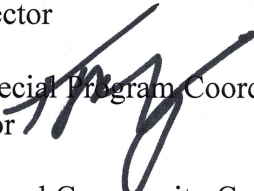




MCPB Item #
October 23, 2008

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 10, 2008
TO: Montgomery County Planning Board
VIA: Mary Bradford, Director
FROM: Terry H. Brooks, Special Program Coordinator
Office of the Director 
SUBJECT: Renaming of the Leland Community Center

Action Requested:

Approval to rename the Leland Community Center located in Chevy Chase to the Jane Lawton Community Center.

Background:

The Commission received correspondence from Ms. Kathy Strom, Mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase, requesting that the name of the Leland Community Center be changed to the Jane Lawton Community Center in honor of the late Honorable Delegate Jane Lawton. (See Attachment #1)

The Commission received a letter of support for the renaming of the Leland Community Center in honor of Jane Lawton endorsed by each member of the Montgomery County Council. (See Attachment #2)

The Commission has also received a letter of endorsement from United States Congressman Chris Van Hollen in support of Mayor Strom's request. (See Attachment #3)

The renaming request has also been supported by other elected and appointed officials, and we expect to receive other letters of endorsement shortly.

The Leland Community Center:

The Leland Community Center is located at 4301 Willow Lane within the 3.7 acre Leland Neighborhood Park in Chevy Chase. This former school site was conveyed to the Commission

in 1986. The entire site was leased to the Town of Chevy Chase, also in 1986. Simultaneously, the Town sub-leased the site to Montgomery County for use as a community recreation center and a park. The Town, with the County's assistance, subsequently designed and built the Leland Community Center and Leland Neighborhood Park. Per the sub-lease between the Town and the County, the community recreation building operates under the sole administration of the County. The County is responsible for all operating expenses relating to the use and occupancy of the building. The park, defined as all areas of the site outside the building, is maintained by the Commission.

Leland Community Center provides a variety of recreational opportunities. The facility consists of a full gymnasium, weight/exercise room, art room, social hall to accommodate groups up to 150, conference room, lobby/lounge area, and community room. The building also houses the administrative offices of the Town of Chevy Chase. Programs at the center include weight and exercise room memberships, open gym basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, and classes in arts and crafts. Area and county wide sports programs, family special events, summer and holiday camps, programs for individuals with disabilities, holiday parties for children, a child day care program, and volunteer opportunities are offered as well. (See Attachment #4 - Park Site Map)

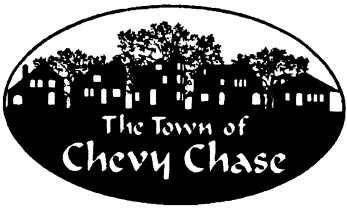
Park Facility Renaming Policy:

In October 1998, the Montgomery County Planning Board adopted a policy and guidelines for the renaming of park facilities. (See Attachment #5) The proposed renaming complies with the Commission's adopted criteria under the "*Persons of Outstanding Civic Service to the County or Commission*" as well as the citizens of the State of Maryland.

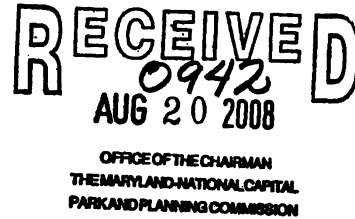
The Honorable Delegate Jane Lawton's lifelong accomplishments and achievements for the citizens of Montgomery County and the State of Maryland are well known and are reflected in her summarized biography. (See Attachment #6) Delegate Lawton was also very instrumental in the development of the Leland Community Center Building, while she served as Mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that because of Jane Lawton's exemplary civic, legislative, and extraordinary leadership contributions to the citizens of the State of Maryland, in general, and the citizens of Montgomery County, in particular, that the Leland Community Center is renamed the "**Jane Lawton Community Center**". Staff will work with the Town of Chevy Chase, the County Executive's Office, the County Council, the Recreation Department, and others as appropriate in order to coordinate the required funding and improvements needed to celebrate the name change.



