Lucy Templeton Kellogg 1906 - 1996

“I believe very strongly in the community. It is a lifeline of people – people who care, people who give and people who work.”

Lucy Templeton Kellogg, born December 28, 1906 in Waterbury, Connecticut, was the daughter of Governor Charles A. Templeton, who served as governor from 1922 to 1923. Throughout her lifetime, she showed a true dedication to the Brass City with her prodigious volunteer efforts and philanthropic commitments. She was determined to make a difference in terms of bettering the lives of Waterburians.

Mrs. Kellogg was a graduate of St. Margaret’s School (now Chase Collegiate School) where she served as President of the Alumnae Association, became a trustee in 1954, and a life trustee in 1981. She completed her education at Bennett School of Liberal Arts (later Bennett College) in Millbrook, New York.

Although she was born into a prominent local family and married into another, Mrs. Kellogg felt that privileges came with a duty – something she took very seriously. Her volunteer efforts began in 1934 with the Waterbury Junior League, of which she later served as president. During World War II, she became a local Red Cross volunteer, assisting military families in crisis.

In 1945, she co-founded the Waterbury YWCA, when, armed with petitions signed by 3,000 area women in support of a local branch, she met with national Young Women’s Christian Association officials in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Kellogg served numerous terms on the local YWCA board and was its chairperson for six years, until 1987. In 1993, her forty years of “leadership and devotion to the betterment of the Waterbury area” was recognized as she was honored with the establishment of the Lucy Templeton Kellogg Fund.

Mrs. Kellogg was a member of St. John’s Episcopal Church Vestry and served as its warden. She was the first woman to be elected from St. John’s as a delegate to the Conversion of the Diocese of Connecticut. She supported the establishment of a new day care center in Waterbury against the wishes of the mayor and won. She supported the establishment of the first halfway house for female alcoholics in St. John’s former rectory and helped those in the parish who were uneasy to accept its presence. She took a leadership role in opening the parish hall to numerous civic and nonprofit groups. Her constant concern was the welfare of Waterbury and its citizens. She led in making St. John’s the highly effective center for community service that it has continued to be for decades.

Honors in recognition of Lucy Templeton Kellogg’s service to the community were numerous. In 1969 she received the Jane Addams Award from the United Council of Waterbury for her outstanding contribution in the field of social welfare. Her leadership of the Visiting Nurses Association was recognized with the John Lewis Founder Award in 1984. In 1987 she received the Waterbury Jaycees Service Award for outstanding service in the community. In 1995 she received the Frederic B. Kellogg Benefactor’s Award from the United Way for her ongoing work on behalf of the United Way and the community. In 1999, The Lucy Templeton Kellogg Visiting Artist Program was established at St. Margaret’s-McTernan School to celebrate Mrs. Kellogg’s love of the arts, Waterbury and the school.

She also worked with and was honored by the Mattatuck Museum, the League of Women Veterans, L’Alliance Francaise and the Beacon House.

Lucy Templeton Kellogg was an outstanding leader in her church and city. She was a generous, effective, and courageous woman. Her passionate efforts and philanthropic work contributed to the betterment of the city and its residents. She was not the only woman to give of her time and energy, but she was one of the most notable. She was a compassionate and dynamic citizen. After her death on March 26, 1996, the city would not be the same without her.

As the Waterbury Republican noted the following day “the city has lost one of its original heroines.”