

HAZEL PALMER OBITUARY

Hazel Palmer, age 98 of Moberly, MO, formerly of Sedalia, MO died Friday, May 10, 2002 at Moberly Regional Hospital.

She was born August 11, 1903 in Climax Springs, MO a daughter of John W. and Nancy Jane Hutton Palmer. Miss Palmer was the "first lady" of Republican politics in Missouri. She moved to Sedalia when she was 7. Her father was a lawyer and a U.S. Congressman in the 71st Congress from Missouri's old 7th District. She was a graduate of Sedalia High School and was a 1925 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Beginning in 1928, she was her father's secretary in Washington, D.C. She received her law degree from National University School of Law in 1932. After her father lost his seat in the Democratic landslide of 1932, she returned to her family home at 901 South Vermont in Sedalia. She joined his law practice as a junior partner.

She was the assistant prosecuting attorney, the first woman to do so; county revenue collector for twelve years, and was an association circuit judge from 1972 to 1982. At the age of 80, she returned to her law practice. She was the first woman elected president of the Pettis County Community Chest and first president of its converted United Fund. She served on the Selective Service Advisory Board, Salvation Army Board and the National Board of Women's Medical College of Philadelphia.

In 1969, she was appointed by President Nixon as one of twenty women in the U.S. to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Board on the status of women. She served as city and county committeewomen and twice as county chairwoman. She was elected in 1960 to 1964 as a delegate to the Republican National Convention, serving on the platform and credentials committees. In 1958, she was the first woman to win a major party nomination for U.S. Senator in Missouri. A staunch Republican, Miss Palmer handily defeated three men to run against Sen. Stuart Symington. She was president (and only woman member) of the Sedalia Bar Association, president of the Missouri Women's Bar Association, and the Pettis County Bar Association; past worthy matron of Sedalia Chapter No. 57 of Order of the Eastern Star; dean of Omicron Chapter of Kappa Beta Pi International Legal Sorority; and county chairwoman of the Pettis County Republican Committee.

She was past president of Sedalia Business and Professional Women's Club, Missouri Federation of BPW Clubs, and National Federation of BPW Clubs. Her memberships included the Sedalia Knife and Fork Club, Pachyderm Club, Altrusa International, Retired Judges Association, National Association of Women Lawyers, Missouri Bar Association, National Women's Party, the League of Women Voters, and First Baptist Church in Sedalia. She was listed in "Who's Who in America", "Who's Who in American Politics", and "Who's Who of American Women".

In 1992, after retiring from her law practice, she moved from her family home to the Kensington-Bothwell Hotel in Sedalia. In 1996 she moved to Moberly to be near her family. She had suffered several strokes by that time.

In 1999, the Missouri Business and Professional Women's Foundation, Inc. established a scholarship in Miss Palmer's name.

Surviving are a nephew, Paul S. Jeffries of Moberly; a niece, Sarajane Giere of East Quogue, New York; two great nieces, and seven great nephews. She was preceded in

death by a brother, John W. Palmer Jr.; and two sisters, Burleigh Jeffries and Pearl Crews. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Sedalia, MO with the Rev. Dr. Drew Hill officiating. Pallbearers will be family members. Burial will be in Crown Hill Cemetery in Sedalia. Friends may call from noon to 5 p.m. Monday and after 8 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral chapel, where the family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until service time Tuesday.