

Hannah Howe

- Hannah grew up in Louisiana with 5 sisters and 1 brother. Their father was a railroad section foreman. He oversaw 40 miles of the railroad. They lived in railroad housing next to the railroad. They didn't have a car, so they rode the train to the next town to go shopping. The engineer of the train would distribute hard candy or fruit to the children at Christmas time.
- They were a poor family but had plenty of food, love and were happy. On the family farm they had pigs, chickens and cows. Her mother canned all the foods so they would have enough to eat during the winter.
- Her mother picked cotton and she would pull Hannah in a sack at a young age through the fields. Hannah started picking cotton at the age of seven. By the age of 10 she was able to pick 100 pounds of cotton a day. Hannah also stripped sugar cane before it went to the refinery.
- Her mother made all their clothes. She made them from Gold Medal self-rising flour sacks. Hannah wore dresses and underpants made from them. Her mother used a Singer sewing machine that was pedal driven. One day a peddler visited selling an electric sewing machine. Her mother really wanted it but didn't have any money. Hannah and her brother, who also picked cotton, said she could have their money from cotton picking. When the salesman heard that he lowered the price, and they bought the machine.
- Her happiest memory was the day she went to college. Hannah was the first person in her family to do so. She was her high school valedictorian and she earned scholarships to attend Northwestern State College in Natchitoches, LA. She also worked at the general store to pay for her expenses. Her father advised

her to become a secretary or teacher. Hannah started in education. She later switched her major to medical technology. This is the field she worked in most of her life.

- Hannah married in 1957. They moved every 2 and a half years because of job transfers. They had three children, two girls and a boy. In 1980 they moved to Tolland. Five years later her husband died of mesothelioma. Hannah had a dream where her husband told her he wanted her to be happy. She asked if he saw Jesus. She asked herself what do I love the most? I can do what I thought I should always have done. She talked to her minister, and she went back to school. Four years later she graduated with honors and became an ordained minister at the United Congregational Church in Tolland. She fulfilled a dream she had since she was a young girl.
- In 1989, Hannah met her second husband and they got married on 2/17/1990. Their family became a blended one of six children. They have 17 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. All her children went into a profession where they help people. Her daughter Tami is assistant director at Mercy hospital in Maryland. Her daughter Dana is a Doctor of Psychology. She is the chief of Mental Health at the VA hospital in MA. Her son Mark is the vice principal at Brooklyn Elementary School. She is proud that they followed the path of helping others.
- Hannah enjoys being with people at the senior center and at church. She loves to share her life with others. She likes to do crossword puzzles to keep her mind active.
- Her advice to others is to follow the Bible verse, Micah 6:8. "What does God require of us to do? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God."
- To sum it up, Hannah says she has so much to be thankful for. I'm not lucky, I'm blessed. That's my life!