

Longtime El Paso floral artist of national fame dies

By Sandra Valdez Gerdes
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Dorothy Geyer, 88, a nationally known artist and longtime El Pasoan known for her paintings of flowers, died Tuesday morning.

Geyer, born in Baltimore on Oct. 7, 1909, was a mainstay of El Paso's visual-arts community for more than 55 years, creating mainly watercolors, oils and greeting cards.

She died of natural causes in her sleep about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday at White Acres

Nursing Center, where she was being treated for a broken shoulder, said her son, Audian Paxson.

Geyer is survived by Paxson and her two other sons, David Paxson and 210th District Judge Sam Paxson, 12 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Geyer began painting as a



Geyer

child. She was Burges High School's first art teacher, spent years substitute teaching, taught painting at the El Paso Museum of Art and lectured throughout the United States. Her paintings have been shown all over the country and have won many awards.

Geyer was featured in the "Texas Women Painters from 1900-1960" exhibit, and on her 80th birthday her sons started the Dorothy Geyer Art Education Fund to help struggling artists.

Mary Sample Davis, a

good friend of Geyer's, said Geyer's death is a great loss to the art world and to everyone else.

"She was probably the youngest 88-year-old woman I've ever known. She had an irrepressible sense of humor," Davis said.

The funeral will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in Zion Lutheran Church, 2800 Pershing. Burial will follow in Fort Bliss National Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Dorothy Geyer Art Education Fund to help artists in financial need.