Town Council
Kathy Strom, *Mayor*
Robert Enelow, *Vice Mayor*
David Lublin, *Secretary*
Linna Barnes, *Treasurer*
Al Lang, *Community Liaison*



August 18, 2008

Montgomery County Planning Board
M-NCPPC
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Planning Board Members:

On behalf of my colleagues on the Town of Chevy Chase Council, I respectfully request your consideration to rename the Leland Community Recreation Center as the Jane Lawton Memorial Recreation Center.

As you all know, Jane passed away unexpectedly on November 29, 2007. Jane was a tireless community servant, who represented parts of Chevy Chase, Kensington and Silver Spring as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates during the last two years of her life. She was deeply involved in local politics and schools, serving for 12 years on the Town of Chevy Chase Council, including four terms as mayor, and as PTA president at Rosemary Hills Elementary School. Jane also served as special assistant to County Executive Neal Potter in the 1990s and as Chief of Cable Communications for Montgomery County since 1994.

In Chevy Chase, Jane led the effort in the 1970s to tear down Leland Junior High School and create the Leland Community Recreation Center, now a magnet of community activity and a living legacy to her achievement. For this reason, we believe renaming the Center in honor of Jane is most fitting and appropriate.

The Town Council is excited about renaming the Center after Jane and hopes that the Board can address and approve our request in the early fall. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Kathy Strom
Mayor



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

October 8, 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD
20910

Dear Chairman Hanson:

We write to offer our support for the renaming of the Leland Community Center in Bethesda to the Jane Lawton Community Center in Leland Neighborhood Park in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Jane Lawton was a dedicated State Delegate, four-term Mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase, a long-serving member of its Town Council, a former Special Assistant to County Executive Neal Potter, and Montgomery County resident who was very generous with her time and efforts. It is only fitting that the Leland Community Center be renamed in her memory. Jane championed the idea of the Center and worked tirelessly for it. Renaming the center for her would be a fitting and appropriate honor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Knapp
Council President

Nancy Floreen
Councilmember

Phil Andrews
Councilmember

Roger Berliner
Councilmember

Marc Elrich
Councilmember

Valerie Ervin
Councilmember

George Leventhal
Councilmember

Don Praisner
Councilmember

Duchy Trachtenberg
Councilmember



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2008

1707 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6341

DISTRICT OFFICES:
51 MONROE STREET, #507
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850
(301) 424-3501

SUITE C-201
6475 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20783
(301) 891-6982

www.vanhollen.house.gov

Montgomery County Planning Board
M-NCPPC
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Members of the Planning Board:

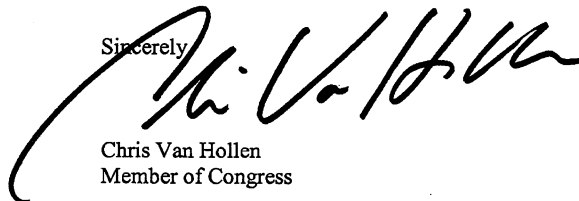
I am so pleased that the Town of Chevy Chase has requested that the Leland Community Center be renamed in honor of Delegate Jane Lawton. I cannot think of a more appropriate recognition for Jane and for her contributions to our community.

Jane treasured her lengthy involvement with the Town of Chevy Chase, and that was reflected in her countless friendships, associations and accomplishments on its behalf. It is no surprise that Jane was at the forefront of the effort in the 1970s to create the Leland Center. For decades now it has served as the hub of the community life in Chevy Chase – just as Jane was the hub of so many facets of our community – and the Leland Center remains a living legacy to her numerous achievements.

As we near the one year anniversary of Jane's passing, we are reminded of all that Jane did for the Town of Chevy Chase, Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and the United States.

It is a most fitting tribute to Jane that this Center, which Jane worked so passionately to preserve, nestled in the community that she loved, might forever bear her name and be known to all as the Jane Lawton Community Center at Leland Neighborhood Park.

