

Former U-M regent lived life to the hilt

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A vigorous woman who devoted herself to many causes, Irene Ellis Murphy stayed involved, whether it was setting up social programs overseas, or in politics and community events.

The 89-year-old Democratic activist and longtime Birmingham resident and businesswoman died Monday morning of kidney failure at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. She most recently lived in Farmington Hills.

Murphy "didn't want a funeral of any kind — she wanted a party," said Sharon Murphy Keyes of Birmingham, her only daughter. Keyes said a memorial service would be planned to include Murphy's many

'Irene lived a life of whirlwind activity and constant service.'

— U-M Regent Philip Power
chairman of Suburban Communications

friends and admirers. Murphy donated her body to science.

"Irene lived a life of whirlwind activity and constant service," said U-M Regent Philip Power, chairman of Suburban Communications, which publishes the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He knew Murphy all his life.

"She was a competent and efficient regent of the U-M and she was an actively engaged member of the Birmingham community — a city

which she dearly loved all her life," Philip Power said.

Power sat on the U-M Board of Regents with Murphy when she served from 1977 to 1986. "She was a very civic-minded, sympathetic individual," he said. "She was progressive, a liberal regent."

SINCE OCTOBER of 1987, Murphy lived at the American House, an independent living retirement residence in Farmington Hills, where she was remembered as being always active. "She was an individual and did her thing," said activities director Carol Hamilton. "She made life very interesting around here."

One American House resident recalled that Murphy would take a taxi to Troy each Thursday, where she participated in a discussion group with Rabbi Sherwin Wine of the Birmingham Temple, who became a close friend. She also had daily chats with residents after lunch, where she would share stories of her life.

Murphy came from a family of self-proclaimed "revolutionaries." She was born in Indiana, raised as a Methodist, and spent her school years in Detroit and Ann Arbor.

After marrying Harold Murphy, she became involved with the all-encompassing lives of the Irish-Cath-

olic Murphys, which included her brother-in-law Frank Murphy — a judge, mayor of Detroit, governor of Michigan, governor General of the Philippines, U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

Because of Frank Murphy's association with the Philippine Islands, Irene Murphy spent much time there, where she became involved in the freedom movement and was a major force in developing cottage industry in the 1950s. She also founded Irene Murphy Imports to market the village products manufactured there and earned her living through that company until three years ago, her daughter said.

ALSO IN THE PHILIPPINES, she served as deputy director of war relief for a year in 1945 and was a United Nations social affairs officer there from 1947 through 1950. She stopped going back in 1973 when former ruler Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law.

Murphy maintained that worldly view, offering her home and hospitality to 25 Russian scholars visiting the U.S. in 1961. One of these, Leo Kostikov, had a reunion with Murphy in 1983, recalling his feelings.

"I came to this country absolutely alone, without (speaking the language)," he said. "But Mrs. Murphy very carefully took care of it. She did it in a genteel way. Her house became our home."

"It is because of her that I love this country and understand the people of this country."

Despite her many overseas interests, Murphy was also community-minded.



The photo

Longtime Birmingham resident Irene Ellis Murphy, pictured here in 1978, was known throughout the world as a champion for social causes. She died Monday at the age of 89.

She worked toward establishing low-income housing for seniors in Birmingham, and was always concerned about the local environment.

She also spent time in local protests in Shalo Park in Birmingham and Washington, D.C., getting her a spot in the "Red Squad" files — political surveillance tools used by the Michigan State Police from the 1950s through 1970s.

When the existence of these files

was brought out through the court system, she commented "they're entitled to investigate crime, but not political opinion."

Through most of her adult life in Birmingham, she lived with her sister in a house designed in the 1940s by architect Wallace Frost.

Murphy is survived by her daughter, Sharon Murphy Keyes, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

WE AREN'T COMFORTABLE UNTIL YOU ARE



1 1/2 TON 18,000 BTU Model #38170

Only \$1150

Prices based on adequate electrical supply. Delivery, installation and air charge.

SPECIALIZING IN PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

FREE ESTIMATES

842-4855
895-4855

SPECIAL SAVINGS ON

- HUMIDIFIERS • ELECTRONIC AIR CLEANERS
- AIR CONDITIONING • SET BACK THERMOSTATS

• 24 HOUR SERVICE

• RADIO DISPATCHED TRUCKS

Air Conditioning Cleaning and Tune-Up Special

10 pt. Check and Oil Motor \$38.00

Clean Condensing Coil

WITH COUPON • EXPIRES 8-31-89

FREE EDISON Interrupted Service Installed With Purchase Of 1/2 TON Air Conditioning WITH COUPON • EXPIRES 8-31-89

ANDERSEN WINDOWS

Building a Home? Remodeling? Replacing your worn out windows? WE HAVE THE ANSWERS FOR YOU!


Come home to quality... Andersen

Quality Window Center

24023 ANN ARBOR TRAIL 382 S. TELEGRAPH
S.W. Corner of Telegraph • Dearborn, Mich. 681-6290
274-4144

HOURS: M-F 8:30-5, SAT. 9-1

DAZZLE THEM WITH YOUR SMILE



By using the latest cosmetic and bonding techniques, we can painlessly correct problems like spaces between teeth, chips, cracks, discoloration — often in just one visit. Don't let a simple repair stand between you and the smile you've always wanted. Call today for a convenient appointment.

LEON T. FOGEL, D.D.S.
DOUGLAS D. FOGEL, D.D.S.
20100 W. 12 Mile Rd. • Southfield, MI.
353-5010

"BARGAIN BASEMENT PRICES ON QUALITY HOME FURNISHINGS."



Quantities limited. All merchandise subject to prior sale.

house of denmark

CLEARANCE Center

ONLY AT Kaseo Harbor 2225 Orchard Lake Rd. (1 Mile North of Long Lake Rd.) 882-7000

A \$165 Value Clearance Center \$87 EA. or 3 for \$249! 70" X 30" X 11 1/2"

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

DOLL HOSPITAL 20% OFF

Practically Everything STOREWIDE!

The Doll Hospital & Toy Sellen Shop

OVER 4000 ITEMS TO CHOOSE FROM

BEAT THE HOLIDAY CROWDS THE KIDS!

3947 W. 12 Mile • Berkley • 243-3118
Mon. - Sat. 10-6 • Fri. 10-7

ROLL INTO BROSE FOR THE GIANT TRUCK LOAD

CASABLANCA FAN COMPANY SALE!



PUT ON YOUR SEATBELT AND DRIVE TO BROSE! CASABLANCA IS CELEBRATING ITS SUMMER TRUCK LOAD SALE. NO MATTER WHAT STYLE OR COLOR YOU NEED TO SUIT YOUR DECOR, YOU'LL FIND IT AT BROSE. CASABLANCA IS UNMATCHED IN PERFORMANCE AND ELEGANCE.

Prices Start At \$189⁹⁵

Sale lasts 10 days only!

Lighting Fixtures For Every Decor • Wiring Supplies and Light Bulbs

BROSE ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.

37400 W. 7 MILE ROAD LIVINGSTON, MI 48152 • (313) 464-2211

MON. - TUES. WED. 9-5 • THURS. 9-3 • FRI. 9-5

Kaufmann Vinyl Windows

A Division of the Marshall Noecker Group

Announces

Vinyl Replacement Window Month

Call us for an authorized dealer in your area. 893 - 4830

Celebrating

Our 52nd Year as a Michigan Company

Over 5 Million windows sold

Ford Glass

All products are manufactured in Michigan