

Sister Marcella Mary Burgunder, SC

December 19, 1921 – November 1, 2022

A Military Honor



Sister Marcella Mary Burgunder served in the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve known as SPARS, created in 1942 - 1946 to release men for sea duty. Sister served from January 1945 until May 1946, when she received an honorable discharge. She received the following message from Omar N. Bradley, General, U.S. Army, Administrator: "I congratulate you upon completion of your service in the armed forces and for your part in bringing to a conclusion a two-front war which resulted in the unconditional surrender of the Axis Powers."

Sister Marcella Mary was honored with a military funeral for her service. As her casket left Caritas

Christi, it was

covered with the American Flag. While Taps was played, all who were present at the cemetery placed their hand over their heart in memory of Sister's service to others. Taps is a formally recognized part of the United States Military funerals--"*Day is done, Gone the sun, From the Lake, From the Hills, From the Sky, All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh.*" The flag covering her casket was folded and then presented to her brother, John Burgunder.

After Sister Marcella Mary was discharged from the military, she continued ministering to others by teaching Sunday School until she decided to enter the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. Rev. Ferris J. Guay, director of the mission church where she





taught noted, “This is a loss to our mission but that loss will be more than compensated by the gain for God in other fields,” which was true. At that time, Sister Marcella Mary could not have known that she would continue serving to the poor and disadvantaged in the Hill District of Pittsburgh for over thirty years of her religious life. She continued the Sisters of Charity’s dedicated tradition of service to God’s people in the Hill District.

From serving in SPARS, to teaching Sunday School, and in the classroom in several parochial schools, Sister Marcella Mary was a woman who served others. Her goal in life was to be a good influence on others wherever she served,

to evangelize, and to try to help improve the living conditions of the poor.

May she rest in eternal peace.