



Verla L McTaggart

November 4, 2017

Verla Lucille McTaggart, 93, went to join her loving husband Colonel Richard Russell McTaggart on November 4, 2017. She was born January 4, 1924 in Detroit, Michigan to Earnest Walker and Ethel Detzur Walker (Walsh). She graduated from Catonsville High School in Catonsville, Maryland in 1942. Part of Verla's early employ was 'war work', participating in manufacture and quality control of military aircraft avionics. She then went to work in Baltimore as a ticket agent for the railroad. There she met her future husband who was involved in military personnel logistics at the time and often needed to purchase tickets.

Verla and Richard were married on August 16, 1947 and moved to Brooklyn, New York, where Richard worked as a detective for the New York Police Department. Verla attended art school in Brooklyn and began to realize and build her talent during that time. Due to finances they soon shifted their horizons elsewhere and Richard re-enlisted in the army.

After Richard completed Officer Candidate School they served a number of tours overseas which included Germany, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Guatemala. During those years Verla became the staunch and supportive military spouse not to be crossed, but she kept her art and music going. She designed sets for theater, performed in shows and sang in choirs. Through the years she sketched and painted hundreds of pictures, often reflecting the foreign places they have lived.

Those places, especially Afghanistan, were a rich cultural experience and

many stories are told of those days. One of those stories is the task Verla took on to design and lay out the marble floor in the new church that was being built in Kabul. When Richard retired from the army and they moved back to the ranch in Menard, TX, Verla continued to pursue her art and also worked in many things with the community, including the hospital board. Verla was preceded in death by her husband Colonel Richard R McTaggart in 2011, and is survived by her son Timothy Scott McTaggart, several cousins from the Belisle and related families, and devoted helper and caregiver Betty Gutierrez and her family.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of San Angelo or the charity of your choice.

Visitation is scheduled from 1:30 to 2:30 PM Monday 6 Nov 17 at Heritage Funeral Home in Menard, TX with graveside service to follow 3:00 PM in Fort McKavett cemetery.