



Willa Dunnagan

September 4, 2015

Willa Mitchell Dunnagan died on Friday, September 4th in Spring, Texas, after a long illness. She was 89 years old.

Willa was the daughter of Dr. Abbott Blunt Mitchell and Edith Hodges Mitchell. She was born in Hector, Minnesota, and spent most of her early life in Allegan and East Lansing, Michigan, where her father practiced medicine.

Willa often shared fond childhood memories of yearly train trips to visit her maternal grandfather in Weston, Colorado. He was the sheriff (and the bartender), and his colorful and adventurous life instilled in her a lifelong love of the American west.

Willa met William Andrew Dunnagan on the campus of Michigan State University, where she was a student and where he was stationed as an Air Force pilot toward the end of World War II.

Bill and Willa fell in love and were married on August 27th, 1945. They moved back to his home-state of North Carolina where he began his medical training at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Bill practiced Radiology in Amarillo, Texas for many years, kept his pilot's

license “current,” and loved to ski and play golf. Willa joined him in his pursuits, and also found time to complete both her undergraduate and master’s degrees in English Literature. She was an English professor at West Texas State University. Willa was an accomplished pianist, a terrific bridge player, a master at crossword puzzles, a needleworker and an avid reader. Always the professor, Willa was beloved in the family for her curiosity on all subjects and famous for encouraging her children and grandchildren to “Look it up!” Bill and Willa raised four children in Amarillo, and all graduated from Tascosa High School.

Willa and Bill retired to Lake LBJ, and spent twenty-five happy years there, with lots of visits from family and friends. They found time to boat, swim, golf, travel and appreciate the beauty of the Texas Hill Country.

Willa is survived by her four children and their spouses, Carolyn Fletcher and her husband John of Wellesley, MA, Charles and his wife Laurie of Anchorage, Alaska, William and his wife Diane of Spring, TX, and Steven and his wife Kim, of Little Rock, Arkansas. Willa is also survived by nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, two sisters and a brother.

A memorial service and celebration of Willa’s life is planned at a later date. Donations in Willa’s memory may be made to an Alzheimer’s research organization of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Willa Dunnagan*

July 20, 2022 at 05:14 PM



“ *As above, I have nothing but wonderful memories of our time at Willa and Bill's. I'll never forget Bill going off the rope-swing, or playing Yahtzee and Aquire with Willa, skiing, sailing, star watching, fishing, Katy getting attacked by a hill of fire-a*

Eric Thompson - August 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *One of my very favorite memories occurred one night at Bill and Willa's lake house when we all went down to the dock, away from the house lights, and gazed at a beautiful starry sky. It was awe inspiring as we contemplated the magnificence of creation, i*

Jim and Marie Thompson - August 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jim And Marie Thompson lit a candle in memory of Willa Dunnagan*



Jim and Marie Thompson - August 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Berniece G. Dunnagan lit a candle in memory of Willa Dunnagan*



Berniece G. Dunnagan - August 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Willa will always be remembered by my family for all the wonderful times we shared together at her and Bill's lake house; swimming, boating, fishing, windsurfing, playing cards, and of course, trips for lunch and dinner at the Blue Bonnet cafe. They were*

John Thompson - August 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *John Thompson lit a candle in memory of Willa Dunnagan*



John Thompson - August 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM