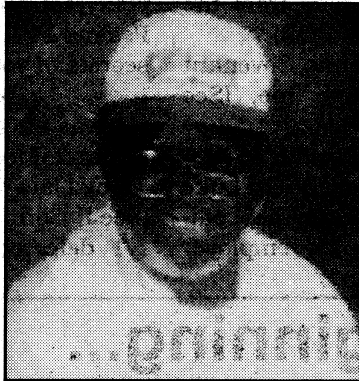


Grapeland Messenger 1/19/2006

## Rose Eddie Leonard, Senior

The Leonard family recently suffered a great loss in the home going of a dear loved one "Brother", Rose Eddie Leonard, Sr. Eddie died suddenly on September 21, 2005 at age 65.

On October 24, 2005, the Kinkaid School Community of Houston, Texas gave a beautiful tribute to beloved employee Eddie Leonard, Sr. Eddie was a fixture at the Memorial area Kinkaid school for more than 40 years. The Kinkaid students, community members, faculty, and alumni assisted in planning this special memorial service. The program's master of ceremony was the school's headmaster, Don North who spoke of Eddie as a very remarkable and special man. Remembrances were presented by students from the middle and upper school levels. The students spoke of how Eddie impacted the beginning of each school day with an unusual but consistent warm greeting of optimism and an unchanging smile. The Chairman of the Board (1974), parents, faculty and alumni made special remarks regarding Eddie's consistent generosity of love for each and every individual and his remarkable ability to



greet each individual by name. A very special tribute from the younger students included individually made cards by each student. Comments on the cards were very touching. One card was written by a 6th grader. He said Mr. Eddie was my friend. He could remember everybody's name. If some one asked for the name of everybody that graduated from Kinkaid in 1985, Mr. Eddie could name every one of them. Another said: Mr. Eddie was a "sweet" man. He always "brightened" my day. He always "wore" a smile.

Other remembrances during the services included a video presentation featuring the awarding of the Sunshine Award that was presented in September 2003 to Eddie by Houston's KPRC Channel 2 television station. Another part

of the memorial service included a slide presentation focusing on Eddie's daily routine at the school. The event was open to the public with attendance by Eddie's family and friends. The family was especially touched by the spirit of caring shown by Eddie's extended family - the Kinkaid School.

At the end of the Program, the school respectfully allowed Mr. Larry Leonard, father of Eddie, to respond to the occasion. Mr. Leonard expressed gratitude for the special expressions and the Kinkaid School's "arms of love around the Leonard family". He also commented that he was very pleased to hear that Eddie exhibited at work the same sincerity and intensity of work habits that he practiced in his growing up on the Grapeland farm. Mr. Leonard stated, "there is a season for all things and it seems that Eddie's life at the school was very meaningful for the children." He encouraged the audience (all of us) to apply our daily efforts in this way and this will make the world a better place to live. The services closed with the audience agreeing that Eddie's legacy is "thumbs up"!! Peace and love.