

Adeline Frances Story Ellison



Adeline Frances Story Ellison Our beloved mother, Adeline Frances Story Ellison, passed away on October 19, 2012. She was born in Sheridan, Wyoming, on August 11, 1916. Her mother, Blanche Beucler Story, emigrated from France to the United States early last century; her father, Charles P. Story, descended from pioneers who made the trek westward from the Midwest in the 1800s. As a child she lived near Big Horn, Wyoming, on the Gallatin Ranch, where her parents both worked. For the first six years of school she rode daily six miles on her horse, "Papoose." She moved back to Sheridan, where in high school she developed her musical talents, especially for the cello in the school orchestra. She graduated in 1934, won a scholarship, and in that year left for the University of Wyoming, in Laramie. Majoring in Latin and math, Mom also worked at various jobs to pay for four years of study. In 1938, with degree in hand, Adeline (Ad to everybody) found work teaching math in the little coal-mining town of Superior, Wyoming. She'd tell us wonderful stories about 4 years of living and sharing with six other women at the school's "teacherage." But then came war. Japanese Americans were rounded up and sent for internment, among other places, to the Relocation Center at Heart Mountain, in Central Wyoming. Ad's job was to teach young detainees basic math. In 1943 she received a commission from the U.S. Navy's WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). Her training to become a Supply Disbursement Officer took her to Smith College and then to Radcliffe College, in Massachusetts, and finally back to San Francisco. The years 1944-1947 encompass her duty at the Naval Market Office and other disbursement duties in which Lt. Adeline Story famously was required to carry a sidearm. With the ending of World War II, she was separated from the Navy; and on June 21, 1947, married our dad, Lt. (jg) Fred Ellison, likewise retired from the U.S. Navy. Mom clearly outranked him; and a family story has it that though she carried a gun, he didn't feel all that intimidated. By then Dad had become a grad student at the University of California in Berkeley. After their marriage, Mom taught school briefly in Richmond, California. Later, in 1952, Dad received his Ph.D., and Mom, now with two kids in tow, and ever the accomplished homemaker, accompanied him to a teaching job at the University of Illinois, Urbana, and later to Austin and the University of Texas. There, with three more little ones, her family was complete in 1958, and the long and happy road of nurturing the five of us youngsters for more than a half century unfolded. Many of the funny stories Mom would tell tickled her to the point of being unable to continue, and while we all laughed at her predicament and

knowing the punch-line full well, she would deliver it in bits and pieces amid unanimous laughter and tears. We remember that Mom, while seeing to the needs of the five of us also found time to participate in the Pan-American Round Table of Austin as well as work in several committees of her Unitarian Church. Mom and Dad were to look forward to fruitful travels in Europe and in South America, especially Brazil. Her surviving children and significant others who are destined to cherish always Ad's memory, are Cynthia Lee Ellison, Carol Lanier Ellison (with friend, Clark Boykin), Thomas Frederick Ellison (Patricia Patterson Ellison), Jamie Claire Krieg (Gregory Krieg), John Story Ellison (Debra Hill Ellison). Ad's grandchildren are: Paige Ellison Lasley (Toby Lasley), Taylor King Ellison, Amanda Krieg Voith (Patrick Voith), Daniel Krieg, Kaylynn Krieg, and McKenzie Krieg. Her one great-granddaughter is Ellison Lasley. Nor should we fail to mention treasured cousins, nephews and nieces of the Garber and Story families in the unforgettable mountain towns of Story and Big Horn, Wyoming. Our mom loved conversation. For nearly 65 years of married life, Adeline and Fred loved to sit down and talk about whatever came to mind. She didn't hesitate to share her views. She was a teacher to her children at home no less than in schools where she taught. She was not lacking in the ability to make decisions and to mentor. Ask her kids if she was not a model of fairness and good counsel. We loved her cheerfulness and optimism, her kindness and outreach to others, her warm embrace of her First Unitarian Universalist Church in Austin. Adeline Ellison was a beautiful person, both inside and out. All of us who knew her want to express our lasting love and gratitude. The family wishes to express its thanks for the loving and dedicated care for our mother to Hospice Austin and particularly, over many months' time, to the nursing staff and associates on the 2nd floor of the 24 Hour Skilled Nursing facility at the Summit at Westlake Hills, in Austin. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to may consider making a memorial donation in her name to the Living Our Mission Fund at the First Unitarian Church of Austin, 4700 Grover St., Austin, Texas 78756. Our mother's life will be celebrated at 2 p.m., on Friday, November 9, at 2:p.m. at the Summit at Westlake Hills, 1034 Liberty Park Drive, Austin, 78746. The Rev. Meg Barnhouse will preside. The service will be followed by a reception in the Garden Room.

Published in *Austin American-Statesman* on October 28, 2012