

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory

State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903

Lot Number: 106 Space: A

Find A Grave # 16004383

Name: **Gates, Rebecca (Becky) Jane T. Buchanan Twilley**

Birth date: November 16, 1932 Death date: September 27, 2006 Burial Date: Oct. 1, 2006 Age: 73

Spouse: Josh Marion Twilley (1928-2005) m. Jan. 3, 1953; Joseph Emmanuel Gates (1934-2018)

Children: Stephanie *Twilley* Seeman; Linda *Twilley* Scott; Jeffrey M. Twilley; Edgar M. Twilley

Parents: Edgar Willard "Buck" Buchanan and Madaline *Elliot* Buchanan

Siblings:

Residence: Dover, DE

Cause of death/Burial/Obituary: cancer; see next pages

Service/occupation information: see next pages

Officiate: Celeste O. Cox

Lot Owner: Joseph & Rebecca Gates; A & B; May 30, 1981

Marker: Shared with husband

Inscription:

GATES

Rebecca B. T.
Nov. 16, 1932
Sept. 27, 2006

Joseph E.
Dec. 11, 1934
Dec. 13, 2018

DIMENSIONS: H 29" x W 48" x D 12"

STYLE: headstone; "G" cornerstones



Inventory date: April 20, 2020 Recorder: Nancy Quinn

Daughter of Edgar Willard "Buck" and Madaline Elliott Buchanan.

Wife of Joseph E. Gates II.

Mother of Stephanie Twilley Seeman, Linda Twilley Scott, Jeffrey M. Twilley, and Edgar M. Twilley.

She graduated from Dover High School in 1950 and attended Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., the University of Delaware in Newark, and Boston University in Massachusetts. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Delaware State College (now University), Dover, after her children had grown and begun careers of their own.

Mrs. Gates' lifetime commitment to public service was demonstrated not only through her political commitments, but also through her professional life. She was an insurance investigator for the Delaware Insurance Department from 1987 to 1994. She was the director for Project F.A.R. (Freshmen Attrition Reduction) for Delaware State College from 1983 to 1987. Additionally, she was the program and planning specialist and regional coordinator for the eastern United States for the White House Conference on Families from 1978 to 1980. In 1975, she was the legislative liaison for the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, and was legislative assistant to the House Minority Leader in the House of Representatives for the Delaware General Assembly from 1969 to 1970.

While many knew her from any of a number of organizational and community commitments, whether in a political, religious or community-service forum, all who knew her realized her commitment to her family. Mrs. Gates would use any excuse for a family dinner for a chance to gather all her loving children and grandchildren in one place. When she was no longer able to host the family Thanksgiving, Christmas and birthday meals that were so important to her for the traditions they represented with her family, those traditions were carried on at her daughters' homes, and she arrived in her wheelchair, being carried over the steps or wheeled in on ramps built just for her.

She loved the beach and would go to great lengths to arrange schedules so that everyone could come to the beach house with her and husband Joe, even the dogs. And when she could no longer walk to the shore, sand wheelchairs were brought in for a try.

Mrs. Gates was a Dame Grand Officer of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. She served as historian of the Priory of the Delaware, and a delegate to the London Grand Convent of 1995, which initiated the reorganization of the order.

Her efforts for the Democratic Party in Kent County began with the Young Democrats in the early 1960s, when she served as secretary and a national delegate. She was always ready to do the basics of campaigning - literature drops, phone banks, event planning - but her heart was in developing issues for the party and its candidates. She passionately advocated for issues of equality based on her faith, her family and her belief that ordinary women and men could make a difference. Her service as national committeewoman led her to work for a party reorganization plan that would open the party to all. An early supporter of Jimmy Carter for president, she served as the co-chair for his campaign in Delaware.

After Carter's election, she served in Washington, D.C., as a program and planning specialist for the White House Conference of Families. She returned to Dover and served as a member of the 32nd District Committee for years, opening the home she shared with her husband for party meetings and fund-raisers. Her living room has been a regular stop for new candidates seeking sage advice.

Even though breast cancer struck almost 15 years ago, she never let it slow down her party efforts. When she and Joe recently moved into the 31st District, she was elected secretary of the 31st District Committee despite being confined to a wheelchair. She was proud of a lifetime as a devoted Delaware Democrat.

She was honored with the Kent County Distinguished Service Award by the Democratic Party of Delaware at the 2006 Jefferson Jackson Award Dinner. While she was always happy to give her all to the Democratic Party, her heart and soul were committed to her faith. It was this faith, combined with her incredible sense of determination that allowed her to survive her illness as long as she did. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Dover and sang in the choir for 25 years.

