



Mary Squires LeKander

June 25, 1922 - March 9, 2014

Mary Squires LeKander, a long-time legislative assistant to two U.S. Senators, died peacefully at home in Manassas, VA Sunday, March 9, after a stroke. She was 91. Born Mary Lodica Hopkins in Ogden, Utah, she moved to Washington D.C. with her husband, Richard Squires, in 1952, when he became administrative assistant to newly elected U.S. Rep. Frank Dawson (R-Utah). Squires died in 1961 at the age of 38. Now a widow with five young children, she was hired by Sen. Wallace F. Bennett in 1962 to work part-time in the “robo room;” she was quickly promoted to increasingly responsible positions and was Bennett’s legislative assistant when he retired in 1974. She then became legislative assistant to his successor, Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah. Mary retired in 1975 when she married Gilbert A. LeKander, who died in 1987. A long-time Manassas resident, she resumed studying art and won several juried competitions for her collages and watercolors. She was a member of the Haymarket Garden Club and Sudley Methodist Church. She leaves five children with her first husband: Rebecca Squires (Richard Hobson), Alexandria; Judith Strachan (David), Alexandria; Richard Squires, Washington; John Squires (Beverly Bigbee), Honolulu; and Nancy Costello (Carl), Falls Church. She also leaves seven grandchildren: Will Gullickson, Sarah Tope, Matt Strachan, Chloe Squires, Mary, Gil and Emily Costello, and three great-grandchildren, (Zoe, Max & Ben). A descendent of Utah pioneers, Mary graduated magna cum laude from the University of Utah. A memorial service will be held later this spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions

may be made to SOME (So Others Might Eat), Washington, DC, www.some.org.