

Sheldon Wilson Jones passed away in his sleep on January 16, 2018 at the age of 100. He was born to Ellsworth Steigelman Jones and Rebecca Ella (Rhodes) Jones on March 31, 1917 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was raised in Philly, attended Quaker schools and graduated from Radnor High School in 1937. Sheldon then attended Syracuse University, where he was a member of the Zeta Psi fraternity. He received his BA in Drama in 1941.

In September 1941, Sheldon enlisted in the Army. He completed basic training at Fort Wolters, Mineral Wells, TX just before Pearl Harbor was attacked. He was initially assigned to the 27th Infantry Division and shipped to Hawaii to protect the islands from invasion. In early 1943 he took a brief leave and reassignment to a unit being formed – the 11th Airborne Division. Beginning in May of 1944 they were deployed to New Guinea, then Leyte and Luzon. Sheldon saw action in all three areas, was wounded in Leyte and later at Nichols Field on Luzon. His most memorable experience was being on the Raid on Los Baños detainee camp, where all prisoners were freed with no casualties. Sheldon was then posted to Sendai, Japan, where he was in charge of destroying an armory. He was discharged in November 1945.

Sheldon returned to Philadelphia, eventually enrolling in graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania. He married Doris (Doran) Irene Gorman on September 3, 1949. He graduated in 1951 and went to work with the Travelers Aid Society and Family Services of Chester County. Doran and Sheldon celebrated the Fourth of July 1953 by welcoming their only daughter, Tande Elise, into the world. Sheldon was selected as the founding director of Jefferson County Family Services in 1958 and the family moved to Black River, New York. Sheldon retired in 1979.

Sheldon was active in the Episcopal Church, serving on both the parish and diocesan levels. He enjoyed refinishing furniture and playing bridge. He also spent time maintaining the family's cottage on Lake Ontario, a continuous project in process.

After Doran passed away in 1993, Sheldon became reacquainted with longtime family friend, Dorothy Brooks Miller, eventually moving to an adjoining apartment overlooking the Hudson River in Troy, New York. Sheldon and Dorothy became active in the "Welcome Home Initiative," a program of the Episcopal church which supports returning veterans. They also enjoyed decorating their apartment building, supporting the local arts and their church until her passing in 2011.

Sheldon then moved to The Woodlands, Texas to be near his daughter Tande and her family. He was active at his retirement community and enjoyed making and visiting new friends. He always liked visits from his friends from the northeast and welcomed the chance to take them out for Texas Bar-b-Que or to see fields of wildflowers.

Besides his parents, Sheldon was pre-deceased by Doran, his wife of 44 years, his partner Dorothy with whom he spent 15 great years, two sisters, Mary Jones Fretwell and Kathryn "Kit" Jones Konegan, two brothers who died in childhood, and nephew William Fretwell. He is survived by his daughter Tande (Peter) Moreau and grandchildren Kathryn and Ian. Also, his niece Marybill (Fretwell) Andrews and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service will be held this summer at the convenience of the family near their cottage in northern New York. His ashes will be placed with Doran's in the Gardner Earl Chapel, Oakwood Cemetery, in Troy, New York. If you wish to remember Sheldon, please make a contribution to your favorite veteran's organization, The National Museum of the Pacific War, your church, or other charity of your choice. And a toast with a good Manhattan, Gin & Tonic, or Rusty Nail is always in order.