Margery R. Ormond

Margery R. Ormond, 73, a civic and community leader in the Aurora area over 40 years, died Friday, September 22, 1989 at Copley Memorial Hospital, Aurora. The daughter of Colonel Martin H. and Ray West Ray, she was born in New Jersey on August 8, 1916.

She and her husband, Neal Sr., were married in Bronxville, N.Y. The couple had been looking forward to celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 1, 1990.

She influenced education, labor, social service and government endeavors since they moved to Aurora in 1943.

As a result of her efforts, thousands of area citizens of all ages have benefitted from her unselfish, quiet but effective efforts.

She served as president of the Freeman School PTA, was an organizer and president of the Washington Middle School PTO, was president of West Aurora High School PTA and vice president of the West Aurora PTA Council, and a life member of the Illinois Congress of PTAs.

Among her accomplishments as a school volunteer worker was the establishment of the Learning Center at Freeman School.

She also served on the School District 129 Citizens Advisory Committee and was a leader in several successful bond issue campaigns.

For many years she had been a member of the Aurora University Board of Directors, and in recent years has been on its Executive Committee. She also participated as a leader in a number of the university's annual community campaigns.

One of the first members of the City of Aurora Citizens Advisory Board, she also was a charter member of the city's Revenue Sharing Committee, on which she served for ten years. She also served as a board member, secretary and mediator on Aurora's Fair Housing Board.

Mrs. Ormond was also involved on the Board of the Family Counseling Service and Visiting Nurses Association of Fox Valley. She was a member of the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters. She also was a leader in promoting services in the mental health field, which now has hundreds of clients from southern Kane and northern Kendall counties.

She was a member of Holy Angels Catholic Church, the St. Anne's Society and Church Women United.

In 1976 the Aurora Y.W.C.A. selected her as “Women of the Year”. Margery Ormond and her husband, Neal, were jointly recognized as “Citizens of the Year” by the Lions Club of Aurora in 1980.

Margery Ormond’s unselfish contribution to the education field was recognized by the Delta Kappa Gamma education society, which selected her for lifetime honorary membership. She also was a life member of The Aurora Foundation.

She was a volunteer fund raiser for many national social services and health agencies, and was a leader in many facets of citizen and corporate philanthropy.

Survivors include her husband, Neal Ormond, Sr., of Aurora; five children, Neal (Mary) Ormond III of Aurora, Illinois, Martin R. (Andrea) Ormond of New Hartford, New York, Mrs. Donald (Nancy R.) Murphy, Jr., of Batavia, Illinois, Paul A. (Sue) Ormond, of Toledo, Ohio and Richard W. (Gayle) Ormond, of Boulder, Colorado; three brothers, Col. John Ray, U.S. Army, of Natick, Massachusetts, Capt. Alan Ray, U.S. Navy, of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Col. Roger Ray, U.S. Army, Bethesda, Maryland; 15 grandchildren, Neal Ormond IV, Laurel Ormond, and Christen Ormond, all of Aurora, Illinois, Kelly Ormond, Christopher Ormond, Paige Ormond, and Kerry Ormond, all of New Hartford, New York, Paul Murphy, Michael Murphy, Karen Murphy, Beth Murphy, and Brian Murphy, all of Batavia, Illinois, Nicholas Ormond and Chase Ormond, both of Toledo, Ohio, and Carolyn Ormond of Boulder, Colorado.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Col. and Mrs. Martin H. Ray; her step-mother, Jeanne L. Ray and one brother, Lt. Martin H. Ray, U.S. Navy.

A funeral mass will be held on Monday, September 25, 1989 at 10 a.m. at Holy Angels Church. Father Joseph Lutz will officiate. Interment will be at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Visitation will be on Sunday, September 24, 1989 from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. at The Healy Chapel, where a liturgical wake service will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Memorial donations in Mrs. Ormond’s name may be made to the Margery R. Ormond Scholarship Fund, c/o The Aurora Foundation, 111 W. Downer Pl., Aurora, Illinois 60506.
DEATHS

THIS WEEK’S OBITUARIES, COMPILED BY USA TODAY’S NATIONAL NEWS NETWORK, ARE A CROSS SECTION OF DEATHS IN THE USA.

