

Adele Rogers Dies

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Adele Langston Rogers, 89, a director of the National School Volunteer Program who was the widow of William P. Rogers, secretary of state under President Richard M. Nixon, died May 27 at her home in Bethesda. She had dementia.

Mrs. Rogers played an active role in official functions while accompanying her husband to 75 countries during his four years as secretary of state. She also volunteered at inner-city schools in Washington and in New York, where her husband practiced law.

In 1973, she became the first woman to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Mrs. Rogers was born in Haddon Heights, N.J. She graduated from Cornell University, attended law school at Stanford University and received a law degree from Cornell, where she met her future husband. They were married in 1936. He died Jan. 2.

Mrs. Rogers received her law degree during a period when many law firms were unenthusiastic about hiring women. So she decided to concentrate on raising her children and supporting her husband's career.

The Rogerses moved to Washington initially after World War II, when he took a position as counsel to a Senate committee. They moved to New York in 1950 when he joined the law firm that later became Rogers & Wells, but they lived in Washington during his stints of government service. He was deputy attorney general and attorney

general during the Eisenhower administration, and he led the investigation of the 1986 Challenger space shuttle disaster.

In addition to her work on the school volunteers board, Mrs. Rogers was president of the PTA at Sidwell Friends School and the Southeast branch of Boys Clubs of America. She was a member of the advisory board of the Hospitality and Information Service in Washington, which serves the diplomatic corps. She was a trustee of Cornell University, the Gannett Newspaper Foundation and the Meridian House International Foundation.

Survivors include four children, Dale Marshall of Norton, Mass., Anthony, of Boston, Jeffrey, of Portland, Ore., and Douglas, of Columbus, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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