



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas City Election Board Staffer

Celebrates 90th Birthday

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Kansas City Election Board (KCEB) staff member Alby Shipman celebrated her 90th birthday recently. KCEB recognized this achievement with a surprise celebration in “Miss Alby’s” honor at the Majestic Restaurant’s Pendergast Club room. In typical style, Miss Alby arrived nonplussed and cheery after being rear ended en route to what she thought was the office holiday party. The fender bender delayed her arrival by nearly two hours, causing much concern and anxiety for KCEB co-workers who had anxiously called her family, checked traffic alerts and contacted area hospitals.

Proclamations from Mayor Sly James, Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders, and Secretary of State Robin Carnahan were presented to Miss Alby, along with a journal to chronicle 90 years of memories.

Miss Alby has been employed at KCEB for 22 years, joining the agency at the young age of 68. She served as an Election Judge for several elections and then was asked to join KCEB as a temporary employee in the Records Department in 1989. After becoming a full-time staff member, she transitioned from Records to the Switchboard Operator and Receptionist position about 10 years ago.

“I love to talk to people all over the world, said Miss Alby. “I like how it sounds like someone is next door, but they are really in another state or overseas in another country.”

She enjoys election season and seeing Kansas City’s citizens coming in to exercise their privilege to vote and “help make the laws by which we live, and prove that every vote counts, regardless of the person, issue, or size of the election,” said Miss Alby.

“She’s one of our most reliable and hardest working employees,” commented director Shawn Kieffer. “Plus, you cannot place a value on her wisdom and keen insights,” agreed director Shelley McThomas.

Miss Alby has experienced much more than just elections in her 90 years. She has experienced many more adventures than most people can vouch for in their lives. A worldwide traveler, Alby visited Europe, the Caribbean and more recently Central America. When visiting the Caribbean, she went parasailing at age 72. She also enjoyed traveling to Paris, where she climbed to the Bell Tower at the top of Notre Dame Cathedral. For exercise Miss Alby has periodically walked up flights of steps backwards. She came in second in a 5K marathon in the “80 and up” category several years ago.

A native of Indiana, Alby grew up as an only child with her father and grandfather, where she spent summers at their country home and winters at their city home. She came to Kansas City by way of Stephens College in Columbia. There she met the love of her life, Ernest Shipman, and raised five children-one daughter and four sons. At one time Alby was the area president of the local PTA in Kansas City. Now a widow, she enjoys the company of her five children, 15 adult grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, as well as being an active member of her Eastern Star Lodge and church group.

Miss Alby always brings a positive attitude to the organization and looks on the bright side of things. If she could remind everyone of one meaningful quote, it would be “always do what is right, it will gratify some and astonish the rest.”

KCEB is truly grateful to have Miss Alby as one of its team members.

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