

Community Mourns Homeless Advocate

Kay Vives, Advocate for the people is sorely missed

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The Piedmont is quietly mourning the death of its most outspoken advocate for homeless people. Activist Kay Vives, 55, died Oct. 16 at her sister's home in Charlotte. As a Legal Aid Society receptionist for 15 years, Vives regularly came in contact with the city's voiceless, and soon became the city's most outspoken advocate for the homeless. She was a regular at city hall, often taking the podium to remind bureaucrats that men, women and children were sleeping on street corners and crowding the city's meager emergency shelter facilities.

The community will long mourn the woman who is described by those who knew her as "a tireless warrior for the underdog...the moving force of the homeless movement in the city...not just a foot soldier, but a major general for those who are without power."

Last week a memorial service for Vives was held at the Bethesda Center for the Homeless. She was buried in Charlotte.

Hazel Mack, a Legal Aid attorney who worked with her, remembered the first time she met Vives.

"We met across a fence. I was 18, and she was in the women's prison in Raleigh. They (prisoners) had been demonstrating against conditions inside, and people came from all over the state to demonstrate in support of them. She had a rough and turbulent beginning. But all of that helped her never to forget," Mack said.

In the Legal Aid office and in the community, Vives frequently searched for ways to remedy the problems of the homeless.

"She looked out for the little things," Mack said. "She encouraged us to start a fund at the front desk for people who didn't have bus money. When a client died and had no money, she came up with an idea for helping to pay for that, and we began to help with funerals."

Frank McKissick, a C.P.A. and friend to Vives, noted that her concern for the plight of others was endless.



"She did a lot people never knew about," said McKissick. "She was always out there working for the homeless, skipping meals and missing sleep."

Christine Harper-Fahey first met Vives in 1989 in Washington, D.C. when she was with the National Low Income Coalition. It called upon Vives to help organize the march to alert Congress to the plight of the nation's poor. It was one of many events that found Vives at the forefront.

"She was important as a voice," Harper-Fahey said, "truly committed to the needs of the homeless. She spread her message to all kinds of people."

Some worry that Vives left mighty big shoes to fill. But Harper-Fahey has an optimistic view.

"I think there's going to be a hole (left by her absence), but I think she set the stage for those holes to be filled," she says. "It's a matter of people she inspired coming up to the table and carrying on her message."

Vives' family expressed the same sentiment in the memorial program distributed at her funeral.

"Kay cannot be replaced but it is our prayer that someone with Kay's open-hearted sharing and generosity will come forward to continue her strong voice for the homeless and to challenge the powerful and complacent to face the reality of homelessness."

"Our Dear Colleague and Friend, Kay Vives, died at 1:00 a.m., October 16, 1992, at her sister's home in Charlotte, North Carolina. As we all know, Kay lived to help others. She was a tireless warrior for the underdog. Kay was the moving force for the establishment of the homeless movement in Winston-Salem in recent years. This was just one of the many efforts she spearheaded over the years. Kay served as our receptionist for over 15 years. We will miss her."

The Staff of Legal Aid

Why Mel Watt?

"Mel Watt - The New Breed We Need...it's time to elect more Mel Watts, i.e. those who put public service ahead of personal glory." - The Charlotte Post

"...Senator Watt...lays down a challenge to seek unity out of diversity for the good of the state as a whole." - The Winston-Salem Journal

"North Carolina needs the leadership of more men and women like Senator Watt." - The Charlotte Observer

"He's got...the compassion and sense of fairness to make a difference." - The Independent

Mel Watt Will Fight For:

- affordable and accessible health care
- increased support for Education and Headstart
- worker training for the jobs of tomorrow
- community based solutions to crime and drugs

"Few people are as committed to making a difference as Mel Watt. He would certainly be the breath of fresh air that many think our Congress needs."

— Harvey Gantt

From the New 12th, Let's Give 'em Mel.

Paid for by the Melvin Watt for Congress Campaign Committee.

On November 3rd, vote Democratic.

