

St. L. Post Dispatch
Fri 20 Nov 1992



AP
President George Bush and his mother, Dorothy Walker Bush, shown together in Greenwich, Conn., in a 1988 photo.

Dorothy Bush Dies At Age 91

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP) — Dorothy Bush, a senator's widow who lived to see her son George elected to the White House, died Thursday (Nov. 19, 1992). She was 91.

Mrs. Bush, who had suffered a stroke, died shortly after 5 p.m. at the family home in Greenwich, said spokesman Marlin Fitzwater in Washington. President George Bush had flown there Thursday morning to be with his mother but was back in the capital when she died.

Mrs. Bush spent much of her girlhood in St. Louis as Dorothy Walker. She is the mother of William H.T. "Bucky" Bush of Ladue and three other children.

In 1988, after George Bush was elected president, his mother said: "I've been ready to have him be president, since he chose to work for it, but I pray to God for him because it's the toughest job in the world."

Bush said his mother and his father, Sen. Prescott Bush, See DEATH, Page 12

Death

From page one

had been the most important people in his life. His autobiography, "Looking Forward," is dedicated to them.

"They believed in an old-fashioned way of bringing up the family — generous measures of both love and discipline," he wrote.

"Dad taught about us about duty and service," Bush wrote. "Mother taught us about dealing with life on a personal basis, relating to other people."

Just before he took the oath of office as president on Jan. 20, 1989, Bush spotted his mother on the platform, leaned over to give her a kiss and said, "Many of our family are here, and they all, as does this son, worship the ground she walks on."

The president regularly visited his mother at her home in Greenwich or her winter home in Jupiter Island, Fla.

Mrs. Bush's 90th birthday in July 1991 was an occasion for a rare reunion of all five of her children at the family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine. Gathered with the president were his sister, Nancy Ellis, and brothers Prescott Jr., Jonathan and William "Bucky" Bush.

"Everyone in this family — young and old, direct and indirect relations — looks up to her," the president said. "I have a feeling that that's still true in a lot of families in this country."

Mrs. Bush was born July 1, 1901, in Kennebunkport, a daughter of wealthy, Midwestern businessman George Herbert Walker and Lulie Wear Walker. Walker, an avid athlete, established the Walker Cup, given each year since 1923 in a competition pitting America's top amateur golfers and Great Britain's.

She grew up in St. Louis, attending first Mary Institute and then a prep school in Farmington, Conn. She and Prescott Bush, a financier and businessman, were married in 1921. They moved to Tennessee, then Massachusetts, where the future president was born in 1924. The family settled in Connecticut in 1926. Prescott Bush served in the U.S. Senate from 1952 to 1963. He died in 1972.

George Bush once wrote: "Every mother has her own style. My mother's was a little like an Army drill sergeant's. Dad was the commanding general, make no mistake about that, but Mother was the one out there day in and day out, shaping the troops."

Mrs. Bush instilled in her children a love of athletics and enforced strict church attendance. Bush recalled that each morning, as he gathered at the breakfast table, Mother or Dad read a Bible lesson to us."

Anticipating her son's emphasis on volunteerism, Mrs. Bush was active in Greenwich public affairs, doing work for the Red Cross and a local welfare agency.

Deputy press secretary Judy Smith said the president still planned to spend the weekend at Camp David, the presidential retreat in the Maryland mountains.

Private funeral services will be held Monday in Greenwich, and Bush will attend, she said.