

Tully Archives: Tully Papers

Correspondence: Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission, 1961

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive

Series: Grace Tully Papers

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FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT WARM SPRINGS MEMORIAL COMMISSION



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In addition to Gov. Ernest Vandiver, the four women on President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal staff who were at the Little White House when he died will attend the memorial ceremonies at Warm Springs next Wednesday, April 12. A Memo giving the background of each, and time and place of their arrival, is enclosed.

This will be the first time the four have been together at the famous Georgia cottage since FDR passed away. They will participate in the memorial service.

Following the memorial scheduled for 2:45 p.m. Gov. Vandiver, as has already been announced, will dedicate the new Little White House museum building which has just been completed and will be opened to the public. About \$100,000 has been spent on the museum and an extensive landscaping program, which add greatly to the value and interest of this state-owned institution as a tourist attraction.

Please call on us if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary-Treasurer

From - The Little White House
Warm Springs, Georgia

MEMO

Four women who were on President FDR's personal staff, who usually traveled with him and who were at the Little White House when he died, will attend memorial services for him at Warm Springs Wednesday, April 12, the 16th anniversary of his death.

They are Miss Grace Tully, Mrs. Dorothy Jones Brady, Miss Louise L. Hackmeister and Miss Toinette Bachelder.

The last named three will arrive in Atlanta from Washington Monday, April 10, by EAL Flight 305 at 1:00 p.m. Miss Tully will arrive Tuesday at the same hour by the same flight.

All will be available at the airport for interviews and pictures, after which they will be driven to Warm Springs by Charles F. Palmer, Chairman of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission, where they will have quarters at the Foundation.

Miss Tully is currently personal secretary to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and Miss Bachelder is on President Kennedy's staff. Mrs. Brady and Miss Hackmeister are retired.

Here are brief backgrounds on the four:

GRACE TULLY-- Personal secretary to FDR from 1941, when Miss Margaret LeHand suffered a stroke, until his death in 1945. Had been on his staff when Governor of New York. Was Senator Lyndon Johnson's chief secretary when he was majority leader, then remained in the office when Senator Mansfield moved in.

MRS. DOROTHY JONES BRADY (Mrs. Maurice S.)--Also known as "Dottie". Miss Tully refers to her in her book, "FDR, My Boss", as "one of the glamour girls of the White House staff. She was also called the "Dragon Lady" by some of the press corps. She joined the White House staff in 1933, first as Steve Early's secretary. When Miss Tully was ill in 1933-34 Dorothy was drafted to fill in for her, after which she returned to Early's office. In 1941 she became a permanent assistant to Miss Tully. Before he died, FDR told Miss Tully he wanted his painting of John Paul Jones to go to "Dottie", since her maiden name was Jones.

MISS LOUISE L. HACKMEISTER--Known as "Hacky", she was in charge of all the White House phone switchboard operators. Miss Tully refers to her as "more than an operator. . . tall, handsome and smartly turned out". When the Japs bombed Honolulu on a Sunday in 1941 she had the job of rounding up the entire staff and many others whom FDR summoned for immediate conferences and orders.

MISS TOINETTE BACHELDER--Known as "Toi", assistant to Miss Tully on FDR's staff. Had been a patient at Warm Springs, where she and her mother, Mabel, became acquainted with FDR. After she joined his staff she was frequently called in to take his dictation, and often made a "fourth" at bridge in the White House when the President wanted to relax. Her mother also was employed in government work.

These four had just finished a swim in the Warm Springs pool when they learned that FDR was ill, and they hurried to the Little White House where they went into action, especially Miss Hackmeister who handled the swamped phone lines to Washington.