

Family contacts:

Elizabeth Duncombe (US - Pacific Daylight Time zone, GMT-08:00)

phone: 702-658-7354; email: bdjjb@embarqmail.com

Elizabeth Warburton Davies (Australia, GMT+08:00)

phone: 0433220217; email: warby7@inet.net.au

Dame Anne Warburton, D.C.V.O., C.M.G.

Born 8 June 1927; died 4 June 2015

Dame Anne Warburton, Britain's first woman ambassador and later president of Lucy Cavendish College at Cambridge University, died Thursday, 4 June 2015, at her home in Thornham Magna, near Eye, Suffolk, after a long illness. She was 87.

Her first cousin, Evelyn Warburton Kirby, was with her during her final days. Other close family members and friends including her brother John Warburton and neighbor Pernille Brinkley had been with her frequently in recent days and months.

Dame Anne, who entered the Foreign Office in 1957, was appointed Britain's ambassador to Denmark in 1976 and later served as Britain's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

In 1985, she retired from the diplomatic service at age 58 to become president of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, a small and relatively young college that specializes in offering mature women the opportunity to read for a first degree. This was a significant choice for Dame Anne who recognised the need to support mature women who might have missed the opportunity to study earlier in their lives. She led the college until 1994, a period of expansion that included the building of De Brye House, Bertram House, Oldham Hall, and Warburton Hall.

Dame Anne loved art, architecture, history, theatre and travel and was an avid skier for many years. She had a wry sense of humor that displayed itself in her broad smile and hearty laugh. She was devoted to her nieces and nephews and enjoyed taking many of them on trips to Greece, the French and Swiss Alps, Florence, and elsewhere, adding historical context that rivaled the finest tour guides at every step.

Anne Marion Warburton was born in Blackheath, London, on 8 June 1927 to Capt. Piers Grove Eliot and Mary Louise (nee Thompson) Warburton.

She grew up in Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Redhill, Surrey, and was evacuated to the United States with her American mother and three siblings in 1940. She earned a BA in government and economics from Barnard College in 1946 and went on to read philosophy, politics and economics in two years at Somerville College, Oxford.

Following her graduation from Oxford, she worked as an economist with the Marshall Plan, NATO and the Lazard Frères investment house. In 1957, she took the special "over age" entrance exam to enter the Foreign Office.

Her early diplomatic career took her to New York, Bonn and Geneva. While in Bonn, she was responsible for extensive planning of Her Majesty's first postwar state visit to West Germany for which she was appointed a Commander of the Victorian Order (CVO). She was a member or leader of numerous humanitarian and economic conferences while serving with the UK Mission to the United Nations in Geneva from 1970 to 1975, and was deeply involved in European Community (EC) coordination.

In 1975, she became head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Guidance and Information Policy Department, but was quickly promoted and appointed as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Denmark.

She was appointed Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) in 1977.

During her posting to Copenhagen, Dame Anne worked on trade and fishing rights issues, moved the Ambassador's Residence to new quarters and instigated and sponsored the *Vikings in England* exhibition that received over 1 million visitors in Denmark and the UK. During the Queen's State Visit to Denmark in 1979, Her Majesty made her a Dame Commander of the Victorian Order (DCVO) on board Royal Yacht Britannia.

After seven years in Copenhagen, Dame Anne became the UK's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva in 1983. During her final year in the diplomatic service, she led the UK delegation to the UN Women's Conference in Nairobi in 1985.

She then retired early to become president of Lucy Cavendish College, a women's college open only to mature women from all walks of life. Dame Anne believed passionately that the skill, ability and intelligence of women is one of Britain's most neglected resources and during her nine-year tenure the student numbers doubled and the academic profile of Lucy Cavendish significantly increased to become an integral part of the University. This achievement was no small feat considering that one of her first tasks had been to vigorously fight off a legal threat that would have forced the College to admit men.

Reflecting her continuing interest in Denmark and its people, she also wrote a book, *Signposts to Denmark*, published in 1992.

In 1993, Dame Anne was called upon to lead a European Community investigative mission into the treatment of Muslim women during the war in the former Yugoslavia. Their report concluded that some 20,000 women had been raped in what a UN war crimes commission later described as a "systematic rape policy."

From 1994 to 1997, Dame Anne served on the Nolan Committee, the Standing Committee on Standards of Conduct in Public Life, which was set up following the cash-for-questions scandal in Parliament. The first report was received "uncritically and with acclaim by Labour and by the Liberals" and a further 54 recommendations became the new guidelines for future standards of conduct in public life for both individuals and organisations. She was also a member of the Equal Opportunities Commission from 1986 to 1988 and of the Council of the University of East Anglia.

Dame Anne's retirement years were spent being equally energetic, diligent and useful in local affairs and her chosen charities. For five years she was chairman of Music in Country Churches, founded in 1989 with the active support of the Prince of Wales, and with the specific aim of bringing world-class musicians to country churches of particular beauty and importance. The Early English Organ project was another Suffolk cause that caught and benefitted from Dame Anne's keen interest. A dairy door in a 17th-century house in Wetheringsett and a piece of decaying timber found in the churchyard shed at Wingfield were recognized as critical pieces of a pre-Reformation English organ, and were restored through the project's fundraising, to enable pre-Reformation music to be heard in English churches for the first time since their 17th century nationwide destruction.

Graciously adept at steering the subject away from herself, Dame Anne embodied the old-fashioned, admirable qualities of the genuine public servant, devoting herself to public use throughout her life. She was a genuine trailblazer for women's rights in the 20th century, not by lobbying or campaigning for change but by quiet diplomacy and by demonstration of skill and ability. In a 2010 interview with Helen McCarthy, author of *Women of the World: The Rise of the Female Diplomat*, Dame Anne said, "It seems to me that your views are your views whatever sex you are. I just didn't happen to grow up in a world where the first important thing was being a woman. The first important thing was being a person."

For her many achievements, Dame Anne was variously awarded an Honorary Fellow of her alma mater, Somerville College, Oxford, and of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge. Columbia University awarded her a Barnard Medal of Distinction. The West German government awarded her the *Verdienstkreuz* (Merit Cross), 1st Class, in 1965 for her service at Bonn. She also held the Grand Cross of the Order of the

Dannebrog (Denmark) and the *Lazo de Dama* (Dame's Ribbon) of the Order of Isabella the Catholic (Spain).

Survivors include her brothers, the Rev. Piers Warburton of Chilbolton, Hampshire, and John Warburton of Eye, Suffolk; nieces, Beth Duncombe of Las Vegas, Nevada, Elizabeth Warburton Davies of Perth, Australia, Kate Warburton of Surrey; nephews, Ted Duncombe of Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, David Duncombe of Appleton, Wisconsin, and Peter Duncombe of Las Vegas, Nevada; Richard Warburton of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Max Warburton of Singapore; 19 great-nieces and -nephews; four great-great-nieces and -nephews; and numerous beloved cousins and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents; a sister, Marie-Louise Patricia Warburton Duncombe of Las Vegas, Nevada; a niece, Dr. Mari Duncombe Koch of Anchorage, Alaska; and two great-nephews, Jeremy Duncombe Butler of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Kalgin Todd Koch of Anchorage, Alaska.

In lieu of flowers, at Dame Anne's request, the family suggest contributions to St Elizabeth Hospice, 565 Foxhall Road, Ipswich, IP3 8LX, or to St Mary Magdalene Church, Thornham Magna, Suffolk, IP23 8HF.

Services pending. Arrangements by Susan Whymark Funeral Service Ltd., Chestnut House, 12 Progress Way, Langton Green, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HU.