

May 11, 2010

Katherine Kessel Burdette

Katherine Kessel Burdette, 89, of Ripley passed away Sunday, May 9, 2010, at Jackson General Hospital.

She was born April 18, 1921, in Charleston and was a daughter of the late Dr. Ray and Kate Miller Kessel.

She was a 1938 graduate of Charleston High School and then went on to attend Duke and WVU. She relocated to Logan, where she and her husband resided for 39 years and raised their family after she had the distinction of being the first woman to work the news desk at the Charleston Daily Mail. She was a member of Chi Omega, Kappa Tau Alpha, and the National Scholastic Journalism Honorary. She also served as president of the Black Diamond Girl Scout Council and she was an avid bridge player and world traveler. She was also a member of Epworth United Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Willis L. Burdette; and brother, Dr. Ray M. Kessel.

She is survived by her daughters, Ann (David) Justice of Huntington, Sarah (David) White of Burke, Va., Nancy Dalesio of Ripley and Mary Louise (Rory) Kelly of Fairfax, Va.; grandchildren, Kate Justice, Melinda (Jason) Taylor, Christopher White, Molly White, Meredith (Nick) Colberg, Cole Dalesio and Daniel (Amanda) Kelly; four great-grandchildren; sister, Geraldine Kessel of Morgantown; sister-in-law, Barbara Edgar Kessel of Raleigh, N.C.; niece, Kim Kessel of Huntington; nephews, Dr. James W. (Donna) Kessel of Morgantown, Mark Kessel of Evanston, Ill., and Dr. John (Shelia) Kessel of Hickory, N.C.; and double first cousins, Jenny K. Cross of Atlanta, Ga., and Polly (Dr. James T.) Hughes of Ripley.

Service will be 11 a.m. Thursday, May 13, at Epworth United Methodist Church with the Rev. Terry Deane officiating. Burial will follow in Pine Hill Cemetery, Ripley.

Friends may call from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Waybright Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Epworth United Methodist Church, 299 North Church St., Ripley WV 25271, or the P.I. Reed School of Journalism, c/o WVU, P.O. Box 6010, Morgantown, WV 26506-6010.