



Lois Jean Byron

October 10, 1928 - November 23, 2020

Lois J. Byron of Spokane, WA, passed away on November 23, 2020. Lois was born in Lorain, Ohio in 1928 as the third child out of six to the late Don and Anna Byron. The family moved to Chicago, Illinois when Lois was in high school. After high school, Lois worked as a telephone operator before she attended the North Western School of Nursing in Evanston, Illinois where she went on to receive her master's in nursing. Lois then registered for the Air Force and entered active duty in 1956, stationed in Vallejo, Ca. During her 26+ years of service, she spent 15+ years as a clinical nurse and 10+ years as a Nursing Administrator. From 1958-1961 she was a Flight Nurse on the 145th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 1602nd Air Transport Wing. Lois was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for performing 70 aeromedical evacuation missions representing 2451:40 hours and 279,440 patient miles flown over the longest single-stage overwater aeromedical evacuation in the world. Lois retired as a Lt. Col in 1982, at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Lois decided to make Albuquerque, New Mexico her home for the following 38 years, spending several of those years volunteering as a docent at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. Lois enjoyed leading school and adult groups through the museum, talking about the many exhibits, and answering the many questions that arose. Lois was also very active in the Petal Pushers Garden Club of Albuquerque, through most of her retirement years. Lois was an avid traveler and traveled all over the world. Where she did not travel to or live while in the

service, she traveled to during her retirement years. In 2016, Lois moved to Spokane, Washington to be closer to family and spent the remainder of her years at Touchmark retirement community. Lois is survived by her last remaining sibling, Kay Pacheco of Cheney Washington, as well as many nieces and nephews who all adored her. The family will hold a memorial service for Lois in the spring when it is safe for family to travel.

Tribute Wall

JR

“ LtCol Byron was my Chief Nurse at Kirtland AFB and I learned from her & from SMsgt Duke lessons in leadership. She gave me opportunities to explore Nursing, she provided challenges and insight into people and Nursing experiences. She was intelligent, intuitive and made the hard choices thoughtfully and helped me with think through some tough decisions as a novice. I have missed telling her how much I appreciated and admired her. She helped all those nurses and staff under her command. Thank you Colonel Byron.

Joy Roehnert, RN, MSN, ANP

Joy Roehnert - June 13, 2021 at 08:58 AM

TE

“ I was saddened to hear of my friend Lois' passing. We served together on the board of the Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs for many years. We served on a special committee when a deceased member bequeathed the Garden Council a substantial amount of money to be used at the center. Lois looked tough on the outside, I'm sure due to her service experiences and rank, but she was a pleasant sweet person and very amiable to work with in the gardening world! I've missed her since she move to be with family. My condolences to her family. They don't make them like Lois anymore!

Teresa Edens-Master Gardener
Grounds Coordinator

Teresa Edens - December 11, 2020 at 10:03 PM

GL

“Lois was a dear member of our Petal Pushers Garden Club for many many years. She joined in 1985 only one other member has been a member longer. She was the treasurer for many years and also held other officers. The clubs collect funds to donate to the Pennies for Pines, which when enough money is donated, the plant 200 seedlings in our national Forrest. On her 90th birthday, the club did this in her name. I personally got to know Lois as she employed me as her Realtor to sell her home in New Mexico. I have so many great memories and actually I think of her everyday as I purchase man of her oriental rugs for my home. God Bless you Lois and I know you are enjoy every cloud in Heaven!!!

Ginny Longbotham - December 09, 2020 at 05:50 PM

LS

“On behalf of the Society of Air Force Nurses, please know that we are also mourning with you the death of our freind and colleague, retired Lieutenant Colonel Lois Byron. She was a remarkable woman who made a difference in the lives of so many as she made her own journey through life. Lois was a long time member of the Society, and a donation will be made in her memory to the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. She will be missed by many, and she will not be forgotten by the community of Air Force nurses.

Linda J. Stierle, Brigadier General, United States Air Force (Retired)

Linda J. Stierle - December 06, 2020 at 02:16 PM

NC

“ In 1980 I was a nurse at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico and Col Byron was the Chief Nurse. Having been recently married, I would constantly ask her about the status of my moving to join my husband at a different base. Through her help I was able to move and be with my husband. One does not know how they touch another person. Its been 40 years and I still remember her kindness and patience!!

Nancy Chenevey, Lt col, USAF, Ret

Nancy Chenevey - December 06, 2020 at 11:12 AM