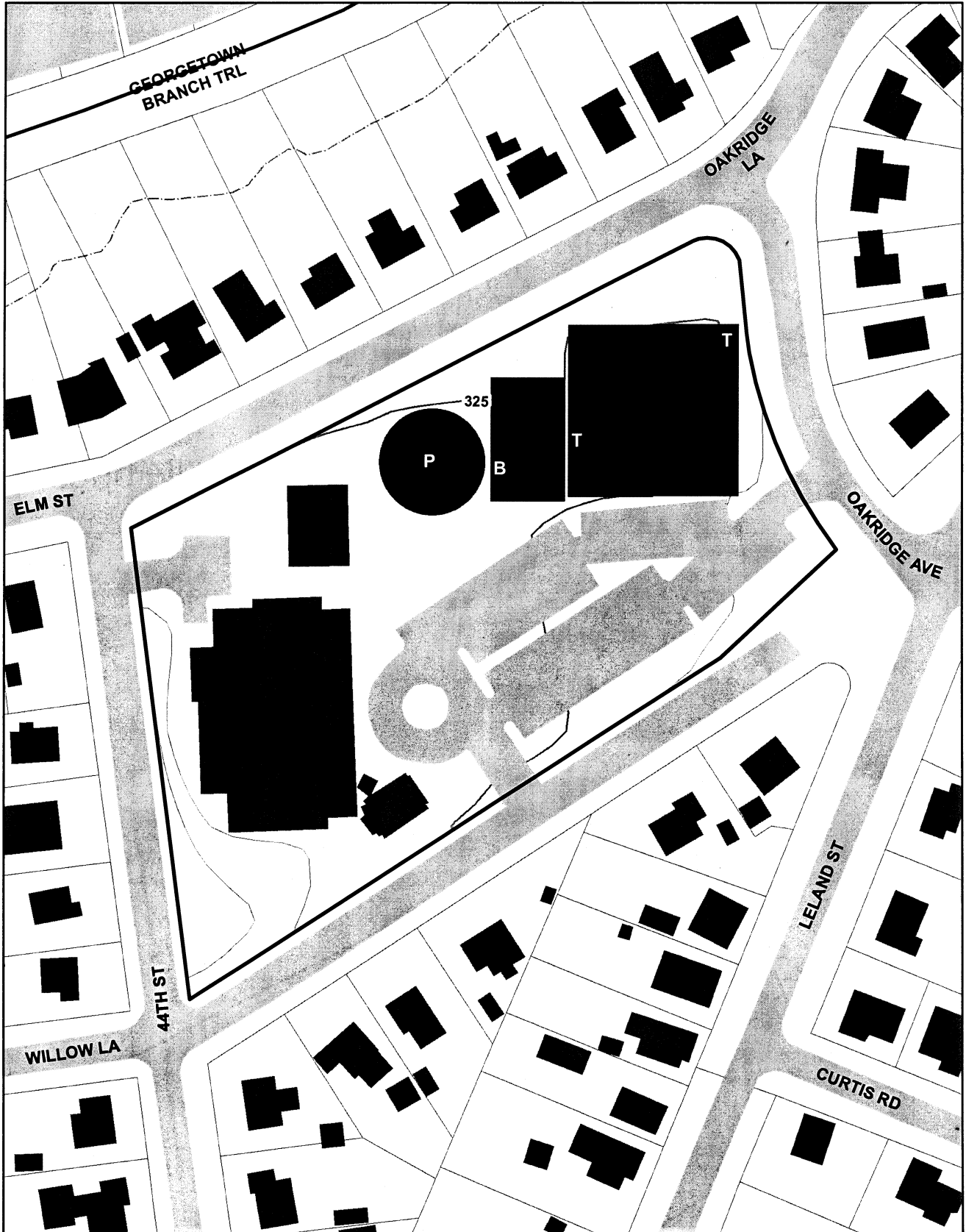
Sincerely,




Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Leland NP

4300 Elm Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815



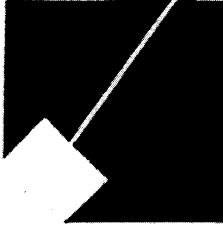
MENCDC  Acreage 3.689
Facility Code B74

Region S
Area MB

Date 07-02-2007



M-NCPPC



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760MCPB Lunch-time Item
October 22, 1998**MEMORANDUM**

To: Montgomery County Planning Board

From: Donald K. Cochran

Subject: Park Naming Policy: Guidelines Recommendation

Date: October 22, 1998

The Policy

Montgomery County parks and areas and facilities within parks are generally named for a geographic area or a natural historic feature, but, as appropriate, parks and areas and facilities within parks may be named to reflect local folk usage, or significant historic, material, or financial contributions to the Commission, or persons of historic or outstanding civic service. Markers may be placed in parks and on park facilities honoring or memorializing individuals and organizations.

