

GREENPEACE FUND

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Sheila Reynolds, Someone You Should Know

By Andrea Kebrdle

Sheila Reynolds was a dedicated supporter of Greenpeace, leaving a legacy gift upon her passing at the age of 95. Because of her gift to Greenpeace, Mrs. Reynolds' passion for the natural world will exist long past her lifetime. In addition to her dedication to Greenpeace's work, Sheila led an incredible life.

Mrs. Reynolds grew up in a family of five children in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood, and attended St. Xavier University, where she graduated in 1943 with a degree in foreign languages. Sheila then left Chicago, and became a civilian employee at the Army Signal Corps' top-secret cryptography base in Arlington Hall, Virginia. While there, she was part of the team who cracked the Japanese naval code, and spent countless hours during World War II deciphering intercepted Japanese radio transmissions.

This was no easy feat. "The folks who worked in Arlington Hall during that time were diligent and exceptionally bright," notes her son, Chris. Mrs. Reynolds first had to pass an exacting mail-order test in order to qualify for this role. Those who worked on the cryptography team had to be skilled in foreign language or



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mathematics, even having a background in music was helpful. Among those who spent time there was John Paul Stevens, who subsequently became a lifelong friend, and spent 34 years on the United States Supreme Court. "Her face would light up whenever she'd talk about that time in her life," said her son, Chris. "Back then she set out to aid the war effort, but along the way had quite an adventure."

After marrying her high school sweetheart, Sheila returned to Chicago. Over time, she became mother to 12 biological children,

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Gentoo penguin on Cuveville Island in Errera channel, Antarctic Peninsula.

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Leave a Lasting Legacy

Sheila Reynolds, Someone You Should Know (cont.)

including triplets, and several foster children as well. Sheila and her husband also took in foreign exchange students from all over the world, some of whom called her frequently for the remainder of her life. As her son Chris says, “These relationships with foreign exchange students spoke to her deep interest in the wide world around her.”

Later, she led a full life of volunteer work, including volunteering with the Chicago Catholic Archdiocese, the Alliance Française, and as a reader and translator with Books for the Blind. For nearly forty years, until she turned 92, Mrs. Reynolds was a weekly volunteer at the Field Museum, where she helped catalog hundreds of specimens from around the world and translated scientific articles from French into English.

At Greenpeace, we're so thankful for and inspired by the life and works of Mrs. Sheila Reynolds. She was someone

who surrounded herself with the challenges and diversity of the natural world. She considered it her obligation to be a steward of all plants and animals on planet Earth. It is this belief that drew her to Greenpeace, and it is with this gift in her will, that this passion will live on.

Andrea Kebrdle is a Legacy Giving Officer at Greenpeace.



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A female elephant seal is pictured on Greenwich Island, part of the South Shetland Island group, Antarctica.

The struggle to save our planet will continue long after we are gone, but that doesn't mean that our voices become silent. By leaving a legacy to Greenpeace Fund, you can continue to be an advocate for the planet that future generations will inherit.

If you wish to name Greenpeace in your will, retirement plan, life insurance or other estate planning document, you will need a few simple facts about us:

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Gentoo penguin chick near Discovery Bay in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica.

Greenpeace is conducting scientific research and documenting the Antarctic's unique wildlife, to strengthen the proposal to create the largest protected area on the planet, an Antarctic Ocean Sanctuary.

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