

OBITUARY

Mary Ann Suomela McCabe, 87, of Hackettstown, passed away Monday, May 21, 2012.

The daughter of Wayne Frederick and Martha Jackson Suomela, Mary Ann was born in Ilwaco, Wash., May 24, 1924. She grew up in Ilwaco when the town was the center of a vibrant commercial fishing and lumbering industry. Following graduation from Ilwaco High School, in May 1942, Mary Ann took classes at a business college in Portland, Ore. Mary Ann also was a member of the Pacific Chapter No. 129 Order of the Eastern Star in Ilwaco, as was her mother.

She met her future husband, Thomas Joseph McCabe III, in Portland when he was on shore leave while serving in the U.S. Navy. They were married Nov. 3, 1944, at the U.S. submarine base in New London, Conn., where Tom was stationed at the time. Moving to Brooklyn following World War II, Mary Ann worked for Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance of New York for more than 25 years as a sectional supervisor.

Mary Ann, along with her husband, Tom, became certified emergency medical technicians and worked with the Bay Ridge Ambulance Volunteer Organization in Brooklyn for more than 20 years. She also served on the Board of Directors and was the chief of fundraising for that organization for more than five years. For her work with the ambulance squad, she received numerous citations from the community and the New York State legislature.

Her husband passed away Sept. 20, 1986, two years after they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. She also was predeceased by her brother, Theodore J. Suomela.

In 2004, Mary Ann moved from Brooklyn to the House of the Good Shepherd in Hackettstown. Here, she immediately became involved with the Hackettstown Presbyterian Church and in volunteering her time for the facility where she lived.

Mary Ann is survived by her son, Wayne Thomas McCabe; his wife, Marge Lake McCabe; and two granddaughters, Martha Suomela McCabe Current and her husband, Ken, and Frances Broda McCabe Kudasik and her husband, Kyle, who all live in Newton. She also is survived by two nephews, Edward Rennard and his wife, Mary, of Little Neck, N.Y., and Michael P. Rennard and his wife, Sharon, of New Hyde Park, N.Y. Also surviving Mary Ann are two first cousins, Louise H. Hunter and her husband, Peter, of Naselle, Wash.; and Betty Holm, of Longview, Wash.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 26, at Smith-McCracken Funeral Home, 63 High St., Newton, with the Rev. Scott Boger of the Newton First Baptist Church officiating. Visitation will be held from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 25, at the funeral home.

Mary Ann will be buried with Tom in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, and in keeping with Mary's altruistic views of helping other people, the family requests that a donation be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 733 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017. Online condolences may be offered at www.smithmccrackenfuneralhome.com.

The New Jersey Herald: May 23, 2012

NAME: McCabe, Mary Ann (nee Suomela)

DATE OF DEATH: May 21, 2012