

EDITH M. A. KOVACH, Ph.D.AWARD-WINNING TEACHER at MUMFORD HIGH, and U of D MERCY

Dr. Kovach, age 88, died on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She was born on March 29, 1921, in New York City, New York, to Eugene J. and Hortense M. Kovach, but lived most of her life in Detroit. She had been a resident of Bloomfield Hills currently and was a former resident of the Boston-Edison historical district in Detroit. Dr. Kovach graduated from Central High School, and earned a B.A. and M.A. in Latin and foreign language education respectively at Wayne State University, and a Ph.D. in classical studies and Latin from the University of Michigan. She taught languages and math in the Detroit Public Schools for nearly 21 years, chairing the foreign language department at Mumford High. In 1965 she joined the faculty at the University of Detroit where she taught another 21 years, and served as chairperson of the Classical Studies Department. She taught Greek and Latin, and was fluent in Spanish and German. Dr. Kovach received U of D's sixth annual President's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1984. She was nationally recognized for developing methods to teach Latin and Greek at both the high school and college levels. She developed drill tapes and tests for Macmillan & Co. to accompany Latin textbooks. She also taught thousands of teachers both in the classroom and at summer workshops and seminars throughout the country. At U of D, she expanded her academic horizons to teach a very popular class, "Word Power", which reconditioned students to the English language by teaching them word origins, syntax, vocabulary, and how to use a dictionary. She helped to write the National Latin exam. Dr. Kovach's first love in teaching remained classical studies. She said, "There's nothing more relevant and meaningful to Western civilization than classical studies. Its continuity and importance to Western civilization is inescapable. It is reflected in our language, art, literature and psychology." Dr. Kovach also urged the University to offer a computer literacy class, but continued to believe that language literacy should precede computer literacy. In addition to her academic accomplishments, Dr. Kovach served on the National Humanities Faculty funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and was instrumental in starting both the Detroit Classical Association and Michigan Classical Conference. She also served as a consultant to the U.S. Office of Education, the Chicago Public Schools, the Campus Advisory Board of the American Philological Association, and the University of Michigan Press; and she served on the Foreign Language Curriculum Committee for the State of Michigan. Dr. Kovach had received at least three fellowships from the University of Michigan, including one that allowed her to study at the American Academy in Rome. Surviving Brother: Eugene George Kovach Nieces/Nephews: George, Mary Edith, Katherine, Christine, and Peter Great-nieces/nephews: Christopher, Kristin, Kevin, Annelise, Stephen, Scott, and Thomas Visitation: Monday, July 6, 2009, from 3-8 PM at A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48084 (between Maple and Big Beaver Roads), with an evening Scripture Service at 7 PM Funeral Mass: Tuesday, July 7, 2009 - 10:00 AM at St. Hugo of the Hills Stone Chapel, 2215 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills. Visitation at church begins Tuesday at 9:30 AM. Interment: St. Thomas Catholic Cemetery, in Ann Arbor, Michigan In lieu of flowers, Memorial Tributes may be made to: Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202-or-Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 W. Chicago Blvd., Detroit, MI 48206

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