

TITLE: Tribute to Women Who Have Died

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~~SECRET~~*The supreme sacrifice*

## TRIBUTE TO WOMEN WHO HAVE DIED\*

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We gather here today in recognition of Women's History Month—a time we set aside to remember the remarkable women in our country who have left their mark in many different fields of endeavor. And surely one whose contributions will be noted in future observances of Women's History Month will be Senator Kassebaum.

At this time, it seems only fitting that we remember our own. Their names will never be in a history book, but they will not be—and should not be—forgotten in these halls. Many words have been written and spoken about the intelligence profession and the special demands it makes of those who choose to follow it. We know when we come here that the work will be tough; that a high measure of dedication will be required; that we will not be able to say much about what we do; that our successes will often be hidden but any failures highlighted on the front pages of the newspaper; that conditions in the countries in which we serve may not be ideal for ourselves or our families. And we know, too, that in a profession where danger is real and for some ever present, we may be asked to give that last full measure of devotion.

We honor today four of our women who made that supreme sacrifice: Barbara A. Robbins, Phyllis Nancy Faraci, Monique N. Lewis, and Deborah Marie Hixon. There are no words that can begin to express our gratitude to them, no way that we can lessen the pain for the families they left behind, no promise that we can make that such outrages will not happen again. But we can remember them, honor them, and, in so doing, perhaps rededicate ourselves to the enormous tasks at hand.

*Barbara Robbins* was 20 twenty years old when she came to the Agency as a secretary. Born in South Dakota and trained at Colorado State University in its secretarial program, Barbara was eagerly awaiting that all-important 21st birthday *and* her first overseas tour. After serving an interim assignment in the then-Far East Division (b)(3)(c) she left for Saigon less than one month after turning 21. Once there, she quickly established herself as a person with sound technical skills and as one who approached her job with enthusiasm and dedication. She still found time for hobbies, one of which was flying as an amateur pilot.

The secretary to (b)(3)(c) in FE Division recalls to this day Barbara's departure for Saigon—how happy and excited she was to be going overseas. And she recalls the day when the cable came from Saigon with these words: "Our secretary is dead."

Barbara Robbins was killed on 30 March 1965 by a Viet Cong explosion in front of the US Embassy in Saigon. Posthumously, she was awarded the Medal of Honor for Vietnam Merit, First Class.

\* These remarks were made on 20 March 1989 in the CIA Auditorium.

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~~SECRET~~*Phyllis Nancy Faraci,*(b)(1)  
(b)(3)(c)  
(b)(3)(n)

Yet another appraisal referred to her "exemplary performance" and described her as a "doer" who does not wait to be asked. For her performance over the years, she received a Certificate of Exceptional Service, a Certificate for Special Achievement, and a Certificate of Distinction.

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(b)(3)(c)

Phyllis Faraci died in the bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut on 18 April 1983, at the age of 44. Posthumously, Ms. Faraci was awarded a Career Intelligence Medal and Certificate of Distinction for Courageous Performance.

*Monique N. Lewis*

(b)(1)

(b)(3)(c)

Monique married an Agency employee and both were sent to Beirut.

Monique told Agency friends how delighted she was at the prospect of working with her husband.

(b)(1)

(b)(3)(c)

(b)(3)(n)

the Embassy was bombed. Tragically, Monique *and* her husband were killed—the first time that both a husband and wife employed by the Agency have died while in the service of the CIA. At the time of her death, Mrs. Lewis was only 36 years old.

*Deborah Marie Hixon,*

(b)(1)

(b)(3)(c)

(b)(3)(n)

In an appraisal of her performance, her supervisor noted that "she is one of the finest young officers I have had the privilege of working with."

(b)(1)

(b)(3)(c)

(b)(3)(n)

Her supervisors, noting her "intelligence, drive, and perseverance," commented that she was performing at a level one would expect of someone several grades her senior.

(b)(1)

(b)(3)(c)

in Beirut in April 1983, Deborah Hixon—only 30 years old—was killed in the bombing of the US Embassy there. She was posthumously awarded an Intelligence Commendation Medal and the Certificate of Distinction for Courageous Performance.

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Dwight David Eisenhower, our 34th president, once said, "Of all the nations of today, the future will say that there were two kinds: those that were intelligent, courageous, decisive and tireless in their support of high principle—and those that disappeared from the earth. The true patriots of today are those who are giving their best to assure that our own country will always be found in the first of these two categories."

Barbara Robbins, Phyllis Faraci, Monique Lewis, and Deborah Hixon were indeed among the true patriots.

This article is classified ~~SECRET~~.

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