



Mrs. Kaneko "Connie" O. McNeill

June 12, 1920 - June 29, 2009

Mrs. Kaneko "Connie" Okada McNeill, of Salisbury, NC died on Monday, June 29, 2009 at Rowan Regional Medical Center.

Mrs. McNeill was born on June 12, 1920 and raised in Hiroshima, Japan. She worked for the Japanese government in her native Hiroshima in 1945 when the atomic bomb was dropped by the United States. After the bombing of Hiroshima she went back to school to learn English. Mrs. McNeill met Andrew C. McNeill while working as an interpreter for the American government in Japan and they married on April 6, 1961 in Tokohama, Japan. She moved with him later that year to the United States. They came to Salisbury in 1963 and she began painting with local artist in 1970.

In Japan, she learned Sumi Calligraphy and Sumi-e (oriental Sumi painting). Mrs. McNeill became an important part of the Salisbury art scene. She exhibited her art in Salisbury and surrounding towns and taught watercolors and Sumi-Brush at RCCC, Waterworks and throughout NC. Connie received numerous awards and recognitions for her paintings. She was a charter member of the Watercolor Society of NC and was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in 1977. In 1997 she was awarded the Waterworks' Lifetime Achievement Award. Years ago, she designed the Christmas Honor Card for Rowan Helping Ministries titled Christmas Sunrise. In 2001, she painted "The Crane Wife" angel for Robertson Gateway Park.

Mrs. McNeill was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and was also active in The Salisbury Women's Club and the International Woman's Club.

Mrs. McNeill was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew C. McNeill on November 4, 1987. She is survived by nieces and nephews in Japan and nieces and nephews of her late husband.

Memorial service at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Wednesday (July 1) at 2:00 PM with Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr. officiating. Following the service friends will gather in the Parrish Hall for a visitation. Burial will follow at a later date at the Old Historic National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made to: Trinity Oaks Employee Scholarship Fund, 728 Klumac Rd., Salisbury, NC 28144.

Tribute Wall



“ *Connie touched my life.*

My thoughts and prayers are with her and her friends and family.##imported-begin##Donna Rogers Keziah##imported-end##

July 13, 2009 at 03:40 PM



“ *My Deepest Sympathy goes out to the Family of Mrs. McNeill. I have known her for over 3 yrs.She was such a sweet lady and will be truly missed.##imported-begin##Charlene Catus##imported-end##*

June 30, 2009 at 08:59 PM