

Rose Mary Kolpatzki

Rose Mary Kolpatzki was a beautiful person, inside and out. I first knew her the year I began teaching school, and she was my supervisor from our County Offices in the DeKalb School System. This graceful lady just sort of floated into my classroom, and her voice was musical. She was there to help me and the students in our large school system. But, let me back up a little. Rose Mary – and she made sure you knew that Rose and Mary were two separate words – was born in Virginia, and educated, earning degrees, from the University of Tennessee, Columbia University, and the University of Georgia. Rose Mary was the Supervisor of Music for the DeKalb County School System – not just the elementary grades or the high schools in what was then the state’s largest school system – but the entirety of the DeKalb School System. She represented the District nationally, and contributed to public educational television, ensuring that music would remain assessable to all.

Rose Mary married the love of her life, Lothar Kolpatzki, in 1963. She studied the German language so that she

could have a better knowledge of his heritage, and she became a fluent speaker of German.

Rose Mary, a leader among educators, was an active member of, and held key roles in numerous music organizations, including the Georgia Music Educators Association, the National Music Educators Association, and Sigma Alpha Iota, an International Music Fraternity. She was a supporter of many arts organizations in the Atlanta area as well as in our state. But most important to us today, Rose Mary decided to become a member of our own sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa. I have many memories of Rose Mary in Alpha Delta Kappa, but I can only share a few today.

- She served as our State President from 1982-1984, and she had goals to accomplish during her biennium. I remember several. 1.) She wanted every member of Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa to know and be able to sing two songs that are very special to us – The Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa Song, and the Lamp of Alpha Delta Kappa. I worked with her – me playing piano and Rose Mary directing me – to record and then reproduce the accompaniment

to these two songs - on cassette tapes – one song on one side and the other on the second side. She distributed these accompaniment tapes to each chapter so that sisters could have them for their chapter meetings – and not just have them – use them! 2.) And did you ever wonder about the originator of our Cornucopia Award? It was Rose Mary. I was privileged to work in a committee with her, and another Past State President, Pat Bohannon, to develop the guidelines of this original award. Its purpose was to encourage our chapters to submit reports in a timely fashion. 3.) And what about our Fun Day? That, too, was Rose Mary's idea. We have a day of fun – still today. It is a day with no Alpha Delta Kappa business – a day for us to truly enjoy our sisters. Thank you for this, too, Rose Mary!

- Another time when I remember Rose Mary's excellence in our organization was at the 1987 International Convention which was held in Atlanta. This was the first International Convention that had been held since the death of one of our founders, Agnes Shipman Robertson. Agnes had formerly

done everything herself. Now we needed others to fill these roles – and we needed a Parliamentarian. I remember Rose Mary sitting at that head table and filling the Parliamentarian’s role with perfection. In my eyes, and those of many others, Rose Mary could do anything.

I have fond, personal memories of this Georgia Past President. Here is only one . . . In those days all of our State Board and Advisory Council Meetings were held in Perry at the New Perry Hotel. From Atlanta, Rose Mary could make the best time getting there or returning home, of any other member. To my knowledge she was never stopped. And she always drove a big Mercedes – back when just no one you knew owned a Mercedes. I’ll always remember her motioning to me to open the passenger door and come inside, just like I was entering her home.

Rose Mary was a mentor and a delightful friend. I’ll never forget her.

- Linda Chambers, Past State President,
2002-2004