

JANE STAIGER BURNS (1918 – 2009): A Tribute

Jane Staiger Burns, age 91, former administrative assistant at The Ohio Academy of Science, died 5 November 2009 at The Sanctuary at Tuttle Crossing, Dublin, OH. In 1994 she received a certificate of appreciation in recognition of her exemplary service in the United States Naval Reserve. She began working in the Academy in 1974, under the leadership of Jack Melvin and then under the direction of Lynn Elfner who came to the Academy in 1975. For nearly two decades Jane steadfastly served the organization with dedication and genuine devotion. She demonstrated her commitment to the Academy by remembering it with a bequest in her will.



Born 12 January 1918, in Toledo, OH, Jane Staiger was the daughter of John and Gertrude Staiger. Following graduation from Woodward High School in Toledo, she received a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Toledo. A World War II veteran, Burns retired as Lieutenant Commander, United States Naval Reserve after 20 years of service. She was an "FM"/Classical volunteer with radio station WOSU in Columbus, OH, for nearly 25 years. She also assisted in the station's classical library and business office. Twice she received the Spirit Award for her outstanding service. One of her volunteer colleagues remembered Burns as a "stand out as a worker and as a person." An affable and consummate professional, Burns was always punctual and impeccably dressed as well as a perfectionist in completing her assignments.

Burns held memberships in the Military Officers Association of America (life member) and the Military Officers Club of Central Ohio. She had a lifelong love of Siamese cats and always had at least two in her home. She also enjoyed gardening. For numerous years Burns sang in Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus, OH.

Jane Staiger Burns was predeceased by her husband Thomas Burns whom she married in the mid-1940s. Their marriage was brief, lasting about ten years. She is survived by her sister-in-law, AnnaBelle Staiger; nieces, Jeanne (Michael) Schatzki and Deborah (Benjamin) Newberry; and grand-nieces, Megan and Andrea Newberry. A memorial service was held 19 November 2009 at the Rutherford Funeral Home in Powell, OH. Interment with military honors was later held at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, OH. Memorial contributions may be sent to WOSU c/o WOSU Public Media, 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210 or The Ohio Academy of Science, 1500 West 3rd Avenue, Suite 228, Columbus, OH 43212-2817.

– WILLIAM R. BURK