



Mrs Wilametta Jean Maukonen

August 25, 1921 - December 6, 2012

Mrs. Wiliametta Jean Maukonen, age 91 of Oviedo, Florida passed away on Thursday, December 6, 2012 in Orlando, Florida. Mrs. Maukonen was born on August 25, 1921 in Jamestown, New York.

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, 905 Laurel Avenue, Sanford, Florida. (407) 322-5131

Tribute Wall



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“*Wilametta Jean McCutcheon was born the first of two daughters in Jamestown, NY in 1921. Her parents Bill and Marie called her “Billie Jean”. Jean later dropped the Billie, preferring instead to go by her middle name.*

Jean spent her childhood in New York, Australia, New Zealand and Pennsylvania. She attended St. Luke’s nursing school in Pennsylvania, and afterward received a commission as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in World War II. Lieutenant McCutcheon spent time in France and Germany caring for soldiers. At the close of the war she was a nursing supervisor over a ward of displaced persons, many from concentration camps and elsewhere around Europe and Russia. Many patients could not speak English, and Jean had to make do with her high school French. She was honorably discharged as First Lieutenant.

After the war, Jean attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Public Health. Her studies and subsequent work took her into the more impoverished areas of the city.

While at Duquesne, Jean met Carl “Ed” Maukonen, married in 1947, finished their education, and began their lives together.

The young couple settled in the small town of Burton, Ohio, where most of the children were born. Jean and Ed had five children – first three sons, Christopher, Kenneth, and Douglas, followed by two daughters, Marcia and Donna.

While Ed was working as a psychologist in the Geauga County school district, Jean was busy raising her kids, growing vegetables and flowers, and was involved in the PTA, the League of Women Voters, and Cub Scouts. During the gloomier days in Northeastern Ohio, Jean would engage her children in craft and art projects.

After several Ohio winters, Ed and Jean were ready for a change

and moved to Florida in 1963. The time in Florida was brief for Ed, who died unexpectedly in early 1964. Jean and her children returned to her parent's home in Pennsylvania for a few months. While there Jean learned to drive, and decided to return to Florida with her children to face life without their father. Not wanting to take a job that may require her to work at night, Jean decided not to return to nursing. Instead, she started a small home business—a kindergarten. Having the business in her home allowed Jean to teach her youngest child as well as bring in an income for the family.

When the youngest was ready for public school, Jean began substitute teaching at the neighborhood elementary school. That experience fueled her desire to return to college and pursue her lifelong dream of being an art teacher. In 1970 Jean moved with her youngest three children to Central Florida and attended UCF (FTU at that time), receiving her Masters in Education with an art concentration. She spent the rest of her career life working at Jackson Heights Middle School teaching art to sixth through eighth graders.

After retiring from teaching, Jean continued to pursue her love of art through sketching and painting with watercolors. When she encountered a budding artist, she was always quick to encourage, advise, and instruct them on artistic techniques and art history. Jean enjoyed meeting former students, their children, and then their grandchildren, at the local grocery store, who always had wonderful things to say about her classes.

Jean was always interested in the lives of her family, who she was able to see often. Besides art and family, Jean was interested in several causes and read extensively on a variety of subjects. She lived a long and full life and was eager for the next step right up to the end of her life. She had an active interest in culture, the arts, and in politics.

Besides her five children and two grandchildren, Jean is survived by her brother, Roger, her sister, Marcia, having predeceased her by a

matter of months.

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“ *Carolyn Azar lit a candle in memory of Mrs
Wilametta Jean Maukonen*



Carolyn Azar - December 12, 2012 at 11:57 PM