

KATHYRN W. PATCH 1925-2010

Kathryn W. Patch, 84, a retired estates and trusts lawyer who after college had been a field agent and then intelligence analyst with the U.S. Department of State, died Tuesday, Feb. 2, in Linden, Mich., after an extended illness.

Born Kathryn Virginia Woodward in Port Washington, N.Y., the youngest of four children, she graduated Wellesley College in 1946 with a major in French where she studied under author Vladimir Nabokov. She then went to work with the State Department, officially as a foreign-service secretary, but also attached to the Office of Special Operations, which would later become the Central Intelligence Agency. She was posted to several European and South American embassies during this stage of her career. She later became an intelligence analyst and operations instructor at Langley.

During her time in Washington, she began taking night classes at Georgetown Law School, then left the Agency for her final year of legal studies and graduated in 1961. Kay was the first female associate hired by international law firm Coudert Brothers where she worked in Paris and Manhattan specializing in estates and trusts. In 1979, she established a private practice in Pelham, N.Y., that she maintained until 1982, when her husband, Howard R. Patch, Jr., retired and moved their family to Old Lyme, Conn. There, Mrs. Patch worked part-time as the town's zoning enforcement officer for a period of years.

Mrs. Patch was a director emeritus with the Oratorio Society of New York, with which she sang tenor for several decades and then served on the Board of Directors. She had been active with several other choral groups during the course of her life, including the founding of a group, Con Brio, in Connecticut. In her younger years she raced sailboats competitively, and she and Mr. Patch also served for years on the race committee of The Corinthians.

She married Mr. Patch on Jan. 6, 1965, and he died in 1992.

She is survived by her sons, David (Davonna) and Benjamin (Ellen) Patch, and three grandchildren, Benjamin, Emily and Jane Patch. Also surviving in the family are the children of Mr. Patch who are Thomas, Anthony and Peter Patch.

There will be no calling hours. A memorial service will begin at 2 p.m. Thursday in St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Old Lyme, Conn. Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to the Oratorio Society, to the Humane Society of New York, or to an animal-welfare agency of the donor's choice.