

---

## Life Legacy Award

*Arnold Basham, Maintenance Director,  
1977–1993*



Arnold Basham served as maintenance director at Georgia-Cumberland Academy from 1977 to 1993. Arnold was known by students as a Christian gentleman who treated them kindly. Though known best by the students who worked for him, the other students appreciated his humor and his kindness. Arnold passed away in 1993, and is survived by his wife, Pearl and their three children, Cindy, Mike, and Nancy, all GCA alumni.

Arnold was born in Lilly, West Virginia, one of seven children. He joined the U.S. Air Force out of high school and served from 1955 to 1963. When he left the Air Force he went to work at Lockheed Corporation as an airplane mechanic. It was during his early years at Lockheed that Arnold met Pearl, and they were soon married. Arnold was transferred from Marietta, Georgia, to North Carolina, and then to Wisconsin. In 1970 Arnold left Lockheed and the couple moved to Calhoun. For a time, Arnold worked in construction, then began working for Tom Richardson at Learning Labs.

In 1977, Arnold started working as maintenance director at GCA and described it as his dream job. He loved his work and enjoyed teaching students how to fix things. It was a joy for him to have his workers come by for visits after they graduated.

Kris Marshall, '87, who worked for Mr. Basham, remembered, "When I worked for him, I was young, still figuring out who I was and what I was capable of. He gave me confidence at an age when confidence isn't always easy to come by. He taught me the value of hard work, resilience, and showing up with integrity. And he did it all with that wonderful sense of humor that made even the toughest days lighter. Mr. Basham didn't just maintain buildings; he helped build people. I am one of them."

Scot Martin, '86, recalls, "Mr. Basham had a special place in his heart for young people. It showed up at work on a daily basis through his kind demeanor and forgiving spirit. He was funny, easy going, kind, and forgiving. Mr. Basham had a way of enforcing the rules without you realizing what he was doing! On a personal level, I am grateful he taught me how to be a leader."

The Class of 1986 has great respect for Mr. Basham and has chosen to honor him posthumously with the Life Legacy Award.