



Jane Elizabeth Markham

Jane Elizabeth Markham, age 90, passed away peacefully from natural causes in Austin, TX on January 29, 2011. Jane was born in Nebraska City, NB on March 30, 1920 and spent her early years there with her parents Lloyd and Minnie Orme and her three brothers and four sisters.

Mrs. Markham received a Nursing Degree from Creighton University in Omaha, NB. Upon graduation in 1942 she joined the Army to serve with an elite group of 500 flight nurses serving overseas in World War II. She was stationed in England but flew all over Europe and Africa caring for wounded soldiers. Mrs. Markham was on the hills overlooking Normandy Beach only 4 days after the invasion. She awoke to find her plane had been bombed overnight and was a total loss. On one occasion while flying out of France with a plane load of wounded soldiers Jane gave up her seat, and seatbelt, to a reporter who arrived just as they were leaving. The plane crashed on takeoff and Mrs. Markham broke a bone in her leg as well as other injuries as she was thrown violently around the plane. Despite her injuries she continued to care for the wounded. In later years her son found her Air Medal from World War II and asked where her Purple Heart Medal was that she received for her injuries in the plane crash. She told her son that she never picked it up because she didn't need a medal for doing her job and helping others. Jane Markham retired in 1945 with the rank of Captain.

During the war Jane met her future husband Colonel Peter J. Markham who was a Fighter Pilot flying out of England. They were married in Paris in 1945 and enjoyed their 65 wedding anniversary before Colonel Markham passed away in April of 2010.

Colonel Markham was in the Air Force for 33 years and Mrs. Markham took her responsibilities as the Air Base Commanders wife very seriously as they moved all over the United States and one assignment in Adana, Turkey. Jane learned to speak Turkish in order to better accomplish her duties as liaison between the Air Force Base and local elected officials.

Upon her husband's retirement in El Paso, TX where they lived for 33 years, Mrs. Markham enjoyed world travel, reading, and owning and racing Thoroughbred race horses. She was especially fond of doing crossword puzzles and wouldn't rest until each one was completed. Jane continued this pastime well into her eighties and usually used a pen.

Mrs. Markham is survived by her daughter Ann, son Peter and his wife Stephanie, grandchildren Lindsey, James, Andrew, and Grant Markham, and sister Shirley Noziska.

Jane Markham will be fondly remembered for her intelligence, wit, kind heart, and a genuine and completely selfless nature.

Condolences may be left at www.cookwaldenfuneralhome.com