

Peggy began and ended her life in Cameron, but in the middle of her life she and her husband Nick lived almost everywhere: Honolulu, Greece, Nepal, Yugoslavia, and Korea, to name a few places

Nick was a mining engineer for the US Government's various aid programs, including the Marshall Plan and the Agency for International Development. He helped make countries self-sufficient in fuels for power generation, using coal, lignite, and something in Nepal they called "brown stones that burned." Nick worked at various embassies and Peggy and he became goodwill ambassadors for America.

When they got back to Cameron, they carried that spirit of ambassadorship. They loved this town and the people here. Peggy volunteered at the school and tutored kids in reading. They brought high school students from Greece and Yugoslavia to live in the US, even in their own home. They joined the People to People Foundation that brought many folks from around the world to see Cameron, meet the people here and experience the American way of life firsthand.

Peggy was one of the friendliest people you'd meet. She'd wave at you walking down the street. And she always seemed pleased and delighted with you and with life. She kept a positive attitude through her final years. Her father lived to be 101, but she was proud of being 92.

After Jesus rose from the dead, Peter the apostle taught people about the meaning of his life. In today's first reading, Peter gives this short biography: Jesus was baptized by John. God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good. He healed those oppressed by the devil. His enemies crucified him, but God raised him on the third day and he appeared to witnesses who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Jesus left his homeland, did a lot of good things for people, got other people to carry on his message and then went home again. Peggy lived her life just that way. As we gather today back in Cameron, her home, we know that she is going now to the home she always longed to see. This goodwill ambassador will be welcomed to heaven where she will enjoy God's presence forever. As we recall her faith and her life, let us recommit ourselves to service to others and a love for our true homeland, the kingdom of God.