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- Pat and Jim Antoni
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- Zanne Baker
- Phillip and Shelly Banks
- Betty Barnett
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- Zeb Barnhardt
- Jimmy Barnhill
- Annette Beatty
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- Clifton Bell, Jr.
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- Ellen Bonnette
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- Ed Brewer
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- Judith Burns
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- Dr. Thomas Clarke
- George and Alice Cleland
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- John Cleland
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- Keith Clinard
- Judy Cline
- Peggy Cochran
- Bill Cofer
- Buddy Collins
- Tom Comerford
- Mary Alice and Fred Conrad
- Anne Connolly
- Sharon Correll
- Carol Corum
- David Cotterill
- Joan Cotterill
- Butch Covington
- Alan Cox
- Ellen Cox
- Betty Crockett
- Charles Crockett
- Fred Crumpler
- Luellen Curry
- Carol Davis
- Glenn Davis
- Greg and Stephanie Davis
- John and Terri Davis, III
- Joslin Davis
- Linwood Davis
- Clay Dawson
- Patricia Dean

These Community Leaders Have Compared The Qualifications Of The Candidates For District Court Judge. That's Why They Support The Re-Election Of Judge Loretta Biggs.

- Dave DeRamus
Shirley Eaton
John and Betty Earle
Robert Elliot
Joan & Tom Ellis
Marcia and Jerry Epstein
Pat Etheridge
Larry Eubanks
Libba Evans
Fredrick Evans
Yvette Evans
Danny Ferguson
Lawrence Fine
Jack and Martha Flier
Fred Flynt
Forsyth Co. Women Attys.
Patrick Frial
Rhonda Frazier
Bill Freeman
David and Libby Freedman
Billy and Dunza Friende
Leesha Fuller
Lynne Fuller
Jim Gallaher
Sterling Garris
Joe Gatto
Ellen Gelbin
Pansy Glanton
Vickie Goldstein
Nick Gordon
Susan Gottsegen
Anthony Grace
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Grace, III
Mike Grace
Martha Gragg
Michael Gray
Susan Gray
Murray Greason
Catherine Green
Betty Gregg
Lewis P. Gregory, Jr.
Earl and Ann Guill
Marcus and Sally Gulley
Michael Gunter
John W. Hairston Family
Bill and Susan Hammond
Kelley Hancock
F. Borden Hanes, Jr.
Redge Hanes

Republican Attorneys & Former District Court Judges Support Democratic Judge Loretta Biggs

Edward Y. Brewer, Clemmons
Fred P. Flynt, III, Lewisville
Robert K. Leonard, former Judge
A. Lincoln Sherk, former Judge
David R. Tanis, former Judge

A.L. Collins, Kernersville
Joseph J. Gatto, former Judge
Larry G. Reavis, Winston-Salem
Gary B. Tash, former Judge
John G. Wolfe, III, Kernersville

"Believing that the selection of Judges should not be part of the partisan political process, and also believing that a Judge doing a good job deserves to be retained on the bench regardless of political affiliation, we urge voters of both political parties to support the re-election of **Democratic Judge Loretta C. Biggs to the Forsyth County District Court.**"

- Ward and Vicki Miller
Beverly Mitchell
Eddie Mitchell
Stan Mitchell
L. Holmer Moeller
Gwendolyn C. Montgomery
Mary Montgomery
Griffin Morgan
Roger Moringo
Nancy Mundorf
D. Hector McEachern
Peggy Neal
Joe and Joyce Neely
NC Assn. of Women Attys.
Vicki Oakley
Sylvia I. Oberle
Diane B. Oser
Mildred Paden
Ed Parker
Wilson Parker
Carl and Ann Parrish
Ora Lee Payne
Wayne and Judy Peabody
John M. Perkins
Robert Pierce
Alton Pollard
Alan Powell
Donna Rader
Rebekah Randolph
Michael E. Ray
Mary Rearden
Suzanne Reynolds

- Rick Rice
George and Anne Rigby
Bobby Robinson
John Royal
Ben and Avon Ruffin
Mike Robinson
Dean Rutledge
Luli Sanderford
Penn Sandridge
Arch Scales
Margaret Scales
Wendell Schollander
Meyressa Schoonmaker
Phillip Searcy
Keith and Peggy Sharpe
Paul Shepard
Thomas and Joetta Shepherd
Lincoln Sherk
Pat Shore
David and Donna Shores
Paul Sinal
Andrea Gay Sisk
David Smith
Sterling and Beverly Spainhour
L.E. Speas
Kurt Stakeman
Esther Solomon
Kurt Stakeman
Nancy Streblow
David Tanis
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John N. Taylor, Jr.
Ray Thomas
Renita Thompkins
Audrey Boone Tillman
Don Tisdale
Sandra Tony
John Totten
Len Tucker
Carol Vogler
David Wagner
Anthony Wallace
Dr. Ralph Wall
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Rory and Kim Whelehan
Garry Whitaker
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Gary Wilson
Winston-Salem Bar Assn.
John Wolfe
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Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Judge Biggs. Jim Armentrout, Treasurer