

Edith Oliphant

Imagine boarding a luxury ocean liner bound for the majestic state of Alaska, understandably the top cruise destination in the world. Visualize sailing across the Gulf of Alaska, vibrant blue water interspersed with icebergs and crystalline glaciers. Your floating palace follows miles of pristine coastline. Sailing along with you through this remarkable wilderness are majestic whales, providing enjoyment to all who are lucky enough to catch a glimpse. I am sorry that we can't join Edith, who will be departing on this wonderful journey in August.

Edith Oliphant is a native Detroiter, raised on the East side of the city. After graduating from South Eastern High School, she started her working career at a hospital known as McGregor Center. McGregor was a small hospital that provided medical and pediatric care as well as psychiatric treatment. The hospital was affiliated with the McGregor Foundation, the Wayne State Medical School and BC/BS. The hospital was located on E. Jefferson and the river west of the Belle Isle Bridge. Edith worked in the billing and accounting department. The small facility was unable to meet the patient/bed capacity required by BC/BS and closed in 1967.



After the closure of McGregor, Edith applied for a position at BC/BS. She was interviewed and within a week was hired and embarked on a new and successful career with BC/BS. If you had the opportunity to climb the stairs and enter the main lobby of the BC/BS Building on Lafayette Blvd., then you undoubtedly have had the pleasure of meeting Edith. Her special personality and famous rapport with all of those who entered the building made her a natural for this position in the main lobby. Whether a visitor to BC/BS or an employee, you were guaranteed a genuine smile

and a kind word when Edith was on duty. She held this position for over twenty years, until retirement. Her business like rapport combined with a friendly greeting made all who came in contact with Edith, a fan.

Edith was married to a wonderful man for many years and together they had a son and daughter. Prior to her husband's extended illness and death; they were able to travel to Bermuda, California as well as extended exploration of the East coast.

Edith is a member of St. Isaac Jogues Church, where she participates in a Macomb County program called McRest. The churches in Macomb County take turns housing the homeless or displaced, for an entire week at a time. These people are provided with shelter and meals and in the morning are driven to their place of employment or to another county facility. Edith also volunteers during the school year as a playground supervisor.

Whether Edith is behind the desk at BC/BS, working at the shelter, or supervising the playground, she continues to have a positive influence on those around her.

We wish Edith the best at her work as well as on her upcoming voyage.