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Mary Sue Britton McElveen

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Mary Sue Britton McElveen '43

Mary Sue Britton McElveen was born on April 30, 1922 in Kingstree, South Carolina. She was the daughter of Harry and Susie Kortjohn Britton. Mary Sue graduated from Winthrop College in 1943 with a major in Physical Education. While at Winthrop, Mary Sue organized, and played drums in an all-woman dance band, "The Swanks." She was also involved in the Winthrop band where she played bass horn, and orchestra. She was also a member of Who's Who's, the Senior Order, Kappa Delta Pi the honorary educational fraternity, Sigma Gamma Nu the physical education honor fraternity, and the student Senate.

During World War II, Mary Sue worked as a cryptographer in Washington. D.C. She also worked as a stewardess from American Airlines. From 1950 until 1970 Mary Sue served on the Board of Trustees and retired as the Chairperson. She was the first woman and Winthrop Alumna to serve in this position.

Governor Robert McNair appointed her to the Legislative Committee to study co-education at Winthrop; former Governor John West appointed her to the Legislative Committee to study automobile liability insurance; and former Governor Carroll Campbell awarded her the Order of the Palmetto. Mary Sue was a member of the Lake City, S.C. Advisory Board of Republic National Bank and Citizens and Southern (C&S) National Bank and became the first woman to serve as chairperson. She was listed in Who's Who of American Women. She was married to James Davis "Jim" McElveen for sixty three years and had two children.

Mary Sue McElveen died on July 9, 2010.