



Anne Dobie Peebles
1922- , Sussex County

Anne Dobie Peebles was born in 1922 in Sussex County to William Dunn Peebles and Mary Emmerson Dobie. Educated in the county's public schools, she graduated from The College of William and Mary in 1944. A double major in philosophy and history, she taught for two years in public schools and then joined her father in his real estate and banking businesses.

Peebles dedicated her life to public service, and was active in health and education organizations. She served as president of the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs (1958-1960), an organization dedicated to community service. A member of the State Board of Education from 1958 until 1970, she became its first woman president, succeeding Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell. In 1974, Peebles began a thirteen-year term on the Board of Visitors of The College of William and Mary. She was the only woman to serve as rector in the College's history. In recognition of her dedication to the institution, William and Mary awarded her an honorary doctorate in public service and four student scholarships were named for her through the generous financial support of her fellow board members.

Throughout her life, Anne was active in politics. She worked to elect Albertis Harrison governor of Virginia in 1961, and co-chaired Mills Godwin's campaign in 1965. Later, she coordinated Godwin's second run for governor in 1973 and co-chaired Harry Byrd Jr.'s 1976 campaign for the U.S. Senate. She was also involved in gubernatorial campaigns for John Dalton and Charles Robb.

Peebles was a founder and trustee of the Massey Cancer Center Advisory Board. She has worked to raise the visibility of the center and support its fundraising activities. She continues to serve on the National Cancer Board. Peebles' dedication to public service has been recognized with awards from the Public Relations Association, the Medical Society of Virginia, and an honorary membership in Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Virginia General Assembly named her "A Cultural Laureate of Virginia." Anne Dobie Peebles is truly an outstanding public servant.