

Tululu Schaefer, mayor's mother, dies

Tululu I. Schaefer, the mother of Mayor William Donald Schaefer, died yesterday of heart failure at South Baltimore General Hospital. She was 89.

Mrs. Schaefer, who had been in failing health for several months, was taken from the Hammonds Lane Nursing Center yesterday and was admitted to the hospital about 4:30 p.m. She died at 5:10 p.m.

Her death came just two days after her son was reelected to an unprecedented fourth term.

The widow of William H. Schaefer, an attorney, Mrs. Schaefer had lived in the 600 block of Edgewood street with her son, the mayor, for more than 60 years.

Though her son lived a very public life for more than 25 years, Mrs. Schaefer was a very private woman who never sought the attention of reporters and photographers.

By her own choosing, she was nearly as unknown to most Baltimoreans as the mayor, her only child, was instantly recognizable.

Charles Hawkins, who was born and raised on Edgewood street two doors from the Schaefer home, said the mayor's mother was "the first lady of the neighborhood."

"She was very much a part of my life when I was growing up," Mr. Hawkins, 24, said. He described Mrs. Schaefer as "a lovable person" who always talked with her neighbors and the children who played in the alley. She always seemed to have candy or small toys for the youngsters, he said.

"Back then, not everybody was so well off," Mr. Hawkins said. "I guess she thought she could afford to do a little extra. She gave a lot, but she looked for nothing in return. She was definitely a person of goodwill."

Essie Frieson, a longtime friend of Mrs. Schaefer who lived across the street from her, said, "I always found her to be a very pleasant person to talk with. If she could be of any help to anyone she was thankful."

Mrs. Frieson added that Mrs. Schaefer was very fond of flowers and loved to spend time tending the

plants in her yard.

Police Commissioner Frank Battaglia said he had known Mrs. Schaefer for about 25 years from when he was a captain in the district.

"She was always full of good advice I believe she gave the mayor a lot of good advice," Commissioner Battaglia said last night.

"She was a very fine woman . . . She couldn't see very good in her later years because of cataracts. But she listened to the radio constantly and she knew what was going on in the city and in the world," he said.

She was for many years a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

The Rev. William N. McKeachie, the rector there, last night remembered her as "a very special lady."

"She took an interest in everything. Any time you spent with her was very lively. She was very much loved by other members of the church. Until very recently, she was always at church at Christmas and Easter and all the big festivals."

Father McKeachie recalled that

he had not been aware she was hospitalized last summer until another parishioner informed him. It was about the time of the hard-fought primary election between the mayor and William H. Murphy, Jr., that one of Father McKeachie's associates finally hurried to Mercy Hospital to talk and pray with Mrs. Schaefer.

At the end of the visit, the clergyman gently explained that no one at St. Paul's had been aware of her hospitalization and wished that someone had told them. "She looked up at him — and she had a twinkle in her eye — and said, 'I'm so sorry. But Donald has been very busy lately.'"

Father McKeachie remembered once observing how proud she must be of her son's accomplishments. "She said, 'Well, the political thing is not important to me. I'm glad he's a faithful son and believes in the right things.'"

A funeral service will be held at Old St. Paul's Church on Monday at 10 a.m. Interment will be at Western Cemetery on Edmondson avenue.