

## *Lady of Grace, Dignity*

She enters a room with grace, and her demeanor is one of quiet dignity.

She doesn't push herself into a conversation, but lets her ideas flow gently and appropriately.

She is thorough and organized, and her agenda is accomplished efficiently.

She manages with motivation and inspiration, and she commands respect as a leader.

Don't mistake her mild manner or her gentle nature. She is firm, and she is effective in the role that she plays.

She is Billie Scates, who has spent nearly two decades of service as executive director for two Life Care facilities. Thursday, December 28 – the day that she began her responsibilities as the lady in charge at The Heritage Center in Morristown, Tennessee, in 1990 – her staff gave her a "Celebration of Service" party. Although the "R" word was avoided, the fact is that Scates is retiring to join her husband, Tom, in personal pursuits of their choice.

Scates began her Life Care career on March 23, 1987, as executive director (the position was called administrator then) at Ridgeview Terrace in Rutledge, Tennessee. Her style of focusing on the residents and ministering to their families has been a hallmark of her success at both buildings. That service is delivered through happy and fulfilled associates, and Scates has worked hard to build that family feeling among the work force. It was evident at the ceremony Thursday.

Scates was described as one who took what was in her hands to achieve her goals – (1) her time, often sacrificing her own personal time for the good of her residents and her staff; (2) her abilities to lead; and (3) the character and integrity she has displayed that cause others to follow. The thought-provoking question for each of us today is: Are we using what is in our hands to maximum advantage?

We can follow the example of Billie Scates. She is, indeed, a special lady, and we wish her well as she enters this next phase of her life.

--Beecher Hunter