



MARY ALICE TURNER SIMPSON (Class of 1942)

After graduating from Las Vegas High School, Mary Alice Turner attended nursing school. However, in 1951 she was offered a job working for U. S. Senator Pat McCarran in Washington, D.C. During that same year she was named Nevada's Cherry Blossom Princess.

While working for Senator McCarran, she came upon an ad seeking secretaries for a U. S. Aid Security Mission in Saigon, Vietnam. At age 29, she became one of the first young American women to venture into Vietnam in behalf of the U. S. government.

In 1953 Mary Alice married a foreign service officer and author named Howard R. Simpson from Alameda, CA. As his wife, she spent the next 55 years seeing the world like few women of her generation have ever done. Her life assured her a front row seat at some of the most historic military and diplomatic showdowns in American history.

In addition to two tours in Vietnam, she lived in Nigeria, Majorca, Australia, Algeria, France and Ireland, returning often to Las Vegas to visit her mother, Alice Turner, a local community volunteer who died in 2002 at the age of 104.

Mary Alice died on September 29, 2008 at home in Washington, D.C. at the age of 84.

These biographies are based on research and could contain discrepancies.
If there are any excerpts you feel should be changed please feel free to contact dave@lvhsaa.com.

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