



Virginia "Lee" Hagerstrom

December 12, 1920 - May 28, 2015

Virginia 'Lee' Hagerstrom of Queenstown, MD, died on May 28, 2015, at the UMSMC in Easton. She was 94.

Born in Frankston, TX, on December 12, 1920, Lee was the daughter of the late Robert L. Jowell and Mary Francis 'Frankie' Moore Jowell. After graduating from Stephen Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX, she worked for a time at Delta Airlines as a ticket agent.

During World War II, she was a ferry pilot in the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP Class of 43-W-4), flying fighter aircraft between factories and seaports in the US and Canada. While serving as a WASP, Lee met her future husband, a USAF fighter pilot, James Philo Hagerstrom. She and James were married in 1944. After 50 years of marriage, Lee was widowed in 1994.

In addition to raising eight children, intermittently, Lee taught English and Social Studies in Texas, California and Micronesia. She was an accomplished pianist and singer and an avid walker, gardener and reader. Lee spoke Spanish and French and travelled extensively throughout the US and internationally to Mexico, Dominican Republic, Micronesia, Guam, Japan, Burma, Korea, Tunisia, and England.

She is survived by her children, Mitchell Anne Hagerstrom and Al Billings of

Austin, TX; Eric Hagerstrom of Arlington, VA, Kristin Hagerstrom of Queenstown, MD, Tereza Hagerstrom of Queenstown, MD, Mark Hagerstrom and Consuelo Ricart of Washington, DC, and Anastasia Hagerstrom of Cincinnati, OH; six grandchildren, Ingrid Hagerstrom, Simone Michelle Carrica, John Carlos Hagerstrom, Anamaria Dina Hagerstrom Plasket and Richard Plasket, Ramona Labat and Laura Simone Ricart Hagerstrom; and two great-grandchildren, Ethan David Aguiar and Jaxson Eric Plasket. She was predeceased by her husband, James Philo Hagerstrom (Col. USAF Ret.); sons, James Jr. and Vincent Joseph Hagerstrom; a daughter, Laura Anne Hagerstrom; a brother, Harlan Jowell; and a sister, Vesta Jowell Rogers.

All services will be private. Lee will be buried next to her husband with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the National WASP World War II Museum. (www.WASPmuseum.org)

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Virginia "Lee" Hagerstrom*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Virginia "Lee" Hagerstrom*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *My name is Cora Emery and my husband is James Abe Emery. James and Lee Hagerstrom were our close friends way back in Kolonia, Pohnpei. Afer Pohnpei, we moved to Guam and then we traveled the USA, Jim and Lee settled in Louisiana (forgot the little town's name), while we settled in Henderson, Texas.*

We shared a lot of happy, wonderful moments together. I had a wonderful time with Jim, Jim and Lee, awed at their stories. Jim and Lee's life was lived in full.

We were in Texas when Jim H passed away. We grieved for the loss of a great friend. Then we went back to Guam and lost contact. However, at one time, Lee and I communicated via email. And all of a sudden it stopped. I searched for her whereabouts but to no avail. All of a sudden I came across a facebook entry/post about WASPS and I googled her and I found this site.

I miss them both. Our sincere condolences to the family.

We retired in General Santos City, Philippines. We send our love.

Corazon A. Emery - March 16, 2017 at 01:05 AM



“ I took care of her for a year at Corsica nursing home and she was a joy. She lit up my day and I pray I get to see her again someday. She brought a smile to my face each time I saw her and near the end I hope that she thought of me. I wasn't able to be there but she has a special place in my heart forever. Thank you for your contribution in WWII. I miss you!



Keda Myles - October 29, 2015 at 03:49 PM

DP

“ Lee was my 5th grade teacher in Pasadena Texas in 1949-1950. I felt an instant kinship with her because of her being a WASP pilot. My father was career Air Force and I was in love with airplanes from a very early age. About seven years ago I was able to track her down and found out she was living in Austin, Texas with her daughter, Mitchell. Since I live in San Antonio, my wife and I went for visit her. This was such a wonderful experience. Before she had her stroke, we often exchanged emails. In one of her messages she referred me to a website that had the sound of a P-51 Mustang engine.

David H. Plylar - July 30, 2015 at 04:35 PM

DE

“ Denise lit a candle in memory of Virginia "Lee" Hagerstrom



Denise - June 23, 2015 at 07:36 AM

JW

“ *Jack & Pat Weston lit a candle in memory of Virginia "Lee" Hagerstrom*



Jack & Pat Weston - June 02, 2015 at 09:01 AM

DJ

“ *DAVID E WENCK JR lit a candle in memory of Virginia "Lee" Hagerstrom*



DAVID E WENCK JR - June 02, 2015 at 07:42 AM