

Forsythe, Mary M.



Mary MacCornack Forsythe, May 23, 1920 - September 6, 2007, of St. Paul, formerly of Edina. Mary was born in Whitehall Wisconsin, attended Whitehall

High School, and received a Bachelor of Music degree from St. Olaf College. In 1942, she married her husband of 65 years, Robert Forsythe. She taught music in elementary and high school while her husband served in the army during WWII. After raising five children she began her second career as a state representative for District 42B. As one of the early women leaders in the Independent Republican Party, and one of only five women elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1972, Mary was an example and mentor for many women who followed in her footsteps. Her many accomplishments during her 18 years at the Capitol included Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and Assistant Minority Leader. Mary sponsored the mandatory seat belt law, of which she was especially proud, because of the lives it has and will continue to save. She also served on the Minnesota Women Offenders Task Force which was instrumental in improving the facilities and programming for women offenders in Minnesota's state prison system. The Education Center at the Shakopee prison is named in recognition of her commitment to and concern for women offenders. In 1974 Mary was the recipient of the St. Olaf Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of her service to the state of Minnesota. After retiring in 1990 Mary and Robert moved to Longville, Minnesota with a winter residence in Sun City Arizona. She was a longtime member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, and was also a member of Salem Lutheran Church, Longville, Minnesota, and Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Sun City West, Arizona. Preceded in death by her husband, Robert, parents, Robert and Gladys MacCornack, and brother, Robert MacCornack. Survived by son, Robert Ames Forsythe Jr. and partner, Annette McWilliams; daughters, Polly and husband Randy Johnson, Jean and husband Mel Peterson, Ann and husband Gene Smith, Joan and husband Todd Lewis; 12 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild; and sister, Irene and husband Alphonse Lamprecht. A memorial service will be held on Monday, September 17, 2:00 pm, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Ave. S, Minneapolis, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Donations in Mary's memory may be given to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Music Series.

Mpls. ST

9-11-2007