

Memorial Minute for Geraldine (Gerry) McNabb

(August 13, 1919 – July 21, 2013)

On July 21st, 2013, Gerry McNabb died peacefully at Kendal at Oberlin, where she had been a resident for the past 14 years. She was 93 years old. Born on the south side of Chicago on August 13, 1919, Gerry attended Lindbloom High School and Northwestern University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa. After graduation, she taught English in Niles, Michigan for three years. She met Sandy, a research chemist with B.F. Goodrich Chemical Company, in the summer of 1941, and they were married the following summer. They had two children, Marilyn and Scott, and settled in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Gerry was engaged in political work throughout her life. She helped organize the League of Women Voters in the late 1940's in Cuyahoga Falls; during the 1950's in Brecksville she was president of the PTA, secretary of the Charter Commission, and President of the Democratic Club.

After moving to Michigan in the early 1960's, Gerry's political involvements became more focused on international issues. In 1971, she co-founded the Peace and National Priorities Center of Oakland County and served as the organization's first executive director until 1981. Gerry's activism continued into her 90s, as she participated in weekly peace vigils on the downtown square in Oberlin.

Gerry served on committees for the American Friends Service Committee in the Dayton and Ann Arbor offices, and the National Board of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Gerry also earned a paralegal degree from Oakland University in 1980 and worked as a paralegal in the office of Wally McLay from 1980-1988.

Gerry enjoyed international travel, including trips with Sandy to South America and to Thailand to visit Scott in the Peace Corps, and more recently to Russia and Germany and the Galapagos Islands.

Gerry loved the piano (Kendal residents will remember her "Sing Along With Gerry" song fests) and tennis and nature; the Kennedys and Glenn Miller; her Iowa and Nebraska families. Her legacies continue through the work and passions of her children and her grandchildren.

When she was once asked how she would like to be remembered, she responded,

I hope my two children and three grandchildren will remember me as a person who has always been grateful for the joys of my life and who encouraged a sense of responsibility toward the rest of the world.

Gerry was preceded in death by her husband, Sandy in 1979, and is survived by her daughter Marilyn in Lincoln, Nebraska; her son Scott and his wife Terry in Iowa City, Iowa; grandsons Kirk (Abby) and Darren in Iowa City; and granddaughter Anna in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Friends Service Committee, the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the Peace and National Priorities Center of Oakland County, MI.