

Mary Harpster

Mary Harpster, 74, of Washington, died Nov. 21 in her home from complications of Alzheimer's disease.

She served three terms as a Democrat on the Washington Borough Council, retiring in 1990 due to ill health. She was the first woman to be appointed to both the Washington Borough Planning Board and the Warren County Planning Board and she served as chairwoman of both at the same time.

She also served as chairwoman of the Pohatcong Regional Sewerage Authority and represented Washington Borough as a member of the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. In 1990 she was honored by the borough planning board which named her as Planning Board Member Emeritus. In 1981 she was cited by the Warren County freeholders for her exceptional service to the county board.

She was vice president and co-founder with the late Lily M. Smith of the Warren County Anti-Pollution League, which won a grand jury presentment against polluters in the county.

She was a daughter of the late Peter Parnak and Stephania Paszko, who emigrated from Russia in 1913.

She is survived by her husband, Richard E.; two sons, Richard A. and Thomas W., both of Washington Borough; a daughter, Susan Yates of Newtown, Pa.; a brother, Alexander Parnak of Vallejo, Calif.; and six grandchildren.

Services were held at the DeVoe Funeral Home, Washington.

Interment was in the Washington Cemetery.

Star Gazette
December 3, 1998
Harpster, Mary
Date of Death
November 21, 1998