

## KCDHH Mourns the Loss of Respected Commissioner



The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) mourns the loss of a "wonderful advocate" in Rebecca "Becky" Crawford, whose impact is beyond measure," according to Virginia L. Moore, KCDHH Executive Director. "The number of deaf and hard of hearing lives Mrs. Crawford touched is countless."

Mrs. Crawford, a KCDHH Commissioner from July, 2011 until her death last week, led as a soft-spoken passionate, dignified and influential advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing. She spent her early childhood on a farm in Shepherdsville, moved, along with her mother and brother to Bardstown around 1954. She was a graduate of Bardstown High School and Georgetown College. Becky moved to Dayton, Ohio, where she taught biology and home economics. She met and married James Jay Crawford, a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, in 1968. They moved to Valdosta, Ga., where he was stationed until his deployment to Thailand during the Vietnam War. While he was deployed, she moved back to Bardstown. After his death in 1972, she remained in Bardstown, where she had her daughter, Ellen. Becky attended Elizabethtown Community College, where she graduated with a degree in nursing. She worked as a nurse at Flaget Memorial Hospital and also worked as the school nurse at Bardstown City Schools for 25 years. In addition to being an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bardstown, she became active in the Hearing Loss Association.

She is survived by her daughter, Ellen Crawford, of Nimy, Belgium; one brother, Edward C. (Mary) Tyler, of St. Augustine, Fla.; and two nephews, John (Amanda) Tyler, of DeLand, Fla., and Matthew Tyler, of St. Augustine, Fla.

Moore added that, through her career as a nurse, Mrs. Crawford suffered a severe hearing loss but never let the loss stop her from doing anything.

"Becky traveled the world—her hearing loss was a small part of who she was but she never let it define her," Moore said. "She made a tremendous impact on the deaf and hard of hearing community and was passionate about getting hearing screenings in schools for children."

"The debt of gratitude we owe for her service to the Commission and the deaf community, as a whole, cannot be described," Moore said. "We will truly miss her guidance and generous heart."

The funeral for Rebecca Crawford was May 31 at the First Presbyterian Church of Bardstown with interment in Hebron Cemetery in Shepherdsville.