

[From doug@littlefieldunlimited.com]

Joyce G. Littlefield 1923-2009

A memorial celebration mass will be held Tuesday, May 5th, 2009 at 5:00PM at the Cathedral Basilica on Lindell at Newstead in the Central West End, with a reception immediately following at the school gym/cafeteria.

We are celebrating Joyce's long life, so there is no need to wear black. Wear bright spring colors. Joyce would like that.

Thank you all for you kind words and prayers. There is no need to respond.....we are lucky to have so much family in St. Louis for support.

She is survived by her husband, Pete, children Susan, Stephen, David, Lisa, Douglas, her sisters Marilyn Hausel and Carol Krummenacher, ten grandchildren, one great-grandchild and thousands of friends.

As many of you may know, Joyce dove into the role of "professional citizen" in response to neighborhood needs back in the 1950s, and spent most of her career (paid and volunteer) focusing on those things which made neighborhoods better: street lights, crime reduction; redevelopment, stabilization, zoning codes, traffic barricades, volunteer-led neighborhood improvement organizations, all while raising 5 children.

Andy J. Brown (352-8844) claims that "she saved the Central West End". While that might be a bit of exaggeration because Joyce worked alongside many equally dedicated people for that goal, Andy does have a knowledgeable perspective. He was President of the West End Community Conference (north of Delmar) in the 1960s and later Commissioner of the St. Louis Civil Rights Enforcement Agency.

In an era before paid staffs for Community Councils, when many city women could devote almost full-time efforts to civic causes, Joyce led the way in empowering regular citizens to do what needed to be done to make living and raising families in the city a positive experience. Tenaciously. There was kind of a family joke that when they saw her coming into City Hall the line was "give her what she wants and maybe she'll go away". Her favorite tactic was to phone City Hall departments at 8:45 in the morning and 4:45 in the afternoon with her requests.

She retired as Executive VP of (Cervantes') Maryland Plaza Redevelopment Corp in 1990 at age 67. Thought she would relax as a grandmother and traveler after so many years of hard work. Not Joyce. About 10 years ago, she engaged in the neighborhood fight to mitigate the effect of the MetroLink Cross-County expansion down the Forest Park Expressway. She encouraged Clarence Harman to run for Mayor, serving as a key backroom campaign advisor. In her late 70's she even ran for 28th Ward Alderman to highlight the related issue and problems. She lived within 3 blocks of Forest Park all her

life. When the Barnes Hospital purchase of parkland popped up, Joyce came out swinging, despite health issues. She worked closely with Carla Scissors and Ben Senturia to fight for citizen approval before park land sales, and advocate a better deal for the City if the parcel was sold. Those green and white tee-shirts and yard signs were Joyce's idea - so popular they ran out of both. .

She taught at least 3 generations of activists to never give up even if the conventional wisdom said it couldn't be done and never take no for an answer if the cause was a worthy one.

Hope this conveys a little flavor of a smart, courageous and resourceful woman who cared deeply for, her family, her church, her community and the City of St. Louis.

Thanks,

Doug