



## Deane Meek

March 6, 1928 - April 1, 2019

Deane Hammond Meek of Fayetteville, Arkansas, passed away Monday, April 1, 2019 after a life of 91 years well lived.

Deane was born to Ira Lester Hammond and Ruth McKee Hammond, in Elkins, Arkansas, March 6, 1928. It was not long before Ira and Ruth knew that they had a precocious child to raise. Deane taught herself to read at the age of three years, and it was not long until she commenced playing the piano. In that day, a lady named Lois Giles (who may still be living) took a train from Fayetteville to Elkins, walked up to the house at the end of Hattabaugh Lane where the Hammonds lived, to commence Deane's mastery of this wonderful instrument. Later, when attending Williams Woods College in Missouri, she presented a recital to demonstrate that ability.

In 1937, the family moved to Fayetteville where Mr. Hammond had situated his business. Another prime consideration was the availability of better educational opportunities for their children, Deane, Devon, and Marjorie, all of whom graduated with honors from Fayetteville High School and the University of Arkansas. A favorite time for her in later life was riding a stationary bicycle and memorizing poetry to avoid the dullness of the bicycle. There was no time for the mind to be wasted.

Not only was Deane gifted with a musical ear and brilliant mind, she was an excellent seamstress, preferring to use her small Singer Featherweight machine that her father had bought her instead of the "newfangled" ones. A favorite memory of her sister, Marjorie, is a time when she and her husband, Walter Niblock, were visiting in Houston for a football game and went to a reception at the Shamrock Hotel. As the reception was adjourning, Deane was walking across the floor towards the exit when a lady came rushing towards her and asked her where she had bought such a beautiful dress. Deane had made it. In fact, when long gowns were "in vogue," and Marjorie needed a special dress, Deane always obliged.

After graduating from the University of Arkansas, Deane married R. Gene Meek whose

work took them to St. Louis, Missouri; Springfield, Missouri; Bridgeton, Missouri; two homes in Houston, Texas; Dallas, Texas, with children Scott and Ann being added along the way. Several great retirement years were spent in Columbia Lakes, Texas, with Gene playing golf and Deane doing her own thing. After Gene's death, with their children not living nearby, Deane decided that it was time "to go back home to Fayetteville" where she had family. Butterfield Trail Village offered her what she was looking for. This last Christmas Day, Marjorie visited her at Butterfield and as Marjorie was leaving and walking with Deane to the dining room, Deane said, "This is just the best place in the world." How fortunate she was to have spent several good years and her last few days at Butterfield.

Deane's interests included: possessing a lifelong love of reading and researching, enjoying all forms of travel from cross county family road trips to worldwide travels across 88 different countries, of course sewing and decorating, cooking and cleaning, maintaining a lovely and gracious home, working on puzzles, standing for her conservative values and beliefs, and always serving faithfully as a devoted Presbyterian Church member and selfless volunteer.

And, now it is time to move on – Deane is survived by her children, Scott and wife Julie Smith-Meek of Chino Hills, California; Ann and husband Victor Recchi of Williamsport, Pennsylvania; grandchildren: Kevin Recchi of Dayton, Ohio; and Bryan Recchi and his wife Ann and Emily (the very special great-grandchild) of the San Francisco area, California; Deane's sister and brother (Marjorie Niblock and Devon Hammond of Fayetteville), their respective families and numerous cousins wherever living. Her physical body is in the care of Moore's Chapel for cremation. A memorial service and interment at Fairview Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville is reserved until the "high noon" McKee Cousins Reunion which will be at Marjorie Niblock's home in Fayetteville on the Saturday before the first Sunday in July, 2019.

# Comments

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“ A CONDENSED OBITUARY for the Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette:

Deane Hammond Meek of Fayetteville, Arkansas, passed away Monday, April 1, 2019 at Butterfield Trail Village after a life of 91 years well lived.

Deane was born to Ira Lester Hammond and Ruth McKee Hammond, in Elkins, Arkansas, March 6, 1928. She graduated with honors from Fayetteville High School and the University of Arkansas and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

She married Richard Gene Meek whose work took them to St. Louis, Springfield, and Bridgeton, Missouri; two homes in Houston, Texas; and Dallas, Texas. Many great retirement years were spent in Columbia Lakes, Texas.

Deane was truly a proper lady, composed and thoughtful. Not only was she gifted with a musical ear for playing the piano but also with a brilliant mind. Teaching herself to read at age 3, Deane continued a lifelong love of reading and researching. As an excellent seamstress she would even remake purchased clothing for her personal fit. Deane and Gene enjoyed all forms of travel from cross county family road trips, including nearly every U.S. national park, to worldwide travels across 88 different countries. Cooking and cleaning (often with a toothbrush), maintaining a lovely and gracious home decorated with travel mementos, and working on puzzles were favorite pastimes. She stood for conservative values and always served faithfully as a devoted Presbyterian Church member and selfless volunteer. Rather than kneeling in prayer, ever practical Deane advised, “Get up. Get busy.”

Deane is survived by her children: Scott and wife Julie Smith Meek of Chino Hills, California; Ann and husband Victor Recchi of Williamsport, Pennsylvania; grandchildren: Kevin Recchi of Dayton, Ohio; Bryan Recchi and wife Ann with Emily (the very special great-grandchild) of the San Francisco area; Deane’s sister and brother: Marjorie Niblock and Devon Hammond of Fayetteville, their respective families and numerous cousins.

A memorial service and interment is reserved until the McKee Cousins Reunion on July 6.

Family and friends may visit online to read a full obituary, sign the memory book, and extend condolences to the family at [www.moorefuneralchapel.com](http://www.moorefuneralchapel.com).

daughter Ann - April 12 at 04:50 PM



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daughter Ann Recchi - April 12 at 04:44 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ann Recchi - April 08 at 05:32 PM



“ This Classy Lady was a big part of Bethel Presbyterian Church in East Columbia. She was a good friend to my mother Barbara Barak whom went to be with the Lord November 2016. I am sure these two ladies have run into each other once again. My condolences to the family.

**Valarie Sanders** - May 02 at 04:17 PM