



Dr. Annette Nevin Shelby

1939-2025

The Shelby Institute and the Shelby Scholars express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Annette Shelby along with our heartfelt gratitude for her vision as a foundational leader in the creation of this transformational program. Her love and devotion to this endeavor will be appreciated and remembered forever.



Annette Nevin Shelby died on July 23, 2025, at her home in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Born January 22, 1939, in Kinston, Alabama, to educators, Gladys Price and Edwin Claude Nevin, she is survived by her husband of 65 years, Retired U.S. Senator Richard Craig Shelby; two sons, Richard Craig Shelby, Jr. and Claude Nevin Shelby (Lisa); two grandchildren, Anna Elizabeth Shelby and William Nevin Shelby; and a brother, Edward Haskell Nevin.

An honors graduate of Kinston High School, she attended Alabama College (University of Montevallo) for two years where she maintained the highest scholastic average in her class and was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, Freshman Honor Society. Active in the theatre program, she acted in and directed several college productions, including two College Night musicals.

Transferring to the University of Alabama, she participated in numerous campus organizations and activities including Delta Delta Delta sorority as Activities Chairman and later Alumna Advisor. As an intercollegiate debater, she was a member of Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha National Debate Society and successfully competed in nation-wide tournaments. At Alabama, she was inducted into Mortar Board, a women's service organization, and into Phi Beta Kappa, a national scholastic honor society.

Having graduated from the University with Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Speech, she enrolled at Louisiana State University in a program combining rhetorical theory, political oratory, and organizational communication. There she earned a Ph.D. degree and was elected to Pi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. She received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from The University of Alabama at Birmingham and an honorary Litterarum Humanorum Doctoris degree from The University of South Alabama.

As an Instructor in the Department of Speech at Alabama, she was promoted to Assistant Professor with tenure and, as a member of the business school faculty, to Associate Professor. At Georgetown University business school, where she taught Management, Corporate and Crisis communication for twenty years, she received both school and national awards for her teaching, research, and service. As the first woman in the school to receive tenure and to be promoted to Professor, on retirement, she was named Professor Emerita. During summers, she focused on international teaching and research, serving as a

Director of Georgetown's program in comparative business at Oxford. She also taught graduate and undergraduate students at the Helsinki School of Economics and lectured at the University of Leipzig and the Beijing Institute of Foreign Trade.

Dr. Shelby's commitment to her family and to community service balanced her academic career. A member of the First Presbyterian Church, she taught Sunday School for several years. As Vice President of the Women's Division of the Women's Alumni Association, she spearheaded the restoration of decaying Woods Hall. She later served on the President's Cabinet and the President's Advisory Board, as well as The Women of the Capstone. In 1993, she was one of 31 women alumna selected for the newly formed XXXI Society. She also received the Henry and Julia Tutwiler Award and the Frances S. Summersell Award and was elected to the Society for Fine Arts. She was inducted into Judson College's Hall of Fame and the Business and Professional Women's Hall of Fame and received the Girl Scouts of north-central Alabama Woman of Distinction Award.

Dr. Shelby also focused on community health. As a fundraising chairman for the Junior League (JWA Horse Show and Camellia Show), she also assisted in the organization's health clinics. A member of the Tuscaloosa County Mental Health Board, she supported programs at Bryce Hospital and at the Tuscaloosa County home for disabled elderly residents. Nationally, she chaired fundraising events for MS research and lupus research. As a Board member of the Lupus Foundation of America, she participated in community outreach.

Dr. Shelby had a long-standing interest in the Arts and was never happier than when attending a play, a symphony, or an opera. As President of the Alabama Speech and Theatre Association, she promoted theatre programming for high schools. An early Board member of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, she also supported the Tuscaloosa Symphony and joined the Opera Guild. In 2019, she was appointed to the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Dr. Shelby's local memberships included the Pickwick and Arts and Letters Study Clubs, along with Revelers and Gaities Mardi Gras Clubs. Though she enjoyed her roses and back porch swing, she was a confirmed traveler. Teaching on the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea program, she spent time in eleven countries. Visiting all states in the union

and most countries in the world, she expanded her own horizons and those of the people whose lives she touched.

A private family graveside service was held at Tuscaloosa Memorial Park with Rev. Lou Ann Sellers, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa officiating and Tuscaloosa Memorial Chapel Funeral Home directing.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa www.fpctusc.org/give or the Shelby Institute at the University of Alabama www.provost.ua.edu/shelby-institute-for-policy-leadership/support/.

