



## Mary Margaret Gordon Woods

January 31, 1923 - April 30, 2017

Mary Gordon Woods, 94, of Alexandria, died Sunday, April 30, at the Virginian retirement community in Fairfax, VA.

Born January 31, 1923, Mary Margaret was the third of six children of Ruth Green Gordon and Glenn H. Gordon, of Urbana-Champaign, IL. From childhood she manifested curiosity and ambition, along with the family traits of determination and stubbornness. Mary spent her early years on the family farm and attended Urbana's University Laboratory High School. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa with degrees in French and library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she moved to Washington in 1944 to work on Japanese code-breaking for the military. Two years later, she met a dashing ex-Naval officer, Carroll Henry Woods, fondly known as Woody, whom she married on January 18, 1947. The couple eventually had four children -- Stephen, Laurel, Tina, and Christopher. During Woody's career in the Foreign Service, they lived in the Washington area and in various postings around the world, including Moscow; Paris; Georgetown, in what was then British Guiana; and Brussels.

An accomplished linguist who spoke Russian, French, and Spanish, Mary was the quintessential Foreign Service wife in an era when most spouses received little independent recognition. Keenly attuned to current events, she never lost interest in discussing the news of the world. Throughout her life she enjoyed meeting people of all nationalities and engaging in lively conversation with everyone from ambassadors to servers.

Longtime residents of McLean, Mary and Woody moved in the early 1980s to a condominium at Montebello, near Old Town Alexandria. Mary worked as a supervisory librarian for the U. S. Information Agency, retiring in 1985 after 12 years. She and Woody enjoyed traveling and sailing their cabin cruiser, the Woodwind, on the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac as well as on longer trips through the Intracoastal Waterway. Following the death of her husband in 1993, Mary continued living at Montebello and maintained an active life into her 90s. She particularly enjoyed volunteering at the White House correspondence section during the Clinton Administration. She was a lifelong liberal of strong convictions.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and siblings Glenn Gordon, Jr., Jan G. Rutan, Jean G. Boresi, and Donald Gordon.

Survivors include four children and their spouses: Stephen Sumner Woods and Constance Kallman, of Las Cruces, NM; Laurel Woods Bromfield and Gary Bromfield, of Jacksonville, FL; Tina Woods-Smith and Johnson Smith, of Vienna, VA; and Christopher Green Woods and Linda Woods, of Manassas, VA. She also leaves seven grandchildren and their partners: Ryan and Christine Bromfield, of Annville, PA; Lauren Woods Smith and Willard Murray, of Denver, CO; Sarah May Woods Miller and Michael Miller, of Gainesville, VA; Michael Christopher Woods, of Manassas; Juliet Catherine Sumner Woods and Michael Chevalier, of Denver; Zackary Pinner, of Manassas; and Eugenia Faith Woods, of Denver. Mary also leaves a great-grandson, Paul Bromfield, of Annville, PA; a sister, Elizabeth Ruth Gordon Wood, of Nashville, TN; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are pending for services at Arlington National Cemetery.

Entrusted to Jefferson Funeral Chapel, Alexandria, VA.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Margaret Gordon Woods*

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October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Obituary Wall*



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**Jefferson Funeral Chapel** - January 28, 2019 at 09:56 AM