

NOTED TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST DEE MCKELLAR DIES

*Houstonian Succumbs to
Heart Attack While Serving with
Q Patrol Neighborhood Watch.*

HOUSTON — Dee Skene McKellar, an activist who worked to advance the rights of transgender people on the national, state and local levels, died last Saturday evening. McKellar, age 55, suffered a massive heart attack as she and her friends were being assigned their rounds with the Q Patrol, a neighborhood watch group. Resuscitation efforts were begun and emergency medical technicians arrived within minutes of the attack, but McKellar died before reaching the hospital.

"They treated [her] with the utmost of professionalism and respect," activist and attorney Phyllis Frye, an associate of McKellar's, said Monday.

Known as David McKellar prior to 1991, Dee McKellar attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and completed three years of engineering studies. She worked for Boeing in Seattle and later on many early NASA projects in Clear Lake City, and was a pilot and a photographer. A founding committee member of what became the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, she later served as a Director of the event. She was also a director of the Spectrum business expo and volunteered with the Houston READ Commission. She worked with the Houston City Council campaign of Annise Parker, was an instructor at the

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Q Patrol will serve as Honor Guard. Anyone who wishes to share a favorite "Dee story" will be invited to do so.

Viewing hours are today (Friday) from 10 a.m.—9 p.m. at Cremation Service International, 5601 Arlington (near Tidwell and I-45 North).

Frye asked that, in lieu of flowers, an equivalent amount of money be donated in McKellar's name to Q Patrol; P.O. Box 66362; Houston TX 77266.



Houston Police Academy on transgender issues and served as office secretary with the League of Women Voters. She was also a co-moderator of Helping CrossDressers Anonymous, a member of Lesbians in Business and a member of the Houston Writers League.

While a Director of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, McKellar served on the NLGLA committee responsible for the unanimous board vote last month that brought bisexuals and transgenders fully within the bylaws of that organization. She also served as a Director of Gender PAC for a short time.



McKellar is survived by her daughter, Deborah McKellar Donaldson of Houston, and her mother, Elizabeth McKellar, and brothers Robert and Scott, all three from out of state, and a very large community of friends. Cards may be sent to her daughter and (separately) to her mother in care of Frye at 5707 Firenze, Houston, TX 77035.

McKellar's funeral is this Saturday, Sept. 13, at 11 a.m., in the Woodlawn Cemetery at I-10 West, exit Antoine. There will be an open-casket, graveside service. McKellar will be buried in her Q Patrol T-shirt. Frye encouraged all transgender attendees to wear a relevant activist T-shirt, such as Transgender Menace, It's Time, TG Nation, Q Patrol, etc., or to wear a black armband. "Dee was an activist and died while in our service, and we are going to honor her activist spirit," Frye said.