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HEADLINE: Shore educator Cane passes away

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HEBRON -- Lower Shore educators and acquaintances remembered Louella Verna Fitchett Cane, a teacher for 36 years and a devoted wife who annually went to Annapolis during sessions of the General Assembly to be with her husband, Rudolph, a Democratic member of the House of Delegates for Wicomico and Dorchester counties.

Louella Cane, who retired as a mathematics teacher at James M. Bennett High School in 1995, died Tuesday at the couple's Hebron home following a short illness. She was 71.

The wife of a Lower Shore political figure, Mrs. Cane was accomplished in her own right through professional, religious and civic engagements, said acquaintances, including H. Dewayne Whittington, a former superintendent of schools in Somerset County, where Louella Cane grew up and attended Carter G. Woodson High School in Crisfield.

"She was one of the better teachers, very strict, with a no-nonsense teaching style," said Whittington, who also is her uncle.

Louella Cane graduated from Morgan University in Baltimore, earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1959 and a master's degree in math a decade later. She taught in public schools in Baltimore, and at her alma mater, Woodson in Crisfield, before joining the staff at Bennett.

Rudolph Cane had pursued his future wife since his childhood.

"I dated my wife from eighth grade until (Tuesday)," he said. "We lived (in Annapolis) from Monday to Friday during sessions. We were married 51 years, three months and two days."

Sylvia Outen Ward, a retired educator and president of the Crisfield Woodson Alumni Association-Eastern Shore Chapter, remembered Louella Cane's dedication.

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"There is no way to describe her commitment and involvement," she said. "She gave her time and expert knowledge unselfishly and continually."

Two children, Rudolph C. Cane Jr. and Renee Cane McCoy, both physicians in Arizona, and three grandchildren, also survive Cane.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne. Friends also can call on Friday between 6 and 8 p.m. at Anthony E. Ward Funeral Home on Hampden Avenue in Princess Anne.

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