

Half Staff – Katharine Larrabee Foster Molina

April 26, 1999

Katharine Larrabee Foster Molina, 92, died Monday, April 26, at Rivermead in Peterborough, N.H., “Kay,” as she was known to her friends, was the wife of Walter Luis Molina, also of Rivermead. She was born in Boston on June 6, 1906, to Katherine (Glover) and Edward S. Foster. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Connecticut College in 1927 and did postgraduate work, receiving a bachelor’s in social science from Simmons College in Boston. .

A lifetime member of the American Society of Social Work, her career touched many lives and spanned two continents. A longtime medical social worker at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Mrs. Molina recognized the need for her skills in support of the troops immediately following World War II and volunteered for the American Red Cross, serving for two years in Amberg, Germany. In 1947, she returned to the States and devoted the rest of her career until 1958 to the Home for Crippled Children in Canton.

A longtime member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, her interests included many years of hiking, climbing, camping and skiing throughout New England. Another lifetime interest was in the drama where she was actively involved in little theatre work. Her love of family led her to purchase and remodel a vacant church in Pigeon Cove in Rockport, as a weekend retreat and summer home for her family and friends. She was a member of the Peterborough Unitarian Church and had been active in the Universalist Church in West Hartford, Conn., and the Unitarian/Universalist Church in Rockport

In 1958, Kay married Walter Luis Molina in Kings Chapel in Boston and lived in West Hartford, Conn., until 1975 when she and her husband retired to Pigeon Cove. In keeping with her past, she contributed much of her time to volunteer work at Port O’Call, a womens’ exchange, and at Wellspring House, Gloucester, a shelter for homeless women.

Mrs. Molina is survived by her husband of Peterborough, NH; two stepsons, Gerry Molina of Merrimac and Geof Molina of Keene, NH; three grandchildren and a sister, Jean Leonardi of Chapel Hill, N.C.

A memorial service will be conducted at a later date at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rockport.

The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts be made to Wellspring House Inc., 302 Essex Ave., Gloucester, Mass., 01930.