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Faithful Flyer

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Faithful Flyer

03.07.2014 | Athletics, Campus and Community

The University of Dayton and the First Four Local Organizing Committee are donating 250 First Four tickets to distribute to Dayton schoolchildren and U.S. Air Force personnel at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in honor of a long-time University benefactor and Dayton Flyers fan who died this week.

Kathryn Boesch, a fixture at many Flyers games dating back to the opening of University of Dayton Arena in 1969, passed away March 2 at the age of 101.

"This is a woman totally committed to UD sports and to the region of Dayton," University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran said. "Few have been able to match her and her family's enthusiasm and support for the basketball team. It's only fitting that we do this in honor of Kathryn, and her family."

Boesch, along with husband, Horace J. Boesch Sr.; stepson, Horace J. Boesch Jr.; and Cyril Grillot Sr., a business partner of Horace Sr., were instrumental in the land transfer from the Miami Valley Conservancy District to the University that created the site for University of Dayton Arena.

Once the arena opened, Kathryn Boesch established a concession stand benefitting local business women, according to University of Dayton senior development officer and former assistant athletics director James Brothers.

"Kathryn was a very mild-mannered individual who stated Flyer basketball games were a great entertainment venue, as well as a great place to develop personal relationships with the community and fellow fans," Brothers said. "It's fitting a lounge bearing her family's name is a gathering place before and after Flyers games at University of Dayton Arena."

Kathryn Boesch is survived by her sister: Mary (Robert) Sims of Beavercreek, cousins: Judy Shaver and Barbara Looney of Texas, step-children: Horace J. (Sue) Boesch Jr. of Centerville, Barbara Wannemacher of Kettering, Paulita Miller of Kettering, Natalie Boesch of Kettering, numerous step-grandchildren, special friends: Joanne and Bill Edwards and family of Dayton, relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents: Elwood and Anna May (Shull) Carr, husbands: Joseph Deady, James Harper and Horace J. Boesch and stepson: Joseph Boesch.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the Miami Valley. Online condolences may be sent to the family at <http://www.KindredFuneralHome.com>.

Anyone wishing to donate to the First Four Local Organizing Committee's Hoopla Ticket Program can contact Matt Farrell at mfarrell@daytonhoopla.com.

For more interviews, contact Shawn Robinson at 937-229-3391. For more information on the First Four and this donation, contact Matt Farrell at mfarrell@daytonhoopla.com.