Approved: September 10, 1998

GUIDELINES RECOMMENDATION*Guidelines for Naming or Renaming Parks**Guidelines for Naming or Renaming Areas in Parks and Facilities in Parks**Guidelines for Memorials and Dedications in Parks and on Park Structures and Facilities*

1. Requests for naming or renaming parks, and naming or renaming areas and facilities in parks, and establishing memorials in parks and on park structures and facilities, shall be reviewed by staff of the Department of Park and Planning. A report with recommendations shall be presented to the Planning Board within sixty (60) days of the initial request.

Guidelines Recommendation page 2

2. Staff recommendations regarding the naming or renaming of parks, and areas and facilities in parks, shall be guided by the following considerations:
 - A. Recognized geographic names
 - B. Natural historic features
 - C. Folk usage
 - D. Significant historic contributions
 - E. Significant material contributions
 - F. Significant financial contributions (at least 25 percent of the total project cost)
 - G. Persons of historic service to the County or Commission
 - H. Persons of outstanding civic service to the County or Commission
3. Memorials or dedications may consist of (a) structures, such as buildings, or facilities, such as athletic fields, that may be named in memory of individuals and organizations as complete entities, or (b) memorial or dedication plaques or signs on or inside structures and facilities.
4. The name of a memorial or dedication must be approved by the Planning Board.
5. Upon approval by the Planning Board, letters of agreement shall be exchanged between the Commission (or the Montgomery County Parks Foundation, Inc.) and the person(s) or organization(s) requesting a memorial or dedication, authorizing and designating responsibility for the planning, design, construction and funding of the memorial or dedication.
6. Staff recommendations to the Planning Board regarding the establishment of memorials and dedications in parks and on park structures and facilities shall be guided by the following considerations:
 - A. The location, design, and configuration of a proposed memorial or dedication shall be in keeping with the park purpose and usage and shall not interfere with public use of the park or park facility.
 - B. Department of Park and Planning staff shall participate in the planning, design, and construction of a memorial or dedication, if relevant.
 - C. All costs associated with a proposed memorial or dedication, including planning, design, construction, utilities, and maintenance (if significant) shall be the sole responsibility of the person(s) or organization(s) requesting the memorial or dedication. Full funding for the memorial or dedication shall be paid to the Commission or to the Montgomery County Parks Foundation, Inc., prior to the start of planning, design, and construction.
 - E. In all cases involving memorials or dedications, only the memorial or dedication itself may be named. The park name shall remain unchanged.

Parks Impacted by the Park Naming Policy

1986 Robert C. McDonell Campgrounds
Cabin John Regional Park
(M-NCPPC paid for sign and a plaque on a stone and gave family a photo album of the ceremony)

1987 Robert Remington Athletic Fields
Strawberry Knolls Local Park
(M-NCPPC paid for sign and gave the family a plaque)

1988 Roberth H. Hill Athletic Field
Olney Manor Recreational Park
(M-NCPPC paid for sign and plaque)

1989 Opal Daniels Neighborhood Park
(M-NCPPC paid for sign, community paid for plaque on stone)

1989 Black Hill Visitor Center
Black Hill Regional Park
(M-NCPPC paid for plaque in lobby, which dedicates the facility in honor of Norman B. Christeller, former Commission chair)

1990 Alvin Robinson Picnic Area
Northgate Local Park
(M-NCPPC paid for plaque on stone)

1991 Joshua Maggin Hiker/biker Trail
Avenel Park
(Community paid for plaque on stone)

1991 Clifford Bland Athletic Area
Darnestown local Park
(M-NCPPC paid for sign, family paid for plaque on stone)

1994 The Ed Wilhelm Athletic Fields
Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park
(M-NCPPC paid for sign)

1994 The John Durham Athletic Fields
Long Branch-Wayne Local Park
(M-NCPPC paid for sign)

1995 Johnson's Park
Name of Emory Grove Local Park reverted to property's original name.
(M-NCPPC paid for sign)

1997 Little Bennett Golf Course Clubhouse
Little Bennett Regional Park
(M-NCPPC paid for plaque, which honors former Executive Director and Director of Parks, Jack Hewitt)

