

Harry G. Stephens, 106, reportedly oldest Marine vet

Harry George Stephens

Harry George Stephens, 106, the "oldest living Marine", died Oct. 9 at his home in Fort Myers, Fla.

He and his wife of 68 years, Janet Golden Stephens, had moved to Fort Myers in 1990, from Largo, Fla., where they had lived for 10 years. Prior to that, the couple had lived in Netcong.

Mr. Stephens had worked as a pipefitter, sprinkler installer, car salesman, undertaker, explosive operator and painter before retiring at the age of 90.

He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 164 in Hackettstown and the PFC Bruce W. Carter Detachment, Marine Corps

League of Miami, Fla.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Stephens is survived by a son, Harry G. Jr. of Coral Gables, Fla., two daughters, Carol M. Franklin of Estero, Fla., and Janet Fritts of Horseshoe Bend, Ark.; eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Oct. 15 at the Cochran Funeral Home, 905 High St., Hackettstown. Interment will be in the Mount Olive Cemetery, Mount Olive Township.

Memorial donations may be made in Mr. Stephens name to the annual Marine Corps toy drive: Toys for Tots, Inspector — Instruction Staff, Building 3306, Picatinny

HACKETTSTOWN — Harry George Stephens, 106, reportedly the oldest Marine veteran, formerly of Hackettstown, died Saturday, Oct. 9, in Florida.

He died in Caloosa Harbor Retirement Community in Fort Myers where he lived the past three years.

CNN did a story on his 104th birthday party.

Before retiring at age 90, he harvested a small garden at his home in Netcong. He had worked as a pipefitter, sprinkler installer, car salesman, undertaker, explosives operator and painter.

He moved to Fort Myers at 103. For his 104th birthday, he led the Edison Festival of Lights parade through downtown Fort Myers.

He attributed his longevity to a morning diet of grapefruit and honey.

He was a member of American Legion Post 164 in Hackettstown and Pfc. Bruce W. Carter Detachment, Marine Corps League of Miami.

He and his wife, the former Janet Golden, now 91, were married 68 years.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Harry Jr. of Coral Gables, Fla.; two daughters, Carol M. Franklin of Estero, Fla., and Janet Fritts of Horseshoe Bend, Ark.; eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in Cochran Funeral Home, 905 High St., Hackettstown. Burial will be in Mount Olive Cemetery. Call 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday.

The family requests memorials to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign.

The Star-Gazette: October 14, 1993

Express-Times: October 12, 1993

NAME: Harry George Stephens

DATE OF DEATH: October 9, 1993