

James Alexander Arnal, 74 of Lakemont, died Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2005, at his home.

He was born Jan. 22, 1931, in Johnstown, Pa. He served in the U.S. Navy for eight years, a span that included the Korean War. He was involved in 18 hydrogen bomb drops at Bikini Atoll and received a commendation from the admiral of the Pacific Fleet. He lived in San Diego and Garden Grove, Calif., for 12 years and served in the U.S. Postal Service for eight years.

He also lived in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., area for 25 years, where he owned two air conditioning companies. He retired from the Broward County Building Department as an inspector and building official after 20 years.

He moved in 1993 to Lakemont, where he had a home since 1980. He was a member of St. Helena Catholic Church and served as president of the parish council. He also was a member of the building and planning committee for the new church. He was active in Sharing & Caring of Rabun County and Community Pantry.

He attended Northeast Georgia Technical School, where he studied languages. He was president of a postal union, a restaurant owner and an athletic coach in California. He was a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 15.

He was preceded in death by two brothers.

Survivors include: his wife of 48 years, Laura Morell Arnal of Lakemont; a daughter, Raylinn Smith of Plantation, Fla.; a son, Glen Arnal of Hollywood, Fla.; four grandchildren; three sisters, Kathrine Vetro and Carolyn Carson, both of Plantation, Fla., and Rosalyn Seyda of Plantation, Fla.; two nieces; and three nephews.

Funeral services were held Friday at the Hunter Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Lewis Zarama officiating. Burial followed in Rabun Memory Park.

Hunter Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

The Clayton Tribune, Sept. 29, 2005