



Our beloved mother and traveling companion, Jane L. Cannard, departed on her final journey on September 3, 2011 from her home at Freedom Village Brandywine.

Jane was born to Earle W. and Freda M. Lingle in Harrisburg, PA on October 17, 1924. She was named Mary Jane after her paternal grandmother, but because she grew up in a multigenerational household, the family called her Jane to avoid confusion. Through her school years she was known by both names, but when she started dating and then married Thomas H. Cannard on Sept 11, 1948, she became known as Jane L. Cannard, partly to avoid confusion with her husband's sister Mary.

An only child, Jane caught the travel bug at an early age. The Lingle family loved to go, even if it was only a "Sunday drive" or a "weekend retreat". Jane's father built a summer cabin on Stoney Creek near Duaphin, where they spent many wonderful summer days and nights. Once her parents retired and bought a travel trailer, Jane would often drive or fly off to join them wherever they happened to be parked. She later owned a series of motorhomes which she drove all over the US and Canada, dragging her reluctant husband along.

After graduating Susquehanna Township High School (Harrisburg, PA) in 1942, Jane went on to study nursing at the George F Geisinger Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, in Danville, PA. While living in Danville, she met her future husband and his large family. She graduated in 1945 and immediately went to work. After they were married, she and Tom moved to Philadelphia where she used her education to help support her husband through Medical School. Once her son Tom (Butch) was born in 1952, she stayed home to raise her children. In 1953 Tom and Jane bought a house in Havertown and the three of them moved to the suburbs. Fran came along 3 years after her brother.

Although an avid seamstress, accomplished knitter and sometime gardener, as the children grew older, Jane was not satisfied with her role as homemaker. Once the children were old enough to be on their own after school, Jane returned to work, much to her husband's dismay. After a year or so as a duty nurse, she was hired to fill a faculty position teaching Nursing at Bryn Mawr School of Nursing. She held that position till 1984 and is fondly remembered by many of the graduates of that program.

When Jane's husband passed away in November of 1991 and her father a few months

later in April of 1992, Jane became her mother's primary caretaker and she faithfully traveled to Florida every five weeks or so to make sure Freda had everything she needed. Jane was quickly assimilated into the Epworth Retirement community where Freda resided and was known by everyone for her willingness to help the residents and staff. Each trip to Epworth she arrived to a long "to do" list which kept her busy for the week. According to both Jane and Freda, the only drawback at Epworth was the community had no pool, and both loved a daily swim. It did not take them long to decide to contribute enough to the Epworth pool project to get it completed in memory of Earle and in honor of Freda Lingle.

In 1996, Jane decided it was time for her to "leave home" and after much research she purchased her condo at Freedom Village Brandywine. She selected a west facing, wing end apartment so she could watch the sunsets from her "Four Seasons" room. It became her favorite room in the apartment and she could often be found there reading when she was not out walking, running errands around the countryside, or traveling to distant shores.

Jane's greatest joy in life was seeing new things and exploring new places. When the family stopped traveling to Canada annually, she started planning trips on her own, often taking one or both of the kids along. While getting her small family together on a trip was often her first preference, if neither of "the kids" was available and another opportunity presented itself, she was always ready to take off with others. After purchasing her first motor home in the mid 70's, she started traveling the US and Canada in earnest, making numerous cross country trips over a 35 year period. She was both driver and navigator until the early 2000's when her son gradually took over the driving responsibilities.

After moving to Freedom Village, a friend convinced Jane to try cruising. Although initially reluctant to even consider traveling by sea (she couldn't take the motorhome and didn't know what she'd do to occupy herself while the ship was sailing), one cruise and she was hooked. Like motorhome trips, she loved being able to unpack once while the ship took her to new destinations. When not on shore excursions, she would often sit on deck in the shade and people watch.

Cruising broadened Jane's destination choices and as she visited Europe, Asia, South America, Central America, Australia, the Caribbean and South Pacific, her travels included fewer motorhome trips and more cruise and travel adventures. If she returned from one trip and did not have another booked or at least "in the works", she would often be slightly out of sorts until she knew where she was headed next. In 2009 she sold her last in a series of six motorhomes but continued to cruise or ride as a passenger in an antique Stanley Steam car. With her natural sense of direction, she hated "going and coming" the same way twice, so even when running errands around Chester County and beyond, she was constantly exploring new places.

Volunteering was always an important part of Jane's life, especially after she retired. For years she helped on Red Cross Blood Drives in their mobile bloodmobile and assisted

many of her favorite charities with their annual fund drives. Later she gravitated towards historical groups such as Friends of Auburn Heights and the Mill at Anselma.

Jane dedicated her life to caring for and helping others. Where ever she went, her “nursing” instincts took over and she naturally gravitated towards helping others – whether it was caring for them while they were sick, pushing them in a wheelchair, helping a stranger down the stairs, or picking something up for a friend when she ran errands. Jane was known for being direct and forthright; qualities many appreciated in her. When it came to her life, she was always very much in charge and determined to do things her way. Jane’s mind was sharp till the end and those around her did all they could to honor her final wishes.

Your kind thoughts and prayers in memory of Jane are appreciated; she will live on through all of us whose hearts she touched. Jane’s service to others meant she rarely asked for things for herself. She had no desire for formal services in her memory, but would only ask that each of you remember her in your own way. Those who would like to honor her can make a donation in her memory to their favorite charity. Two she most recently supported by volunteering are the Friends of Auburn Heights and the Mill at Anselma. She was also a generous supporter of medical research, including personal participation for over 50 years in the Nurses Health Study and final donation of her body to the Humanities Gift Registry for anatomical study or medical research.

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