



Miss Mary Toole Parker

June 17, 1914 - February 24, 2012

Mary Toole Parker, 97, died February 24 at the house on Charlotte Street that had been her family's home since 1867. She was born in Asheville on June 17, 1914. Miss Parker, who was a noted citizen of Asheville and was designated one of the city's Living Treasures in 2011, participated in the founding and growth of many Asheville organizations and was known for her encyclopedic knowledge of its history. She was the last of seven Parker brothers and sisters in her generation, many of them also distinguished professionals and volunteers. For most of her adult life, she worked as sales promotion director at the downtown Bon Marché Department Store. During WWII, Miss Parker volunteered for relief projects to aid Europe. In 1947, she was a founding member of the Asheville chapter of the League of Women Voters, remaining active with them for forty years. In the 1950s, she became a member of the Friends of the Library, serving twice as their president and winning the 1990 NC Public Library Directors' Association Library Friend of the Year Award. She also served on the board of the YWCA, working with their Phyllis Wheatley Branch to foster friendships among women of different racial backgrounds. She was also involved with the Colburn Mineral Museum, Common Cause, Memorial Mission Hospital Auxiliary, and Pisgah Legal Services, to name only a few. Miss Parker was a lifelong member of Trinity Episcopal Church. She touched many lives and generations and will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM, Saturday, March 3, 2012 at Trinity Episcopal Church with Rev. Carol Hubbard officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to any of the following: the McLeod and Nancy Patton Outreach Fund of Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church Street, Asheville, NC 28801, YWCA of Asheville, 185 S. French Broad Ave., Asheville, NC 28801, the Asheville Buncombe Library Trust Fund, 67 Haywood Street, Asheville, NC 28801 or the Asheville Friends of the Library, 67 Haywood Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

53 Birch Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Previous Events

Service

MAR 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Episcopal Church
60 Church Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Tribute Wall



“ *Miss Mary Toole Parker*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Rest in peace, Mary. You are an amazing, talented, intelligent woman who grew up in an amazing time and place. Your stamp, and that of your whole family, is on so many areas of life in Asheville as we know it today. Thank you for all of it. But mostly I thank you for what you meant to me personally. While I do not believe you appreciated the word "mentor" that is what you are to me and so many others. I have missed you over the past 10 years since our paths no longer crossed. But your incredible spirit is a part of me -- what a gift.*

Try not to give God such a hard time, but straighten a few things out down here if you achieve the influence.

Deborah Compton - March 01, 2012 at 08:52 AM



“ *We are remembering Mary's incredible mind and spirit and keeping everyone who loved her in our thoughts and prayers. We'll feel privileged to have known her.*

*With sympathy,
Kathleen O. and Jeff Davis
Mills River, N.C.*

Kathleen O. and Jeff Davis - February 27, 2012 at 09:10 AM