

Mary E. Bush

(- 4 Oct 1958)

Bush, Mary E. On Saturday, October 4, 1958, at Sibley Hospital, Mary E. Bush, beloved wife of the late Charles R. Bush, mother of Charles R., Jr., and Rudolph M., Grace and Louise Bush; sister of Jacob T. White of North Carolina; grandmother of Charles William and Mary Elizabeth Bush. Friends may call at the Lee Funeral Home, 4th st. and Massachusetts ave. ne., where services will be held on Monday, October 6, at 3:30 p.m. Interment in Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, October 5, 1958, p. A32

Mrs. Mary Etta Bush, 88, Red Cross Worker 40 Years



MRS. MARY ETTA BUSH

Mrs. Mary Etta Bush, who held the longest continuous record of service -- more than 40 years -- in volunteer sewing for the District Red Cross Chapter, died yesterday at Sibley Hospital. She was 88.

Mrs. Bush still averaged five to six hours a day at her sewing machine, and only last Monday finished a batch of 60 hospital syringe cases.

The Red Cross sent her 800 to 1,000 pieces a week to sew. This year alone she had worked up 4,100 stockings to be filled for children in hospitals at Christmas time.

Born in North Carolina, Mrs. Bush had lived in Washington since she was 23. She was the widow of Charles R. Bush, a retired railroad engineer who died in 1939.

He and Mrs. Bush designed, and built their house at 922 F street N.E., where Mrs Bush continued to live until moving to 3000 Gainesville street S.E. last January.

Mrs. Bush liked to sing her favorite hymn, "The Beautiful Garden of Prayer," while the machine whirred as she sewed at a window at her home. Neighbors referred to her as the "sweet little old lady who sits at the window and sews."

She was a member of Epworth Methodist Church, the Hummer Memorial Church, the Hummer Memorial Bible Class, and the Woman's Society of Christian Service, of which she was a life member.

She also was a life member of the Woman's Guild of Sibley Hospital, in recognition of 30 years of service there as church representative.

She was a member of the General International Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the Bethlehem Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. She also was interested in the Asbury Methodist Home in Gaithersburg where in 1949, one of the rooms in the new wing was furnished in her honor.

She leaves four children, Charles R. Bush, jr., 810 Dogwood street N.W.; Miss Grace Bush, principal of the Draper School, and Miss Mary Louise Bush, a teacher at the Randall Highlands School, who are both of the home address, and Col. R.M. Bush of 2620 North Powhatan street, Arlington. She also leaves a brother, Jacob White of Hertford, N.C., and two grandchildren.

Services will be held at the Lee Funeral Home, Fourth and Massachusetts avenue N.E., at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

The Washington Post, October 5, 1958, p. B2

Mrs. Bush Dies at 88; Red Cross Volunteer

Mary E. Bush, 88, Red Cross volunteer worker for over 40 years, died yesterday at Sibley Memorial Hospital. She lived with two daughters, Grace and Mary Louise Bush, at 3000 Gainesville st. se.

The soft-spoken, Southern-accented woman held top honors as the D.C. Red Cross Chapter's most productive volunteer with the longest continuous record of service. Until her recent illness she still spent up to six hours a day at her sewing machine.

In addition to her Red Cross work, Mrs. Bush served for 37 years as a member of the Sibley Hospital Sewing Guild and was active in the Eastern Star. She held a life membership in the Women's Guild of Sibley Memorial Hospital in recognition of 30 years' service as church representative.

Her philosophy for staying young in heart, she once said, was to "keep busy, have a purpose in life and contribute toward the happiness of others."

Besides her daughters, she is survived by two sons, Charles R., 1810 Dogwood st. nw., and Col. R.M. Bush, Arlington; a brother and two grandchildren.

The funeral service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Monday at the Lee funeral home, 4th st. and Massachusetts ave. ne. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.