; Benton, Sec., 656-2013; Carter, 656-6801; Chandler, 656-0254; Clark, 656-0202; Dickerson, 656-0314; Dickson, 463-2247; Dudgeon, 656-0298; England, 463-2245; Floyd, 656-0314; Glanton, 656-0325; Howard, 656-6372; Jones, 656-5072; Kaiser, 656-0265; Lindsey, 656-5024; Maxwell, 656-5143; Mayo, 656-6372; Morgan, 656-0109; Nix, 656-5087; Setzler, 656-7857; Talton, 656-5105; Tanner, 656-0152; Teasley, 656-0177; and Thomas, 656-0220. (17 Republicans, 8 Democrats)

Washington. It took six years to make the changes, but the state of Washington is in the process of passing a 500-page bill to eliminate "man" from every state law, which is a drastic culture change, moving us into a unisex society that denies any difference between males and females. If it weren't so serious, we might laugh over a couple of words that stumped them! They can't decide how to change the word "manhole" and might call it a "utility hole."

The word "manlock" is so difficult they might have to explain what it *is*, since there's no synonym for it. But for now, they're leaving manhole and manlock in the law.