

Department of Historic Resources

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STATE HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER
"PAULINE WEEDEN MALONEY (1904-1987)"
TO BE DEDICATED IN LYNCHBURG

—Marker recalls city, state, and nationally esteemed 20th-century African American educator—

—The marker's text is reproduced below—

RICHMOND – A state historical marker issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources that honors the career of 20th-century educator Pauline Weeden Maloney, known as Lynchburg's "first lady of education," will be dedicated this Saturday in Lynchburg.

The dedication and unveiling ceremony for the marker begins at 11 a.m. September 26, at the Wayside Gospel Temple Church, located at 1309 Pierce Street.

Speakers during the ceremony include Lynchburg mayor, Michael Gillette; vice-mayor, Ceasor Johnson; superintendent of city schools, Dr. Scott Brabrand; Shaun Spencer-Hester, director of the Anne Spencer House Museum; the Rev. Robert Higgins, pastor of the Wayside Gospel Temple Church; and Jim Hare of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

After the ceremony at the church, Arelia Langhorne of the civic organization The Links, Inc., will lead a procession of alumna members of The Links, the singing group Soulsters from the Hill, and those attending the dedication event to unveil the marker, which is located at 1316 Buchanan Street, around the block from Wayside Gospel Temple Church.

Pauline Weeden Maloney was a graduate of Howard University and worked in Lynchburg's then-segregated public schools from 1937 to 1970, "most notably as a guidance counselor and administrator at the all-black Dunbar High School," the marker reads.

During her career, Maloney was elected the first black president of both the Virginia School Boards Association and the National School Boards Association Southern Region. She also was the first woman rector of Norfolk State University, and she served as national president of the African American women's organization The Links, Inc., founding its Lynchburg chapter in 1950.

The marker was sponsored by the Lynchburg chapter of The Links, Inc., which paid for the sign's manufacturing costs.

Virginia's historical highway marker program, which began in 1927 with the installation of the first historical markers along U.S. Route 1, is considered the oldest such program in the nation. Currently there are more than 2,500 official state markers, most maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, as well as by local partners in jurisdictions outside of VDOT's authority.

Text of the marker:

Pauline Weeden Maloney (1904-1987)

Here lived Pauline Maloney, known as Lynchburg's "first lady of education." A graduate of Howard University, she worked in Lynchburg public schools from 1937 to 1970, most notably as a guidance counselor and administrator at the all-black Dunbar High School. During the 1970s she was elected the first black president of both the Virginia School Boards Association and the National School Boards Association Southern Region. In 1977 Maloney became the first woman rector of Norfolk State University. She served as national president of The Links, Inc., a civic organization of African American women, and she founded the Lynchburg chapter in 1950.

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