

Obituary of Margaret Ann Aitcheson

10/16/2001

Wednesday | October 24, 2001

Margaret Ann Aitcheson, mother of Tipper Gore, dies at 77

Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Margaret Ann Aitcheson, the mother of Tipper Gore, is dead at 77.

Aitcheson, who had been ailing, died Monday at the Alexandria, VA., nursing home where lived, said Kiki McLean, a spokeswoman for the Gores. Aitcheson's son-in-law, former Vice President Al Gore, was with her at the time.

Tipper Gore was in Miami to accept a humanitarian award for her work on behalf of the mentally ill. The award was sponsored by the University of Miami's psychiatry department, the Jackson Memorial Hospital, the Florida Psychiatric Society and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Mrs. Gore often cited her mother's severe bouts of depression –as well as her own struggle with the disease – as one of her motivations for taking up the cause. Informed by her husband of her mother's death just before her appearance, Mrs. Gore accepted the award in her mother's honor and returned to Washington.

Born in Battle Creek, Mich., Aitcheson moved to the northern Virginia area as a teen and spent the rest of her life there. She is responsible for the nickname of her only child, Mary Elizabeth Aitcheson, who became known as "Tipper" after a Spanish lullaby.

She was a self-employed accountant, a Red Cross volunteer and, at one point, an alcoholism therapist, McLean said. Aitcheson is survived by her daughter; two nieces, Paige Berman and Gail Romansky; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her first husband, Al Odom, was a fighter pilot killed in World War II. She was divorced from Tipper Gore's father, John K. Aitcheson Jr.

A funeral mass is scheduled Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes in Arlington, VA., followed by internment at Columbia Garden Cemetery. The family said that memorials may be made to the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign.

The address for the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign is 750 17th St. NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20006.

2001 The Dallas Morning News