

Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

MANCH, LEE MATHIS (Mrs. Jacob Earle Manch '38)

Lee Mathis Manch, the widow of Doolittle Raider Jacob E. "Jack" Manch, passed away in Las Vegas on 29 October 2003 after lapsing into a coma from which she never awoke. She was 83. Jack died in 1958 near Las Vegas when he steered his crippled jet away from nearby homes only to bail out too late for his parachute to open.

While in Japan during the Korean War and on other assignments, Jack and Lee became close to General Doolittle, Chuck Yeager, Jackie Cochran, Wayne Newton, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Sammy Snead and other luminaries.

Lee honored Jack's name in many ways, including the dedication of Manch Elementary School in Las Vegas and the Manch Room at the Shenandoah Valley Airport. She had attended all the Doolittle Raider reunions since Jack's death and served on the board of the Air Force Association. She is survived by her sisters, Amie Daniel and Veda Berger of Utah.

Lee was a proud supporter of AMA, attending a number of AMA alumni reunions. When the 60th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid approached, Lee tried to make both the commemoration at AMA and the Doolittle Reunion in South Carolina, but could not work out the travel arrangements to get her to Fort Defiance on time.

(2004 Summer Bayonet))