She later became an active member of the congregation at Christ Episcopal Church, and sang in this choir for more than 30 years. She was a chairwoman of the National Resolution Committee of the American Baptist Convention from 1965 to 1969. Consistent with her commitment to the arena of public service, she was the past chairwoman and member of the legislative committee and lobbyist for the Delaware State Council of Churches from 1964 to 1970.

Mrs. Gates' commitment to her community went beyond the walls of Legislative Hall and the church. She had been the vice chairwoman of the Dover Century Club from 1998 to 2000, and had put in many years of service to the club. She was a gubernatorial appointee to the Delaware State Human Relations Commission from 1969 to 1977. She also served for many years on the Delaware State Board of Geriatric Services.

Mrs. Gates also received awards from the Brain Injury Foundation, Delaware Association; the Superwoman Award from the National Organization of Women; and Geriatric Services. She received a civil-rights award and was named an Outstanding Young Woman of America.

Morn. News. 1.1.1953
**Couple To Live
In Boston After
Bermuda Visit**

**Rebecca Buchanan Be-
comes Bride of J. M.
Twilley**

The wedding of Miss Rebecca Jane Buchanan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar W. Buchanan of Dover, to Mr. Joshua Marion Twilley, son of Rrs. Robert A. Garton of Dover and the late Dr. Joshua Marion Twilley, was held Saturday in the First Baptist Church, Dover.

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence T. Slaght, pastor, officiated at the double ring ceremony.

Prior to the ceremony, Miss Frances Bartley of Dover and New York City sang.

Mrs. Leona Heaps Kelley, church organist played the wedding music.

During the ceremony, a quartet composed of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Englehart, Wyoming, Del., Mrs. William J. Storey and Mr. Palmer Chappelle of Dover, sang.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a satin and tulle dress topped by a satin redingote with a full train and embroidered with appliqued velvet flowers outlined with sequins and pearls. Her chapel-length illusion veil fell from a bonnet-shaped cap. She carried a white Bible trimmed with a white orchid and stephanotis.

Attending the bride as maid of honor was Miss Geraldine Dye of Dover. Bridesmaids were Miss Anne Herbst, Miss Ellender Tuller, Miss Nancy Stewart and Miss Ann Marker, all of Dover; Miss Elinor Averre of San Jose, Costa Rica, Miss Sarah Ann Blalock of Wilson, N. C., and Miss Roberta Addy of South Acton, Mass.

The bridesmaids were gowned alike in emerald green dresses of full-skirted net and velvet. They wore gold lace mitts and gold slippers and carried sprays of holly and poinsetta blossoms. Their headdresses were bands of holly.

The maid of honor wore a red dress of the same design and carried variegated holly and white poinsetta blossoms.

Miss Sally T. Pottage of Crewe, Va., cousin of the bride, was junior bridesmaid. She wore a floor-length red velvet dress and carried a holly and poinsetta spray.

Mr. Twilley had as his best man, Mr. David D. Brown III of New York City. Ushers were Mr. Craig K. Zane, Rockville, Conn., Mr. Homer K. Dolan, Casper, Wyo., Mr. Andy B. Clements, Jr., and Mr. Richard Sutton, both of Dover, and Mr. James R. Schlesinger, Mr. Stanley Nissel, and Mr. David C. Thomas, all of New York City.

Master James Dunn of Camden,

cousin of the bridegroom, was junior usher. Master Billy Englehart of Wyoming was ring bearer.

The mother of the bride wore a grey tulle dress with lace applique outlined with iridescent sequins, grey accessories, and coral velvet hat. She wore a corsage of coral tea roses.

Mrs. Garton, mother of the bridegroom, was gowned in blue lace with blue accessories with corsage of red camellias.

Mrs. John M. Elliott, Sr., maternal grandmother of the bride, chose a gown of navy crepe with pink hat and a corsage of pink carnations.

A reception was held following the ceremony in the Century Club on The Green.

Assisting at the reception were Miss Eleanor Lee Paradee, Miss Joanne Holt, Miss Elaine Davis, Miss Shirley Dunn, Miss Marlene Keith, and Miss Suzanne Davis. Senior hostesses were: Mrs. William J. Storey, Mrs. W. G. Davis, Mrs. F. Kenneth Tuller, Mrs. E. V. Keith, and Mrs. Frank Swain.

Pouring at the tea table was: Mrs. Mark A. Pottage of Crewe, Va., aunt of the bride. Mrs. O. A. Bartley presided at the punch bowl, assisted by Mrs. J. Graham Stewart.

The bride's cake was cut and served by Mrs. Walter E. Holt and Mrs. J. Allen Frear, Jr.

After a honeymoon in Bermuda, the couple will resume their studies in Boston where Mr. Twilley is in his final year at Harvard Law School. Mrs. Twilley is a junior at Boston University.

