



Obituary

Lucile Garrett Plane 1914 - 2013



The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is sad to note the passing of Lucile G. Plane, 98, of Gatesville, Texas, on May 11, 2013. Lucile was a former member of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Board, a patron, and the first female warden in the modern Texas Department of Corrections.

Lucile was born August 12, 1914 in Beaumont, Texas, the only child of Oscar Pendleton Garrett and Lucie Antoinette Videou. She attended Lamar University, UCLA, and Arizona State University completing a graduate degree in psychology.

After graduation Lucile married and worked in the banking, printing and steel industries as well as counseling part-time at Arizona State University.

She returned to Texas in 1971 and took a position with the State's Deep East Texas Regional Probation Department in Livingston. A year later she was promoted to Chief Probation Officer. In 1974, at 60, she was asked to become warden of the new women's correctional Mountain View Prison in Gatesville. Her responsibilities eventually expanded to include multiple units housing more than 2,000 female inmates including responsibility for the emotionally taxing "death row" unit. Her humaneness, concern and compassion for inmates won her universal respect. There were no homicides, escapes or riots during her tenure. After her retirement in 1985, the Texas Department of Corrections recognized this dedication by naming a unit in her honor, the Lucile Plane Jail in Dayton, Texas.

Exceptionally modest, Lucile asked that her substantial financial support of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum not be recognized in her lifetime. She served as a Board member of the Hall of Fame and Museum until failing eyesight and advanced years made it impractical for her to attend meetings. In 2009 the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Texas Ranger Association Foundation commissioned an oral history in order to preserve the history of her landmark service in Texas corrections and her working relationship with numerous Texas Rangers. She was made a Board member emeritus for her dedication to the preservation of the Texas Ranger heritage.

