

## Eleanor Gessford

( - 12 Dec 1975)

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**Gessford, Eleanor.** On Friday, December 12, 1975, Eleanor Gessford, beloved sister of Marion G. Surface, Katherine, Margaret, Richard S., and C. Vernon Gessford. Services will be held at Gawler's Chapel, 5130 Wisconsin ave. at Harrison st. n.w. (parking on premises), Wednesday, December 17, at 3 p.m. Interment private Memorials to Children's Hospital.

*The Evening Star, December 14, 1975, p. D6*

### **Eleanor Gessford Dies at Age 82**

Eleanor Gessford, 82, a retired administrative assistant and technical consultant on aviation cadet matters for the Air Force, died Friday at the Baptist Home of the District after a long illness. She had lived at Leisure World in Silver Spring.

Miss Gessford, whose late father, Col. Harry L., was D.C. police chief in 1920 and 1921, had worked with the United States' air training program in administrative capacities since the aviation cadet program was begun in 1922. Her career as a civilian employe of the armed forces began five years earlier when she served on the staff of the chief signal officer of the Army.

She was honored with two flying reviews at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas at her retirement in 1953, and Lt. Gen. Richard Nugent presented her with an outstanding service award. A photograph taken at the time bore the caption: "Mother of the Aviation Cadets."

She was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church and belonged to the 20th Century Club.

She leaves two brothers, Richard S., and C. Vernon, who both live in Florida, and three sisters, Katherine, Marion G. Surface and Margaret all of the District.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday in Gawlers Chapel. Burial will be private.

The family suggests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to Children's Hospital.