

Birthday Wishes from Our Founders

If the Founders could be with us as we celebrate our 95th birthday, they might bring wishes for a variety of gifts. What might those be?

Annie Webb Blanton would probably bring us a wish for service. One might have said of her, “with joy she serves and with pride she gives in humility.” Our wish today is that we might all have that gift of service to others.

Cora Martin’s wish for us would be fellowship as expressed through our song. May we come to know and accept each other as human beings, working toward the ultimate brotherhood of man.

Ruby Cole’s wish would be growth. The establishment of Beta Chapter by Ruby in San Antonio revealed such moments of growth. May each member be granted the knowledge and desire to capture such moments of insight and growth.

Helen Koch’s (Kuh) wish would be understanding. Our lives contain many differences, yet we are united as one. Let us adapt to the changes and challenges all around us and understand our important role to prepare tomorrow’s leaders. And I bet she was also understanding when people mispronounced her name.

In the spirit of **Lela Lee Williams**, her wish might be for a caring heart. May each of us strive not to judge, but to show true compassion to those facing challenges. May we turn our compassion into action, knowing when to stand beside someone in silence and when to speak up on their behalf.

In honor of **Mamie Sue Bastian**, her wish for you is celebration. May we let gatherings with our DKG sisters, families and others include laughter, music, and conversation. May we recognize and honor the talents shared by each of our sisters, so all feel loved and appreciated.

Ray King would likely give the special gift of prosperity so that each chapter would flourish in membership and leadership growth. She would focus on the development of every key woman educator.

Anna Hiss, a pioneer in women’s sports and physical education at the University of Texas, would bring us the gift of health. Her wishes would include a sound mind in a sound body as we seek to improve the quality of life for our students, colleagues, friends, and family.

Sue King is often remembered for being calm and sensitive in any situation. Her wish would be one of inner peace for all members of Delta Kappa Gamma, for our nation and throughout the world.

Mabel Grizzard (Gri zaard) would likely bring us the gift of joy and happiness. As an educator for over 40 years, she saw the look of joy on students’ and teachers’ faces as they accomplished a goal together.

Ruby Terrell Lomax’s (Lō max) gift would be appreciation. She was thankful for opportunities to teach and serve as Dean of Women at the University of Texas. Her students nicknamed her Deanie which expressed their appreciation of her human characteristics as well as her intellect. May we all appreciate the talents we have been given.

Lalla (Lay la) Odom’s gift would be excellence. She strove to be the best she could be whether it was in advocating for equal pay for female teachers or fighting against discrimination toward married and expecting teachers. Her talent as an excellent public speaker furthered her success. May we use her gift of excellence as we champion education.

Our wish for you is to take these special gifts from our Founders and use them in our daily lives for our betterment. Drawing from the past and looking forward to the future, may we all “SOAR to new heights.”

Now to lead us in singing “This is the Birthday” as Delta Kappa Gamma turns 95 years old is

_____. *(Be sure to find out who is doing this at your RAW)*