1997 The Pauline Betz Addie Tennis Court
Cabin John Indoor Tennis Facility
(Western Area Recreation Advisory Board paid for plaque)

1998 Brookside Gardens Visitors Center
Wheaton Regional Park
(Dedicated in honor of Elizabeth Turner, whose bequest funded the majority of the visitors center; Commission paid for plaque)

1999 Leaman Local Park
Name of Germantown Estates Local Park reverted to name of original property owners whose ancestors were among original settlers of Germantown

1998 The Stuart Kaufman Playground
Garrett Park Estates Park
(Garrett Park ES PTA and Town Council paid for sign)

1998 The Becca Lilly Playground
Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park
(City of Takoma Park paid for plaque)

1998 Dr. Robert Parilla Pathway
Rock Creek Regional Park
(M-NCPPC paid for sign)

1998 The Josiah Henson House
Ken-Gar Local Park
(M-NCPPC paid for historic marker)

1998 Thomas Jennings Athletic Fields
Columbia Local Park
(Community paid for sign)

1998 Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Local Park
Formerly Rosemary Hill LP; named changed to add geographic community adjacent to the park
(M-NCPPC paid for sign)

1998 Glenmont Greenway
Formerly Glenmont Urban Park, name changed to reflect facility as part of total greenway system

Biographical Statement Honorable Delegate Jane E. Lawton



JANE E. LAWTON

Democrat, District 18, Montgomery County, Maryland

The Honorable Jane Lawton was serving in her second term in the Maryland General Assembly, representing District 18 in the House of Delegates, when she suddenly passed away in November 2007.

As a Member of The Maryland House of Delegates, she served on the Environmental Matters Committee, 2005-07 (Agriculture Preservation & Open Space Subcommittee, 2006; Natural Resources & Ethics Subcommittee, 2006; Environment Subcommittee, 2006-07; Motor Vehicle & Transportation Subcommittee, 2007); Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area, 2007; Joint Committee on the Selection of the State Treasurer, 2007; Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Matters Committee, Montgomery County Delegation, 2007 (Transportation Committee, 2006-07; Bi-County Committee, 2007); Veterans Caucus, 2006-07; and Women Legislators of Maryland, 2006-07.

Delegate Lawton formerly served four terms as Mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase, Maryland, where she was on the Council for thirteen years. She was active on the Maryland Municipal League's State Legislative Committee and chaired numerous citizen boards and commissions. She has an extensive knowledge of the workings of local government, particularly local land use and zoning law and, County and municipal regulatory authority.

Jane Lawton was appointed Cable Communications Chief for Montgomery County in February 1996. In this capacity, she directed the Division of Cable and Communications Services and Department of Technology Services, responsible for negotiating and administering cable, OVS, and other telecom franchises. She oversaw an annual budget of over \$15M supporting the County's cable and telecommunications activities, including eleven Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) channels, an institutional network, consumer protection activities, and special technology projects. Lawton also served as Chair of the Telecommunications Transmission Facilities Commission (Tower Committee), an interagency working group, which recommends sites for wireless facilities in the County. The Tower Committee approved over 1100 wireless facilities since its creation, with an average approval time of 22 days.

Lawton was a past President of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) after previously serving on their Board of Directors, and headed the 1998 Conference Sponsorship Committee, the 1997 Conference Committee, and served as Chapter Liaison in 1996-1997. She monitored cable and telecom issues which came before the Federal Communications Commission, other federal agencies, and the Congress. Prior to

Lawton's appointment as Cable Chief in Montgomery County, she served as a Special Assistant to the Montgomery County Executive.

Earlier in her public service career, Lawton was a Special Assistant to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives for eight years, and before that, she was a System Engineer for the IBM Corporation.

Jane Lawton was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Government, History, and Economics. She is survived by two grown daughters and numerous family and friends.