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Obituaries

Sally Ormsby; Activist In Fairfax Community

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Sally B. Ormsby, 71, a Fairfax County community activist who was the current director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, died Sept. 15 of cancer at her home in the county's Mantua district.

Mrs. Ormsby had a 30-year record of community involvement, including schools, the environment and consumer affairs, and her list of committees and other activities takes up almost five pages of her résumé.

She was elected to the conservation district in 1999 and was reelected in 2003 and 2007. She led the district's Green Group, which sponsored meetings about conservation issues and coordinated with environmental groups and the news media.

She was on the board of directors of the Fairfax Committee of 100, an influential association of community leaders, and was the three-time president of the Mantua Citizens' Association.

In 1996, Mrs. Ormsby was named Virginia's Mother of the Year by American Mothers Inc., and in 2006 she was recognized by The Washington Post as a Citizen of the Year.

She was the first recipient of the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, which was created in her honor by the Fairfax County Park Authority last year.

"Sally Ormsby was the all-time volunteer extraordinaire in Fairfax County," said Gerald E. Connolly (D), chairman of the county Board of Supervisors. "It's people like Sally who built a sense of community, starting in her own neighborhood, and made a huge difference in the life of that community."

Mrs. Ormsby's participation in public forums began when she joined the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area in 1977. At the time of her death, she chaired the league's environment committee.

She also held leadership positions with the PTAs of Mantua Elementary School and Woodson High School and was a board member and president of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations.

In 1989, she had an unsuccessful campaign for the Virginia House of Delegates as a Democrat. Over the years, she participated in countless committees on business, education, community planning, finance, parks and recreation. She was also president of the Mantua Garden Club and chaired the adult education committee and other groups at Providence Presbyterian Church in Fairfax County.



Sally B. Ormsby was involved in a variety of issues and directed the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. (Family Photo)

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Sally Braun was born in Naples, N.Y., and was a graduate of the Bryant & Stratton College's Buffalo campus. She came to the Washington area in 1956 and worked as a secretary at the CIA until 1970.

Survivors include her husband of 49 years, Clayton Ormsby of Fairfax County; two children, Tyler Ormsby of Arlington County and Alison Ormsby of St. Petersburg, Fla.; and three brothers.