



## Mardell "Mickie" Mickens

July 8, 1923 - February 8, 2018

Mardell Mickens, formerly of Dos Cabezas, passed away at Academy Villas in Tucson where she was a resident. She was 94 years old.

Many will remember her as "Mickie" the nurse at NCCH who cut the ribbon for the opening of the hospital fifty years ago. NCCH was very important to her. She dedicated her life to helping others. For example, at Christmas time and other special times she would work a shift for someone so they could be, as she said, "with their kiddies". She was Director of Nursing at the hospital and nursing home for more than thirty-four years. After retiring she was "on call" for another five years. She helped make the hospital a viable institution that many appreciate today.

She and her husband Orville "Mick" Mickens (deceased) had a museum in Dos Cabezas for many years. The Frontier Relics museum was featured on television several times and included in books and articles about the area. Visitors came from all over the world. It is a tribute to them that the museum is now open in Casa Grande, Arizona.

Mickie was born July 8, 1923, to G. Edd and Angie Booi Decker. The first of five children she graduated from Gilman, Illinois High School (the only one from her grade school class to do so.) She entered the United States Nurses Cadet Corps and completed her nursing degree in Chicago. After she married,

she moved to Arizona where she assumed her nursing career.

Her parents and husband, Orville Mickens, are deceased. Mickie had two brothers and two sisters. Deceased are sisters Edna Ann Decker, Marie Charlotte Martin and brother Eugene Dale Decker. Surviving is her brother Ken Decker of Willcox and Illinois. She has five nieces and nephews, Michael (Linda) Mickens, Kenneth M. (Pat) Decker, Kris Ann (Kerry) Glicken, Keith Allan (Barb) Decker, and Karla Marie (Mark) Felesena. Grand nieces and nephews include: Lauren O'leary, Michael Glicken, Ashley Glicken, Kenneth Mc. Decker, Kathryn Decker, Kyle Decker, Korey Decker, Tony Felesena, Jenna Koch and Kristen Warman. She has eight great, grand nephews and nieces.

Memorial Services will be 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at the Willcox United Methodist Church. Burial will be at 1:00 p.m. at the Dos Cabezas Pioneer Cemetery. Contributions may be made in her name to the Wesleyan Pre-school and Childcare in care of the Willcox United Methodist Church. You may express condolences at [www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com](http://www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com) Services entrusted to Westlawn Chapel, Mortuary and Crematory of Willcox, Arizona.

# Cemetery Details

## Dos Cabezas Pioneer Cemetery

Highway 186  
Willcox, AZ 85643

# Previous Events

## Memorial service

FEB 24. 11:00 AM (MT)

Willcox United Methodist Church  
124 S. Curtis  
Willcox, AZ 85643

## Graveside

FEB 24. 1:00 PM (MT)

Dos Cabezas Pioneer Cemetery  
Highway 186  
Willcox, AZ 85643

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mardell "Mickie" Mickens*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *Mickie hired me in 1972 as a nursing assistant at the “new hospital” for the summer between my semesters at Cochise College. She was the ultimate RN and DON. May she rest in peace. Gerri Heiden Hether*

**Gerri Hether** - February 10, 2018 at 12:26 AM



“ *It was such a pleasure to get to know Mickie and care for her later in her life. I loved hearing her nursing stories, we would often talk about the difference of being a nurse now vs. many years ago. Her heart was so big, caring for everyone. She would always ask when I returned after having time off, how my family was and did I enjoy my days off. She was a beautiful person inside and out. I enjoyed helping her with whatever her needs were at the time. May she forever rest with the angels! Lori Fortner, RN*

**Lori Fortner** - February 09, 2018 at 02:18 PM

JG

“ May this beautiful lady Rest In Peace. She is the reason I became a RN. When I was 7 years old I was very sick and had surgery at the “Old Hospital” , a barricks building from WW II. Mickie was one of the RNs. She was absolutely gorgeous and took such gentle care of me. I was in the hospital for a month. She read to me at night and helped me with my school work. She kept me from falling apart with all my blood tests, injections and dressing changes. I fell in love with her! I shared all this with her when she was still working at the “New Hospital”. She was surprised that she had that effect on me. She was an amazing lady and will always be in my heart. Janice Graham

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**Janice Graham** - February 08, 2018 at 07:52 PM

RJ

*Beautiful words Janice. She left her love print on many of us!*

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**Rhyna Jones** - February 14, 2018 at 02:12 AM

RJ

“ Rest in Peace Mickie, you left your love on so many of us. You taught many of us life skills we continue to use for the rest of our lives.  
May God wrap His arms around your loved ones.

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**Rhyna J** - February 08, 2018 at 07:12 PM

CB

“ My sweet Mickie you will be missed ! Rest In Peace my sweet friend !



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**chele brewer** - February 08, 2018 at 02:37 PM

LT

“ *Linda Torres sent a virtual gift in memory of Mardell "Mickie" Mickens*



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**Linda Torres** - February 08, 2018 at 02:29 PM

KA

“ *Katie lit a candle in memory of Mardell "Mickie" Mickens*



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**Katie** - February 08, 2018 at 12:07 PM

ES

“ *Edna Scott lit a candle in memory of Mardell "Mickie" Mickens*



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**Edna Scott** - February 08, 2018 at 11:56 AM

NF

“ *Noel And Arlene Forsyth lit a candle in memory of Mardell "Mickie" Mickens*



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**Noel and Arlene Forsyth** - February 08, 2018 at 11:46 AM



“ *Betsy Ajeman lit a candle in memory of  
Mardell "Mickie" Mickens*



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**Betsy Ajeman** - February 08, 2018 at 09:34 AM

RA

*Mickie, I never worked under you, but you cared for me as a patient. I will never forget looking up at you with your flowered cap and hearing your gentle calming voice as they wheeled me into surgery. Later, I got to know you and Orville when you moved to Dos Cabezas. I always enjoyed our visit and talk. You will always be remembered as a definite cornerstone in forming Willcox. Please rest in peace, my friend.*

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**Ruth Anderson Avila** - February 15, 2018 at 12:55 PM

MS

*Mickie was very special to us here at Academy Villas and it was our pleasure to return the kindness to her that she showed so many others in her life. Mickie was a wonderful person inside and out and will truly be missed. Michelle and Staff at Academy Villas*

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**Michelle Stahl** - February 21, 2018 at 02:32 PM