



## THE PONCA CITY NEWS

PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA

### Patricia Rose Jacques Gay

Long time Ponca City resident and Kay County native Patricia J. Gay died at her home in Columbus, Ga., on Aug. 21, 2008. She was 89.

She was born Patricia Rose Jacques in Uncas on July 27, 1919. She was the daughter of Dorothy Chester Chapin and George Maynard Jacques. She attended Uncas and Ponca City schools, graduating from Ponca City Senior High School at the age of 15 in 1935. She attended Northern Oklahoma Community College in Tonkawa often riding a milk truck or hitch hiking to classes. She completed her undergraduate education with a bachelor's degree in journalism, graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 1941.

While traveling to her first professional job in Altus, she heard the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. For Pat, as she was called, wartime service consisted of a Civil Service job writing radar manuals for the then Army Air Corps at Wright Field (now Wright Patterson Air Force Base) in Dayton, Ohio. While there she met and married her husband, Richard Lewis Gay of Keene, N.H. They were married for 33 years until his death on Jan. 11, 1976.

The Gay family settled in Ponca City in 1952 when Mr. Gay was employed by the Internal Revenue Service. The family lived at 219 Virginia Avenue until Mrs. Gay moved away in 1995.

The late Mrs. Gay was involved in many civic and religious activities. In 1968 she was regent of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Under her leadership the chapter published a second edition of *The Last Run* for the commemoration of the Cherokee Strip's 75th anniversary. Mrs. Gay was also an active member of the American Association of University Women, chair of the board for the Northern Oklahoma Youth Services Center and Shelter, and a board member of Peachtree Landing Shelter. For several years she chaired and planned fundraising dinners for the shelter that were held at Grace Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Gay was a devout and lifelong Episcopalian. She and her family were members of Grace Episcopal Church. She was also a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Saint Marys, Ga. While at Grace she assisted in the founding of a local chapter of The Daughters of the King, an Episcopal women's devotional order. She also founded a chapter in Saint Marys. She participated in the local activities of Episcopal Church Women, later serving a term as state ECW president. Other activities at Grace consisted of vestry membership, Altar Guild work and Sunday school



teacher. Mrs. Gay also wrote many publicity pieces about the church, working closely with The Ponca City News religion editor Marge Decker.

Mrs. Gay remained a journalist at the end of her life, actively writing newspaper stories for local groups wherever she lived.

In 1995 Pat moved away from Ponca City to live in Saint Marys, Ga. While there she was active with the local Episcopal Church, a newcomers group, and the DAR. She was a volunteer with the Navy Relief Society and the Camden County Health Center Medical Auxiliary.

For much of the past year she live in Columbus, Ga.

She is survived by a brother, Chapin Barber Jacques of Sulphur, La.; and her four children, Dr. Pamela Gay, PhD. of Montgomery, Ala., Mrs. Sarah Wilton of Silver Spring, Md., Edward M. Gay of Kingsland, Ga., and Ms. Jennifer G. Eckel of Alexandria, Va. Other survivors include six grandchildren, two step grandchildren, and three step great-grandchildren.

A Requiem Eucharist and interment will be offered at Grace Episcopal Church on Saturday Sept. 6, at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers the family request contributions to the Grace Episcopal Memorial fund, or the American Lung Association.

*paid obituary*

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**Published Thu, Sep 4, 2008, On Page 3 A**

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