

MONICA HUNTER

A 'Doer' For Others

by Lenore Harris Hughes
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Monica Armstrong Hunter, a philanthropist who always found time to help others, died May 2 - one day before her 79th birthday.

"She was a doer," said her son, Frank Hunter Jr., a photography teacher at Oglethorpe College in Atlanta, Ga. "She did things for people all of her life."

Monica was born in 1918, in Pittsburgh, Penn. "Her grandmother, Alta Fulton Wiley, was the first woman medical doctor in Western Pennsylvania," said her daughter, Monica.

"And my mother also was an example of one who spent a lifetime learning. Wherever she was, whatever she did, research was a part of it."

She graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, Mass., and went to work for the personnel-training staff at Macy's in New York City.

There she met Peter de Wetter, who would become mayor of El Paso and Lt. Frank Hunter of the U.S. Navy.

Frank and Monica were married Aug. 24, 1945. In 1946 they moved to El Paso.

Frank started a law practice later known as Edwards, Belk, Hunter and Kern.

Monica became active in the Girl Scouts, helping with the first cookie drive in El Paso and serving as vice-president of the Girl Scout Council.

"When my parents divorced in 1964, mother became director of the Mary L. Peyton Foundation," said her daughter. "She enjoyed participating in the organization, which offered funds to individuals who could not qualify for other services."

Sheryl McCown, a friend and co-worker said, "through the Peyton Foundation Monica became involved in the Conference of Southwest Foundations. At the time, El Paso



did not have a Community Foundation. Monica formed a steering committee and introduced the idea. Working quietly behind the scenes, it became a reality.

"She was a rare gem. She had a zest for life and loved people."

"Monica was an instigator - a leader and a supporter, always a participant in life and what it had to offer," said her friend, Sugar Goodman.

Monica attended the Pan American Round Table. She was a recent president of Chapter M of the P.E.O., a board member of the El Paso Historical Society, participated in the Coronado High School PTA, elder in the First Presbyterian Church, past president of the auxiliary to the El Paso Bar Association devoted to the El Paso Museum of Art and the YWCA.

Early in the 1980s, Monica became Activities Director at White Acres Retirement Center. She retired in June 1993.

Each summer she traveled to Douglas Lake in northern Michigan, where a stone cottage that had belonged to the family for five generations, and provide needed recreation.

She requested that her ashes be scattered at the lake.

A memorial service was held at First Presbyterian Church May 17.

She is survived by her husband, Greg; daughter, Monica Schneider; and son, Frank Hunter Jr.; two sisters, Sally Geisler and Lucy Davis; and three grandchildren.

Her grandson Bruce Schneider said, "She devoted her life to enriching the lives of others by impressing them with the value of learning."

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