

## **Obituary**

**Died:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Uxbridge- Jane Ann (Shute) Clarke, 97, formerly of Uxbridge, passed away Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at her home in Bradenton FL. Her husband of 61 years, Robert B. Clarke, died in 2007.

She leaves her sons, Robert B. Clarke Jr. of New Harbor ME, James F. Clarke of Northfield MA, John C. Clarke of Bushnell FL, her daughter Cynthia A. Carrier of Uxbridge, their spouses and exes, along with 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. She was also pre-deceased by her two sisters, Marion Bradbury and Nancy Creighton, and a grandson Owen J. Clarke.

She was born in Peoria IL, the third daughter of the late James M. and Dorothea Shute, and was raised in Uxbridge. She graduated from Uxbridge High School, Class of 1941 and went off to the University of Michigan to study fashion, hoping to perfect the little black dress, but ended up graduating in the spring of 1945 with a degree in Geography, after which she and the rest of the graduating geography majors were hired by the U.S. Government and brought to Washington DC, where they spent that summer working in huge hangers piecing together aerial photographs of Japanese cities for future bombing raids.

Following the war, she married her high school sweetheart Bob and they lived in Philadelphia while he completed his war-interrupted studies. Following his graduation, they then settled back in Uxbridge, where she had and reared their 4 children. When the kids were all in school, Jane took a job teaching at Uxbridge High School. A generation of Uxbridge High classes honed their reading, writing, and grammar skills in Mrs. Clarke's English class. She was the Girls softball coach for many years at Uxbridge High, including the undefeated season of 1964.

Jane and Bob retired in 1979 and moved to Wild Oak Bay in Bradenton FL, where they lived until Bob's death in 2007. A couple of years later Jane moved to Freedom Village in Bradenton, her residence until her passing, where she made a host of new friends.

Many years, with Bob and after, she would spend summers in Uxbridge, visiting friends and watching her grandchildren participate in all sorts of activities. She was a knowledgeable baseball fan, and rooted equally hard for a grandchild's ball team as she did her beloved Red Sox.

Jane was a teacher her whole life, whether at school or at home. She spent one summer teaching 3 tables of neighborhood pre-teens the basics of bridge, which she played very well, as she did all other card games. She was a puzzler of all sorts; jigsaws, crosswords, acrostics, cryptograms, you name it, she did it. She was a worthy opponent in any board game you played with her. She could sew with the best of them, and quilted until she was 90. Jane was a life long golfer, with memberships over the years at Pine Ridge in Upton, the Whitinsville Golf Club, and El Conquistador Country Club in Bradenton. She finally gave up golf at 85, having, she said, "had enough."

Arrangements in Florida are being handled by Shannon Funeral Home in Bradenton. Jane's cremated remains will be brought to Uxbridge for a funeral mass and a burial next to her husband at St Mary's Cemetery, later this year, post-Covid, at the family's convenience, overseen by Jackman Funeral Home.

Jane was a child of the depression, and the lessons she learned during those difficult times, independence, perseverance, frugality and kindness towards all, she carried with her all her days. She suffered no fools gladly, least of all her children or their friends, but all who knew her understood the depth and the warmth of her teacher's heart. May she rest in peace.

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## **Service Summary**

**Family to do services at later date**

Location: - *Not available* -