ALABAMA: Harry Hoover Sr., 77, of Birmingham, owned Advance Printing Co., bought Sauty Cave in 1965 for best manure for cattle farm, had tourist plans for cave when Interior Department paid $755,000 for it to protect bats. Stroke, Saturday in Birmingham.

ALASKA: Ruth Coffin Altman, 84, of Juneau, pioneer, educator, au-thor, invented fishing lure, sourdough recipes. “Feed it to your cat, feed it to your dog, and if there’s some leftover give it to your horse,” she wrote of sourdough. Heart failure, Friday in Juneau.


CALIFORNIA: Patricia Garcia, 54, of Fullerton, former aerospace assembly worker, union organizer. Neurovascular collapse resulting from poisonous spider bite near the brain, Tuesday in Anaheim.

COLORADO: James E. Kelley, 70, of Englewood, Denver Post editor and editorial writer for 30 years, University of Denver instructor. Respira-tory disease, Saturday in Denver.

CONNECTICUT: Philip John Pennington, 67, of North Stonington, served in WW II, Korea, Vietnam; head engineer on Class 668 submarine, electric boat project. Cancer, Monday in North Stonington.

DELAWARE: P. Sydney Bancroft Jr., 83, of Hockessin, Episcopal priest 56 years, retired canon emeritus of Cathedral Church of St. John in Wilmington. Pneumonia, Monday in Hockessin.


HAWAII: Ralph Moltzau, 80, of Makawao, Maui, joined Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Co. in Honolulu in 1930, helped Castle & Cooke de-velop macadamia industry. Heart attack, Saturday in Makawao.

IDAHO: Merle J. Javeaux, 82, of Caldwell, helped install first dairy unit at Dairyman’s Creamery in Caldwell. Cancer, Monday in Caldwell.

ILLINOIS: Margaret R. Ormonde, 73, of Aurora, 1976 Aurora YWCA Woman of the Year, fought for fair housing law. Cancer, Friday in Aurora.

INDIANA: William L. Crooks, 85, of Indianapolis, florist, made Indi-ana 500 races’ winning flowers last past 30 years. Heart disease, Monday in Indianapolis.


KANSAS: Kenneth Elling, 89, of Hutchinson, lawyer, aide to late U.S. Sen. Andrew Schoeppel. Heart attack, Sunday in Hutchinson.

KENTUCKY: Kenneth G. Cassady, 61, of Louisville, union head, General Electric Co.’s Appliance Park. Cancer, Saturday in Louisville.

LOUISIANA: Earl Lorenzo Gordin, 30, of Monroe, Northeast Louisi-ana University archaeology student, writer, diabetic, had a kidney transplant nine years ago. Heart failure, Sunday in Monroe.


MARYLAND: R.P. Harriss, 87, of Baltimore, author, columnist for Baltimore newspapers over 60 years, wrote first U.S. newspaper article describing atomic bomb. Bone cancer, Tuesday in Baltimore.


MICHIGAN: Jim Christie, 68, of Dersborn, owned real estate firm, wanted to be baseball player, in Philadelphia Phillies Class A farm system, Dearborn Hall of Fame. Brain tumor, Monday in Dearborn.

MINNESOTA: Jim Kibbey, 77, of Altoon, real estate broker, former state Game and Fish chief and Minneapolis Tribune outdoor-conservation columnist. Pneumonia. Friday in Altoon.

USA TODAY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1989 • 7A
Margery R. Ormond, 73, active in Aurora affairs

Mass for Margery R. Ormond, a civic and community leader in the Aurora area for the last 40 years, will be said at 10 a.m. at the Holy Angels Church, 720 Hardin Ave., Aurora.

Mrs. Ormond, 73, who died Friday at Copley Memorial Hospital, Aurora, was a lifelong campaigner for educational reform and racial equality.

A graduate of Barnard College in New York City, she was a member of the Aurora University board of directors and the university’s executive committee, whose responsibilities include choosing university officers. She was president of the West Aurora PTA, a member of the Illinois Congress of PTAs, and honorary member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a national educational association.

Mrs. Ormond served on the board of directors of the Aurora-area United Way and headed the organization’s health services committee. She also campaigned vigorously in the 1960s for Aurora’s fair housing ordinance, which prohibited housing discrimination. She was named Aurora YWCA Woman of the Year in 1976 and Aurora Lions Club Citizen of the Year in 1980. Mrs. Ormond and her husband, Neal Ormond Sr., were also were honored by the Aurora Kiwanis Club in 1987.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Ormond is survived by four sons, Neal III, Martin, Paul and Richard; a daughter, Nancy Murphy; three brothers; and 15 grandchildren.
Education, housing ‘champion’ dies

By Christopher Julka
The Beacon-News

A woman remembered as the Frances Perkins of Aurora died quietly Friday morning.

Margery R. Ormond, 73, known as a champion of education and fair housing for the past three decades, died at about 8:30 a.m. at Copley Memorial Hospital.

Those who knew her remember her as a leading champion of education, racial equality and nondiscrimination in housing.

“Whenever I had sensitive things to discuss she was always someone I could sit down with and talk to,” recalled Al McCoy, mayor of Aurora from 1965 to 1977. “She was a force for good. A very active force for good.”

During the political upheaval of the late 1960s and early 1970s, Ormond was one of the chief exponents of Aurora’s Fair Housing Ordinance, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex or religion. To McCoy, Ormond was to Aurora what Franklin Roosevelt’s secretary of labor Frances Perkins was to the United States.

“She was one of three people whom violations were referred,” said McCoy. “Everything was resolved within that committee.”

“She left a great legacy behind by being who she was,” said Marie Wilkinson, head of Aurora’s Human Relations Commission. “She loved everyone. Regardless of race, color or creed she loved them. I think she made the city better by being here and doing everything she did out of love and justice.”

Wilkinson said that Ormond, despite her quiet, unassuming manner, “left her mark” on Aurora, principally through her support of the Fair Housing Law. “She fought hard. She wanted everyone to have the right to live and rent regardless of race, color or creed.”

As an active member in parent-teacher organizations in the West Aurora School District, Ormond used her influence to gain acceptance for the district’s first black teacher, according to Wilkinson. Ormond invited the teacher, an instructor in music, to her home along with other members of the faculty in an ice-breaking party.

“When it wasn’t popular, she was out there,” said Wilkinson. “But she didn’t care. What she believed in, she believed in.”

The daughter of Colonel Martin and Ray West Ray, Margery was born in New Jersey on Aug. 8, 1916. She married her husband, Neal in Bronxville, N.Y., moving to Aurora in 1943.

With five children attending Aurora schools, Ormond started her career as community leader by joining several parent-teacher organizations. She served as the president of the Freeman School PTA, president of the Washington Middle School PTO, president of West Aurora High School PTA, vice president of the West Aurora PTA Council and a life member of the Illinois Congress of PTAs.

Ormond is regarded as instrumental in the establishment of the Learning Center at Freeman School through her work as a school volunteer. She also served on the West Aurora School District Advisory Committee and led several successful bond issue campaigns.

From her start on the PTA boards, Ormond graduated to being named a member of the board of directors of Aurora University. She was appointed to the Executive Committee and led a number of the university’s annual community campaigns.

Ormond’s activities expanded to the community. Working as a volunteer for the city, she was a charter member of the Aurora’s Revenue Sharing Committee. She was also appointed as secretary and mediator on Aurora’s Fair Housing Board.

She also served on the board of directors of the Aurora Area United Way, directing the organization’s health services committee and serving on its planning committee. She was a member of the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women and was division chairman in the Joint Hospital Fund campaign in 1966, which raised nearly $6 million for the construction of Mercy Center for Health Care and an annex to Copley Memorial Hospital.

Citing her work, the Aurora Young Women’s Christian Association named her “Woman of the Year” in 1976 and the Lions Club of Aurora recognized her as “Citizen of the Year” along with her husband in 1980.

Despite Ormond’s long resume of community involvement, her children remember her best as a devoted mother.

“It seems that she always had time for her children ahead of everything else. She always encouraged her children to strive for excellence and as a result all of us have at least one master’s degree,” said her eldest son, Neal III, his voice laboring under emotion.

Neal said that life without her would be “just a huge void.”