

## ROOT

Jeanne Root, Republican Party activist,  
1921-2009



Jeanne Root, a long time resident of El Paso, died at the age of 87 on February 5th of complications from fractured hip surgery. She suffered from dementia and spent

the last 5 years of her life living near her family in Newport News, Virginia. Jeanne Root was an extraordinary woman who with a handful of others, helped create a two party political system in El Paso and throughout Texas. Beginning with the special election of John G. Tower as the first Republican U.S. senator since Reconstruction, Jeanne worked tirelessly to build a viable Republican party where previously all governing at state and local levels was controlled, exclusively, by Democrats. Jeanne was a pragmatic, politically moderate activist who was most involved in the Party up to the late 1980s. She never endorsed the social conservative agenda of many Republicans who took control over the Party in the 1980s and her personal involvement altered considerably with the death of Senator Tower in 1991. Jeanne's commitment to the Republican Party included terms on the State Republican Executive Committee

and included numerous local advisory supervisory roles. Jeanne thoroughly enjoyed her tenure on the City Planning Commission under Mayor Frank Turner and her other interests included raising all animals especially Great Danes, and gardening even when water restrictions killed her beloved pine trees. Jeanne McClain was born in Cleveland Ohio and reared in Sacramento, California. She met her husband-to-be John Root, while he trained as a B-17 navigator for the famed 15th Air Force of the Army Air Corps at Mather Field during World War II. Jeanne and John, who was a career officer in the Air Force, were first assigned to Biggs Field with their four children in 1959. Jeanne and John's children attended both Bel Air and later Eastwood High Schools. John preceded Jeanne in death in 1982. She is survived by her four children and their families, including 6 grandchildren: Jeffrey Root, Berkeley, California; Greg and Ann Root, their daughter Elizabeth in Dallas; Candace and Robert Snyder, their children Jeffrey, Jessica, Sarah and John in Newport News, Virginia; and Cynthia and Donald Moran and their daughter and namesake Jeanne, in McLean, Virginia. A memorial dinner for family will be held on Friday, March 27 at the home of Cindy and Don Moran in McLean, Virginia. A remembrance for Jeanne Root to the Alzheimer's Association would be welcomed and deeply appreciated by her family.