



Marlys McMeans is a self-taught seamstress who was born in Koxville, Iowa, in 1930. Some of her treasured memories include those of her mother who used to make her beautiful dresses patterned after the dresses that Shirley Temple used to wear in the movies. The 1930's were tough times in the United States, and the dresses that her mother made for her planted the seed of Marlys' love of sewing and dress designing. Her formal education was through two years of college at which time she married Jack McMeans in 1951 and embarked on a life that included a family of three children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She and her husband Jack lived in six states prior to coming to Warner Robins. Marlys always has been involved with young people and served as a volunteer in each community where she and Jack lived. While in Mississippi, Marlys organized a Girl Scout troop for disadvantaged girls. She continued her involvement with the Girl Scouts and the Campfire girls as her own children grew up. Marlys also volunteered in many activities, planning committees, and service committees that involved the Episcopal Church and on which she continues to participate to this day. In addition, she has served on the diocese boards of the Episcopal Church of Arizona and Georgia. Presently, Marlys is in the process of sewing and repairing the vestments for the All Saints Episcopal Church of Warner Robins where she and Jack have been members for many years. In the 1980's Marlys came to the Northside Community and immediately became part of the Northside High School family by substituting. Upon meeting Mr. Ray Horne, our famous drama teacher, she knew she had found another home away from home. Marlys' career at Northside High School involved her participation in the Thespian Troup, the famous dinner theater of the 1980's, as well as chaperoning the many drama trips that Mr. Horne, and now, Mr. Barnett talked her in to attending. This involvement has led to her greatest contribution to Northside High School which is Marlys' 39 years of designing and sewing costumes for every one-act play and spring musical, and anything else that the "living legend" Mr. Ray Horne wanted her to do! She also formed some close friendships with Lynn Campbell, Brenda Littlefield, and Donna Havrilla who were also involved with the famous Northside High School Drama Department. Marlys continues to share her designing talents and to work with the Drama Department as she and Mr. Brian Barnett, the current Fine Arts Drama teacher, prepare for the 2019 spring musical LES MISERABLES.

### *What does Northside High School mean to you?*

My greatest achievement at Northside occurs when I make a costume or fit a hat or design a specialty piece that instills confidence in a student when he or she walks on stage. When I hear the words "I love my costume!" I know I have been successful! I want to create an atmosphere of encouragement for the students with whom I contact, and I wish for all these students "to be their best!"