



## Arlene S. Mullins

May 31, 1930 - April 14, 2026

A life of loving service and support came to a peaceful end early Tuesday morning, April 14th when Arlene Mullins slipped quietly from this world. Her 95 years were filled with frontiers, fellowship, and family, enriching the lives of everyone she met.

Arlene Francis Sutherland Mullins was born on May 31, 1930 in Dickinson, North Dakota and stayed on the homestead with her grandmother because her mother, Ruth Sutherland, was often away teaching at itinerant rural schools, accompanied by Arlene's sister Dorothy. Ruth later moved the three of them to Lincoln, Nebraska while compiling her Master's Degree in Geography. Ruth was then recruited by the War Department and relocated to Washington, D.C.

After graduating high school in Arlington, VA, Arlene studied at the University of Maryland, graduating with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration. She was on a path to attend the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Finance until her path crossed with Chuck Mullins. Wharton was put "on hold" when the two married in June 1954 just after his graduation from Princeton, but before he entered George Washington University Medical School in Washington, D.C.

Arlene's seven years work experience at the United Nations Food &

Agriculture Organization recruiting technical assistance experts and sending them to the underdeveloped countries of the world more than equipped her to serve as her husband's lifelong "administrative assistant," personally, financially, and professionally.

While traveling with Chuck to more than 40 countries, she satisfied her love of travel, history, geography, and finance. With many six-week visits to Saudi Arabia over a period of 15 years, the Mullins often called Riyadh their second home. It was there that Arlene's administrative skills were enlisted by Saudis planning to establish a school for Down's Syndrome children; and, for some years, Arlene helped the Riyadh Military Hospital coordinate Pediatric Cardiologists from North America.

Over the decades, Arlene's memberships in Army, Houston Arboretum, Junior League, civic, and medical-related organizations invariably found her in an administrative or treasurer's position, including Girl Scout Cookie Mom, and Swim Team Fee Collector. She also found personal satisfaction in her daily reading of the Wall Street Journal and mastering the Houston Chronicle's daily bridge hand.

Quite naturally during the childhood years of their three children, Charles Jr. Bob, and Sandie, Arlene's main focus was their care and activities. One of her favorite activities was planning trips to their Colorado and Muldoon, Texas "Patches" where she could be found learning to ride trail motorcycles. The Mullins family has since expanded to include four grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and two more greats on the way.

Throughout their 70 years of marriage, Arlene and Chuck's homes in the Washington area, Germany, and Houston had frequently been the sites for entertaining colleagues and friends from around the world—so much so that medical fellows call her Auntie Arlene.

By relieving her husband of administrative details inherent in his profession and world-wide consultant trips, Arlene found her satisfaction in knowing her endeavors allowed Chuck more time for his commitment to medicine. She considered herself privileged to have had a front-row seat while watching thirty-six years of Pediatric-Cardiology develop on the world stage.

Arlene is preceded in death by her husband, Charles E. Mullins and is survived by their sons Charles Jr. and Robert, daughter Sandie, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

A Memorial Service celebrating Arlene's life will be held Friday April 24, 2026 at 10:00 AM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77079.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home  
14094 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 497-2121  
[david@dettlingfuneral.com](mailto:david@dettlingfuneral.com)

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ For many years, I was privileged to serve as the nurse in the department of pediatric cardiology during the days of Dan McNamara. Dr. Mullins was always one of my absolute favorites and part of that was because of his lovely wife Arlene I remember a trip the three of us made to Austin, Texas to attend the wedding of one of our mutual patients. One has not lived until you spent three days with Chuck and Arlen, those memories will stay with me. My deepest condolences to those who loved her most, her children, grandchildren, and great grands. I know that her light will shine bright as a star in heaven.

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**Julia K Price** - April 27 at 10:05 PM

GI

“ Arlene Mullins was a dear friend of my wife Deidre and myself for many years. We are saddened by her passing, but we celebrate her long life of service to her family, friends, and humanity. And we can take comfort that she is now at rest with her precious and illustrious husband Dr. Charles Mullins in a joyful existence without suffering or worry. Through 70 years Arlene was a devoted helpmate for her husband, enabling him to focus on his pathfinding work in Pediatric Cardiology, work that has been life changing for many thousands of patients. Arlene contributed greatly to the development of the Pediatric Cardiology section at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, which became, during her association with it, one of the most important Pediatric Cardiology centers in the world. She was very supportive of the cardiology fellows and young faculty and their families. She frequently arranged social events for them and often invited them to the Mullins home. She entertained the many nationally and internationally recognized physicians that came to consult with and learn from Dr. Mullins. She facilitated the constant travels of Dr. Mullins as he provided hands-on training and education to interventional pediatric cardiologists around the world. She was a wonderful and much beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother to her dear family. We will miss Arlene very much but honor her service and many accomplishments. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant". Fond remembrances by Wes and Deidre Vick

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**Giles Wesley Vick, III** - April 23 at 10:40 PM

BF

“ Bruce and Lori Setlik and family purchased the Love Everlasting Bouquet for the family of Arlene S. Mullins.

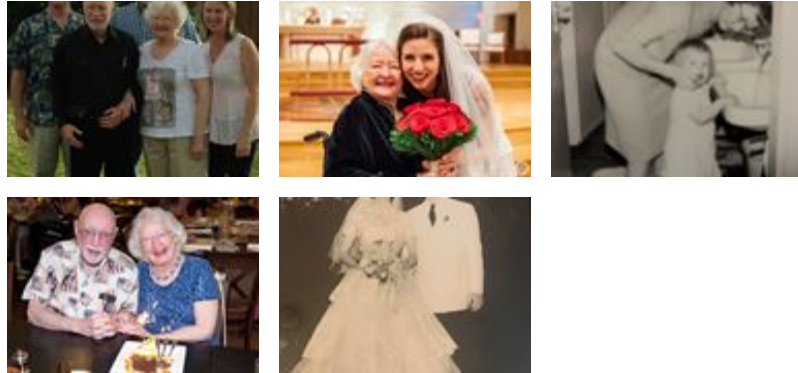


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**Bruce and Lori Setlik and family** - April 21 at 08:06 PM



“ 84 files added to the album Life Tributes



**Detting Funeral Home** - April 21 at 02:01 PM

WF

“ With love, Whitt and Cotter families purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Arlene S. Mullins.



**With love, Whitt and Cotter families** - April 19 at 04:00 PM

FT

“ RIP sweet Arlene



**frank titus** - April 19 at 03:07 PM

BA

“ *Bob, Julie, Kristine, Adam, Kelley, Adam purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Arlene S. Mullins.*



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**Bob, Julie, Kristine, Adam, Kelley, Adam** - April 17 at 04:38 PM

SM

“ *Arlene was always so kind to me and all the trainees and faculty at TCH. We will miss her.*

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**Shaine Morris** - April 16 at 02:24 PM

CH

“ *Cathy Hilton and Caitlin & Houston purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Arlene S. Mullins.*



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**Cathy Hilton and Caitlin & Houston** - April 16 at 10:38 AM