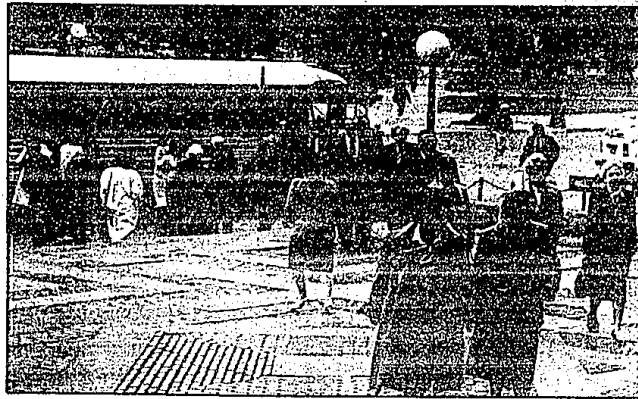




Nathan Power, 5, enters the memorial service on the shoulders of his father, Philip Power, chairman of the board of Suburban Communications Corp., the parent company of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.



Above, University of Michigan professor Sallianne Payton (center left) was among those offering tributes to the late Sarah Goddard Power. Payton is shown entering Hill Auditorium, where the memorial service was held Friday. At left, Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths and Michigan first lady Paula Blanchard arrive at the memorial service for Sarah Power on the arm of Gov. James Blanchard.



Staff photos
by Art Emanuele

Power's dedication, warmth remembered

By Wayne Peal
staff writer

University and governmental officials praised University of Michigan Regent Sarah Goddard Power as a trusted friend and principled public official during a memorial service Friday at Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor.

Speakers recalled Power's loyalty — both in personal and professional relationships — and her tenacity in fighting for social justice.

"She was willing to mix it up for her beliefs," Gov. James Blanchard said. "But she never dwelled on people's feelings. She always took the time to tell you when you did something well."

U-M President Harold Shapiro valued Power a steadfast defender of the university and its presidency. "Sarah Power was part of the very texture of our university and community. She helped us all weave the rich and satisfying fabric that is our life. We thank her family for allowing us to share this moment with them," Shapiro said.

"WHAT WILL I remember about her? Loyalty, laughter, flowers. Sarah was fiercely loyal to her family, her values, her friends, social commitments, higher education and the University of Michigan. No one was more protective of the office of president and its current occupant," Shapiro added.

'What will I remember about her? Loyalty, laughter, flowers.'

— Harold Shapiro
president,
University of Michigan

Shapiro recalled that Power, an avid gardener, frequently gave flowers to friends.

"The flowers she often distributed to friends and neighbors were symbolic of her reaching out to others. The Powers' flowers always seemed deeper and more vibrant — a reflection of their personal care," Shapiro said.

Speakers also recalled Power's generosity and compassion. "Sarah was on the short list of people you would call when you needed help," U-M professor Sallianne Payton said.

The governor extended his "deepest, heartfelt sympathy" to Power's husband, Philip, publisher of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers, and the couple's 5-year-old son. Nathan Power attended the service at his father's side.

Several mourners — including Paula Blanchard — repeatedly wiped away tears during the 90-minute, Episcopal service.

OFFICIATING AT the service were the Revs. Harvey H. Guthrie Jr. and Svea Gray and the Venerable Carolyn Irish.

The memorial service was held on the same stage where Power had appeared four days earlier during an anti-racism rally featuring the Rev. Jesse Jackson. The appearance was her last public act as a regent.

Shapiro, who also attended the Monday rally, called Power "upbeat" about its results and said Power asked him to stroll the campus with her afterward.

"Her first thoughts were for me. Her second were for the university and its protection," Shapiro said. He added Power told him she would like to see the university move aggressively to improve relations with minority students.

As of Friday, there was no word on when the governor would appoint a successor.

"There has been no action," a governor's office spokeswoman said. "The governor is waiting until an appropriate time. Both he and Mrs. Blanchard were very dear friends of the Powers."

Russel and Wendell Goddard, Mrs. Power's brothers, read from the Bible and the works of author John Donne. Family friend John D'Arms read from the works of poet Gerard Manley Hopkins on Philip Power's behalf.

SUPREME COURT Justice Dennis Archer, economist Peter Eckstein, former Wayne County prosecutor Elliott Hall and Barbara Aicello Tucker, Mrs. Power's personal secretary, were among those serving as ushers.

Speaking for family members, Margery Goddard Whiteman termed her sister a devoted wife and mother. Calling her sister a complex individual, Whiteman also attempted to put the events surrounding Power's death in perspective.

"There was a part of Sarah even her family did not understand," she said.

Whiteman called upon the more than 2,000 mourners to "celebrate" Power's life while searching "to understand her sudden and violent death."

Power fell to her death Tuesday from Burton Tower, on the university's Ann Arbor campus. Medical officials termed the death a suicide.

Services closed with the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Outside, students darted to class through an early spring shower.



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Detroit Tigers owner Thomas Monaghan, left, extends his sympathy to Eugene Power, father-in-law of University of Michigan Regent Sarah Goddard Power.