

Mary Stephens

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Anchorage resident Mary Ellen Stephens, 86, died Sept. 22, 2007, at Blessed Home Assisted Living in Anchorage.

A prayer service was held for the family by Chaplain Tom Miller.

Mary was born Feb. 28, 1921, in Chatsworth, Ill., to Walter and Florence Whitlow. As a young adult, she took pride in her contribution during World War II as a "Rosie the Riveter" working at the Republic Aircraft Plant in Evansville, Ind., building P-47 Thunderbolts.

Mary moved to Southern California in 1950. She worked at Montgomery Ward for 17 years before retiring at the age of 62. After retiring, Mary was active and enjoyed extensive travels.

Mary lived in Simi Valley, Calif., until 1998. She then moved to Anchorage to live with her daughter, Linda Kasha, and family for seven years. Most recently, she was a resident of Blessed Home Assisted Living, where she was cared for during the later stages of Parkinson's disease.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Whitlow, and her sisters, Ruby Hann and Perk Connelly.

She is survived by four brothers, Glenn, Kenneth, Leonard and Donald Whitlow of Indiana; son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Michelle Hartline of Nikiski; daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Paul Kasha of Anchorage; son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Jeannie Ernest of Anchorage; eight grandchildren, Kelly Tshibaka, Lindsay Collier, Derek, Crystal and Chantel Kasha of Anchorage, and Breanna, Aaron and Tawny Ernest of Anchorage; and two great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Blessed Home Assisted Living Home and its staff and Providence Hospice of Anchorage for their excellent care of Mary.