

## **Louise McDaniel**

Louise was born on December 21, 1913, and raised on a farm in Buckland, Kansas. She is the third oldest of 10 children born to her parents, John and Cora Lowry. Two of her siblings did not survive infancy. She grew up with 4 brothers and 3 sisters, and graduated from high school in 1931. She was 18 and working at Woolworth's dime store when she met her future husband, Dell McDaniel. They were married on May 30, 1935, the following year they went to California, to see her mother and older brother, and "never went back." Dell was a carpenter by trade, making .40 cents/hour in Kansas. In California, he was able to find employment as a carpenter making \$1/hour, and worked his way up to Foreman. They remained in Southern California, first in Los Angeles, after a few years, started their own business and moved to San Marino. Their family grew to include three children, 2 daughters and 1 son, and their business, C&M Homes, became very successful. In 1968, the family moved to Upland. Louise was widowed in 1983, when Dell died suddenly at the age of 71. They were in London, getting ready to board a cruise ship when he suffered a massive heart attack. Louise remained in their home in Upland until moving to Valencia Gardens in Rancho Cucamonga, not quite 2 years ago.

Both Louise and Dell lived through the Great Depression and came to believe that the WPA was a total waste of money - not providing enough work for the many receiving benefits. From then on, they could not tolerate entitlement programs "most of them are a big waste." She "certainly doesn't mind helping those who really need help but so many of the social programs are unnecessary." She worked as a volunteer with Head Start but the amount of waste was intolerable and she left after one year. She loved the children, many of whom needed loving care but the way it was run, she just couldn't stand it. She has always been a Republican, since registering to vote at the age of 21. She voted in her first election in 1936. After her marriage, she was a homemaker and stay at home mom while her children were growing up, actively involved in their school activities, PTA work, working with her husband in their business, and caring for her mother and in-laws. She was passionate about politics too, so, after her children were grown and the obligation to her parents was fulfilled, she became actively involved in the Republican Party.

She joined the Chaffey Community Republican Women, Federated, in January, 1969, and was President of the organization in 1973-1974. She had worked in many campaigns and supported many Republican candidates before joining CCRWF. Her first campaign was Dwight Eisenhower's Presidential bid, in 1952. The Presidential election in 1960, when Richard Nixon ran against John Kennedy, was especially frustrating for Louise. She knew that Nixon had really won the election because voter fraud had occurred in Chicago; however, Nixon "was too much of a gentleman to ask for a recount," She worked at the Republican Headquarters in San Marino when Nixon ran for Governor against Pat Brown, in 1962. At that time, the San Marino Republican Women's Club had endorsed the John Birch Society candidate (Shell), so Louise, spearheaded the Primary campaign for Nixon, securing hundreds of volunteers. Nixon won the Primary but

lost the Governorship contest. Louise was actively involved in Nixon's Presidential campaigns of 1968 and 1972, and attended his Inauguration in 1969. She got to know Nixon personally, as well as his family, and still believes he was probably the smartest of all the Presidents and such a decent man. She attended the Republican National Convention in 1988, for the first President Bush. She has attended several California State Inaugurations. She has pictures in her apartment of her with three Republican Presidents, pictures of Presidents and First Ladies including Presidents Gerald Ford, George Herbert Walker Bush, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and Nancy Reagan, Barbara and Laura Bush, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford. Many Commendations adorn her walls. She was thrilled to shake the hand of Present Bush, when he came to Rancho Cucamonga, in August 2005.

She considers former State Senator James Brulte and Congressman David Drier, close friends. Actually, she was instrumental in the career of the Congressman. A very young David Drier (age 28) was looking for support and came to meet Dell and Louise at the Country Club. To see if this "naïve" young man could handle what he considered to be a very difficult campaign against a very popular Democrat (Jim Lloyd), a dubious Dell posed "hundreds of questions" to David, of which he answered "to his satisfaction." David Drier lost the election to Mr. Lloyd, but two years later, he won and has remained undefeated up to the present time. Ironically, Jim Lloyd later changed his party affiliation – to Republican!

At the present time, Louise is 93 years old. She has survived heart surgery (in 1994) and colon cancer (in 2002). She states that her health is "good, fine right now." In addition to her children, she has 8 grand children and 6 great grand children—all of whom are Republicans and many actively working for the Republican Party. She still attends CCRWF meetings every month and actively recruits Republicans to join. She is responsible for at least 5-6 new members to our club since moving to her new home, and many others who just come to attend the meetings. She drove her car until age 91, at which time, she told her grandson to "pick it up and sell it." She seems content with her life and is ready for the "next step". She has a good loving family and lots of friends. She has helped countless people through her generosity, even though, she is the last to say so. She can't understand why she is being honored by CCRWF!

**What a woman! What a life! A true, humble patriot!**