

## **In Memoriam: Ms. Harriett Jane Brattain, AICP Recipient of the Rik Wiant Award**

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How does one pay tribute to a good friend, professional associate and fellow Federal Planning Division (FPD) Chair whose untimely passing still has many of us in shock? The Rik Wiant Award is a special award, named in honor of another FPD planner who left us too soon. His leadership and dedication to Federal planning live on when exemplary planners such as Jane Brattain are honored with this award.



It is hard to sum up the lifetime achievements of an individual, but suffice it to say that Jane demonstrated the highest professional standards, dedication to the planning profession, and was a loyal and steadfast Federal planner. She was a well-respected and dedicated employee who began her career as an architect/planner at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic Division; moved up to NAVFAC Headquarters, and then to Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) as the Facilities Planning Section Head; retired from Federal service approximately five years ago, and then worked in the private sector for URS and AECOM. She was known for her planning and architecture knowledge and no-nonsense business approach. Not only did she excel at planning, but she also took on a leadership role in educating other planners and mentoring them.

Jane served on numerous panel presentations at FPD and the American Planning Association (APA) about the importance of Federal planning. Her genuine interest in mentoring others and enlightening younger people to the benefits of a Federal planning career were evident in the many presentations she gave, both at planning conferences and to planning students at various universities and colleges.

Jane's dedication to public service and her profession made her an excellent candidate for Chair of the Federal Planning Division, and she was elected to this position in 2005. She excelled in this new role as it embodied her dedication to the planning profession. She was commended for her accessibility, quick thinking, and innovative solutions. One of her many accomplishments as Chair were to improve the liaison between FPD and APA. She encouraged others to take on leadership roles in FPD, and helped them to achieve excellence.

Mr. Richard Hamner, who worked for Jane at HQMC, provided the following description to support her receipt of the Rik Wiant award. "Needless to say, the workload always had its plateful of challenges and I think many were initially skeptical of this newcomer's abilities. But this myth was soon dispelled by the remarkable skill sets, character and friendship that Jane brought into all our lives. As engineers planning the Marine Corps' largest facilities across the country, there was always the problem *du jour*, the "fire

drills” requiring rapid, accurate vetting, and presentation of high visibility briefings. Sweating bullets was an understatement. Every planned action was important because they directly supported our nations Marines. Jane was always the tip of the spear. The size of the tasks seemed to outflank her quiet, diminutive nature. But Jane was undaunted. She could look right through a problem, look right through you, analyze courses of action, and work with all around her in finding solutions that put “steel on target”. The breadth of her abilities spanned the Department of Defense and the federal interagency as well. Jane was well known and she frequently contributed her expertise to other federal planning forums. Her wit defused the tensest of situations. She had an arsenal of aphorisms that complemented her humor. Her “nothing bad ever dies” always kept us at the ready for the next crisis. Jane was a discerning lady, one who understood you professionally, socially, personally. Suffice it to say that Jane Brattain left her supporting mark on billions of dollars of Marine Corps infrastructure.”

While we are saddened by the sudden loss of our fellow planner Jane Brattain, her friendship and professional dedication live on as we implement projects she initiated and see the next generation of planners take on the leadership roles that she exemplified.