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My modern day Benjamin Franklin is my Aunt Libby. Why, you might ask? Quick minded, generous and community spirited are traits that describe both of these special people. Aunty Libby has spent most of her life devoted to children. She was a high school teacher, coach, and even one of the first female athletic directors in the state of Georgia. Aunt Libby didn't only teach her students; she helped them reach their goals. Like Ben Franklin, Aunt Libby believed that you should invest in education to have a better life. She encouraged her students to go to college, even if they couldn't afford it. She held fundraisers and sponsored students to help them go to college. One of her students went on to become a doctor. Another became a professional football player for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Aunt Libby lived in Atlanta, Georgia most of her life. She spent her life teaching in a district with a lot of poverty. Aunt Libby was very community spirited. She participated in Habitat for Humanity. She felt that each of us should help our community as much as we can.

Aunt Libby was diagnosed with cancer three years ago. She was very courageous. Like Benjamin Franklin, Aunt Libby showed courage even when others gave up. She struggled through a lot of treatments and pain, but never lost her sense of humor or lively spirit. In September of 2004, my Aunt Libby died of cancer at age of 49. We were all very sad. The most amazing thing happened. Because of all the gifts she gave to others, her story still keeps going. Just like Benjamin Franklin, we will never forget all of the contributions she gave to so many people. After her death, a scholarship was set up for a deserving student athlete to go to college. She was a great example to her students, friends, and family. Most of all, she was a great example to me. Her soul will always live on in all of us.