

**RALPH RICE BOYER**  
**March 13, 1904 – November 12, 1987**

Ralph Boyer's name appears on the committee lists of the Friends Meeting of Washington for over forty years. He served as clerk of many committees and as Clerk of the Monthly Meeting. In our religious fellowship, dependent as we are on a volunteer lay ministry, Ralph Boyer shared his gifts and considerable talents in administration and finance. His life is a witness that the secular and the religious are of one piece of cloth. He and Alice Boyer (they were a close team in our religious fellowship) held the Meeting and individuals in it close to their heart. Even when they were away for short periods, the record shows the Meeting office receiving short notes and cards of greeting to all. Ralph's ministry of listening drew out the best in us all and opened his life among us in a wide service of caring whether it be discerning the gifts of others on the Nominating Committee, analyzing an auditing report or giving oversight as Clerk to sensitive issues of decision. He knew what it was to discern the "sense of the Meeting" in an unhurried manner. He had come early in his life to a sense of divine presence and knew how to wait for a sense of divine presence in a Quaker Meeting. It was a quality also present in the home and in the hospitality given there. His sense of having found inner peace exercised his expectation to find it in others. His inner life was visible to all as a witness. Important matters in Meeting life were entrusted to him with confidence. In the most delicate situations and in daily discourse his sense of humor bubbled to the surface in a most disarming way.

In his vocation he held very responsible positions in the Atomic Energy Commission and as Director of the financial division of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. He was one of the founders of Friends House and served on the Board of Sidwell Friends School and Sandy Spring Friends School.

For Ralph, God was never at a distance. The week of his death he spoke in a loving and healing manner in our Meeting for Business. For us who lift him up in memory, he will remain present in eternity.