

# 2016 ESSAY CONTEST “What’s the most memorable or funniest story about your grandparents?”



## **Marian McQuade, founder of Grandparents Day**

She was born Marian Lucille Herndon in Caperton, West Virginia on January 18, 1917. For much of her life, she lived in Richwood with her husband, Joe, and 15 children.

Campaigning in West Virginia and later nationwide to set aside a day for grandparents, in 1973 West Virginia became the first state with a special day to honor grandparents when Governor Arch Moore proclaimed May 27, 1973, Grandparents Day. In September 1978 the White House called her to inform her that President Jimmy Carter had signed a bill designating the Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day beginning in 1979. In 1989 the United States Postal Service issued a tenth anniversary commemorative envelope bearing the likeness of Marian McQuade in honor of National Grandparents Day.

She later moved to Oak Hill, West Virginia with her husband, Joe McQuade—a coal miner and remained in Oak Hill until her own death from heart failure on September 26, 2008 at the age of 91. In

addition to her 15 children, she was survived by 43 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. (Source: Wikipedia)

*Marian McQuade, the founder of Grandparents Day, lived and raised her family in Richwood for 30 years and was very instrumental in the acquisition of City Park. She urged people to recognize the important contributions senior citizens make. Honor your grandparents, not for just one day but every day for all the experiences they have to share.*

**To honor this Richwood hero, the Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring an essay contest: Prompt: “What’s the most memorable or funniest story about your grandparents?”**

**Deadline: Sept. 8** (Attach this form to the essay; no name on the essay.)

**Grades 1-2** 25 word essay and picture - Winning essay with picture, \$15

**Grades 3-5** 150 word minimum - Winning essay, \$15

**Middle School** 300 word minimum - Top essay, \$30

**High School** 500 word minimum - Top essay, \$40

Essays must be typed or hand-written in ink, double spaced. They will be judged on content, originality, and clarity of expression. *Each school must choose the top 5 in each category.*

*One prize in each age category at the county-wide level will be awarded. Prizes will be announced at the National Grandparents Day Celebration, Sept. 11, in the Sterling Spencer Sculpture Garden in Richwood. The top 5 entries selected at the Grade level will also receive a token prize. Join the fun from 2- 6 p.m.*

**This sheet must be attached to the essay. There should be no name listed on the essay.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_