

Remembering Kit Collins

by [REDACTED]

Today all of P.S. is celebrating the long life and influence of Katherine "Kit" Collins, one of our longest-serving Runners and most devoted members. Kit died of natural causes in her Bronzeville home yesterday evening. Yesterday morning she went on her customary five-mile bike ride with her oldest grandchild, Kit Jr.

Kit will be remembered to the larger world as a brilliant mathematician, a dedicated and passionate educator, a loving mother, and a loyal friend. We love and celebrate this Kit Collins, but honor her contributions which must by necessity remain partially secret.

We honor Kit as one of our first and longest-serving Runners, but those who knew her are quick to remind younger people that she was initially hesitant to volunteer. It wasn't until the 1940s that Kit took on the role, and in doing so helped to shape it into the complex art that it is today. Older members fondly remember Kit tooling around on her bicycle in her wartime uniform (men's slacks belted high, short sleeved sweater, Keds) and undertaking P.S. business with her trademark brusqueness.

Her playful sharpness has now become ritual, a way for Runners to protect themselves from a toxic performance of friendly service. Kit was curt because she was busy. She was raising her daughter Evelyn on her own following her husband's deployment and subsequent death in France and she was a young female professor in a male-dominated field.

Kit served as a Runner from 1942 to 1978. In that time she interpreted for some forty Reticulites, mentored nineteen new Runners, and was sorely missed during her numerous "perplexing sabbaticals." At all moments she embraced change and growth with the characteristic no-nonsense scowl.

Kit is survived by her daughter Evelyn Collins, her grandchildren Herbie and Kit Jr, and her great-grandson Jace.

Memorial services will be held at Bond Chapel on June 7th. Kit has also requested that a pinch of her ashes be scattered on the parasite upon its next arrival.