



Edie Wilkie-Edwards promoted world peace, loved Edgewater home

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Edith “Edie” Wilkie Edwards, peace promoter and arms control activist, former congressional staff member and wife of retired California Congressman Don Edwards, died Thursday, March 31, 2011, in Carmel, Calif. of pulmonary disease. She was 64.

Her husband, a 32-year congressman who represented San Jose, Calif. and chaired the Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, survives her.

The couple retired from powerful Capitol Hill careers in 1995 and for more than a decade lived half the year at Holly Point, their home overlooking the Chesapeake Bay in Edgewater and half the year in Carmel. They settled in Carmel the past three years.

“She absolutely loved living on the Chesapeake Bay and their home at Holly Point, with a wonderful view,” said longtime friend Terence Smith of Shady Side. Smith is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated, retired *New York Times*, CBS News, and PBS political journalist.

“Edith and Don were often seen on their Boston Whaler on the West River,” Smith recalled. “She will be terribly missed by many and had a wide circle of friends in and around Edgewater and the Chesapeake Bay.”

“She was an avid tennis player, as well, with a forehand her opponents considered lethal,” Smith added.

In her career, however, she promoted peace. Known professionally as Edith Wilkie, she directed Congress’ bipartisan and bicameral Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus from 1978 to 1995. She worked to halt the development of new nuclear weapons, end funding for proxy wars in Central America, garner congressional support for the United Nations, and strengthen human rights around the globe.

Wilkie also is survived by five stepsons; a sister and two brothers, Rennie Wilkie Lieber, John McNeil Wilkie, and Peter Wilkie, and their families, as well as her stepmother, Margot Loines Wilkie, of New York and Martha’ Vineyard and two stepsisters, Faith Morrow Williams and Constance Morrow Fullenweider and their families.

Smith said a memorial service is being planned for early May in Carmel. Another service is possible in Washington, although no date has been set.

Memorial contributions in remembrance of Wilkie may be made to the Ploughshares Fund, at www.ploughshares.org, the largest grantmaking foundation in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to security and peace funding. Its goal is to create a safe, secure, nuclear weapon-free world.

In 2009, after serving fourteen years on the Ploughshares Fund board of directors, Wilkie's colleagues established the first-ever grant program at Ploughshares Fund honoring an individual - The Edith B. Wilkie Grant for Conflict Prevention and Peacekeeping.

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