



The ARLENE C. TATE *Memorial Scholarship*

IN MAY OF 2021, we announced that a St. James parishioner had established the first endowed scholarship for our parish school. His name is Mr. Thomas N. Tate and he created a \$50,000 scholarship in memory of his beloved wife Arlene C. Tate, who died in March of 2013 after a difficult and heroic battle with esophageal cancer.

Arlene was born on September 4, 1925 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was the only child of Peter and Fanny Christensen of Ogden, Utah. Following the death of her father in 1934, Arlene and her mother returned to Ogden, where she later attended Weber State University. After college, she embarked on an exciting 30-year career with NASA (see sidebar).

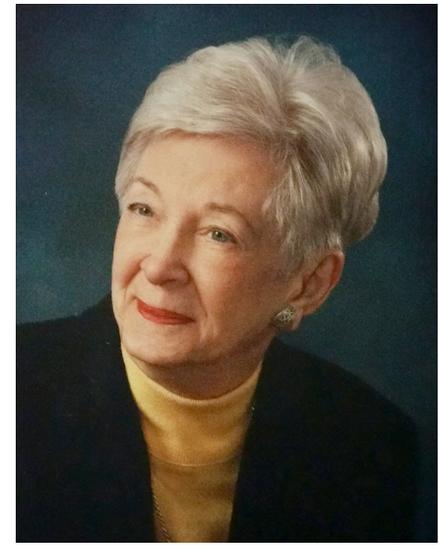
Following her NASA career, Arlene joined Comsat where she was Director of Procurement for Earth Stations for 10 years. She then became an aerospace industry consultant until health challenges caused her to stop working in 1995.

Arlene was an elegant dresser who enjoyed playing bridge with her friends and serving as President of various civic clubs including the Women's Club of Falls Church. She loved animals, and even bred quarter horses in her youth.

With the help of Monsignor Cosby and a few close friends and family members, *Arlene surprised her husband Tom by converting to Catholicism in 1995.* This decision proved to be a great source of strength to her as she battled 18 years of cancer and cardiac challenges.

Arlene and Tom were happily married for 47 wonderful years. As a testament to their deep and abiding love, Arlene died at home on March 7th, 2013 literally in her husband's arms. Thanks to the kindness and spiritual direction of Father Augustine Tran, Arlene continually prayed the *Our Father* during the last few months of her life.

This new scholarship is called the *Arlene C. Tate Memorial Scholarship.* It is Mr. Tate's desire that this scholarship be used to provide financial assistance to a new or current student in need. We are grateful to Mr. Tate for his generosity to Saint James Catholic School and are proud to honor the memory of such a beautiful and accomplished woman.



Arlene was a very special woman who was known for her intelligence, kindness, good taste and style. She had a distinguished 30-year career in government service as a procurement officer, principally for NASA. Arlene was responsible for procurement for the Lunar Landing Training Vehicle that the Apollo astronauts used for moon landings. She worked closely with many of the Apollo astronauts, including her friend Neil Armstrong whom she car pooled with before he was picked to fly his lunar mission. Arlene always spoke fondly of her days at NASA Edwards as being the greatest period in the history of American aviation. She remembered Chuck Yeager breaking the sound barrier in the Bell X-1 and Scott Crossfield breaking altitude records in the X-15. She witnessed the first flight of the U-2 spy plane and was there when the YF-12 (later the SR 71) first flew. She used her talents for the good of our country and for that, we are grateful!