



## **Allison Burns Mc Bride**

1920 - 2014

### Allison Burns Mc Bride Obituary

Allison Mc Bride passed away peacefully with her family at her side on June 13, 2014. She was born May 21, 1920, in Redlands, California, Allison grew up in a Victorian home her grandparents had built in an orange grove on Summit Avenue. She was the great-granddaughter of John Scott, the banker in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, who was known as one of his fellow Scotsman, Andrew Carnegie's, earliest financial backers.

Allison attended the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1942. World War II caused Allison to change her plans to attend graduate school. Instead she took a job at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., working in Intelligence. During her lunch hour on the steps of the Pentagon, she saw an advertisement from the United States Army Air Corps looking for women pilots. Allison had obtained her private pilot's license while home from college during the summer in San Bernardino. In 1942, Allison joined the Army Air Corps Women's Air Service Pilots and went through the rigorous Army Air Corps training. Upon graduation, based in Sweetwater Texas, she ferried a variety of military bombers including open cockpit airplanes during the war with orders to take them to various cities throughout the United States for repair. Her work freed up men for combat duty. Although she received the same Army Air Corps training as men, she was considered a civilian because she was a woman. In 1976 Congress gave military status to the nearly 1000 women WASP pilots. In March, 2010, Allison Mc Bride and all the WASP pilots were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation's highest civilian honor.

Allison married H. Lesley Mc Bride of La Jolla, in 1954. Her husband was president of the Lesley Mc Bride Corporation, a real estate investment firm specializing in raw land acquisitions and sales throughout San Diego County. They raised three daughters. Allison taught Sunday School, was a Brownie troop leader, and a long time member of the charity organization, Las Patronas. She served as president of Las Patronas in 1972-1973. Allison was also an avid tennis player, entering many singles and doubles championships at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. Allison and Lesley shared 37 years of marriage, and traveled and golfed together in Hawaii and Palm Desert.

Allison is survived by her daughter, Cameron Mc Bride Volker of La Jolla; son in law, John Volker; and her grandchildren, Katherine Allison Volker and John Lesley Volker. She is also survived by her daughter, Lucy Mc Bride Olson; son in law, Torrey Olson; and grandson, Henry Olson of Sonoma.

A Memorial Service will be held for Allison on Thursday, July 24, 2014, at 11:00 in the Chapel at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Las Patronas or St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church.

Published in La Jolla Light on July 17, 2014