

**Harold Walter Boehm**

Harold Walter Boehm, 83, of Johnson City, Tenn., formerly of Franklin, passed away Thursday, Aug. 10, 2006, at North Side Hospital.

Formerly of Winter Park, Fla., he made his home in Hayesville before moving to Tennessee.

Born in Hermann, Mo., he was the son of the late Mahala Gossett and Walter K. Boehm. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Opal Rae White Boehm; a son, Larry Dean Boehm of Staunton, Va.; a brother, Marvin Boehm; and two sisters, Lucille Lowery and Elaine Sikora.

A veteran of WWII, he served in the South Pacific with squadron VP-25 out of San Diego, Calif., and was later stationed out of Port Lyautey, Morocco, with squadron VP-16. He served honorably in the United States Navy for 20 years, retiring as master chief in aviation electronics.

He went on to receive a bachelor of arts degree from Rollins College while working as a project engineer for the Civil Service at the Naval Training Equipment Center in Orlando, Fla.

Retiring to the mountains of Western North Carolina in 1978 with his wife Opal, he turned his energy towards organic gardening and planted an apple orchard at his home in Hayesville that featured heirloom apple varieties. He was an active community leader and volunteer in his retirement years, serving as a founding sponsor of the Western North Carolina chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, a member of the VFW, the Pearl Harbor Masonic Lodge, a founding member of the Unity Church in Franklin and a member of NARFE.

Survivors include two sisters, Annette and Jeanette Gossett; a son, Robert Boehm, of Lake Kiowa, Texas; daughters, Barbara Fitzgerald and Rae Goines, and son, William Dan Boehm, all of Johnson City; a daughter, Susan and her husband Thomas E. Pantoliano, of Orlando; seven grandchildren, great- and great-great-grandchildren; and dear friends Joseph Cox, Taylor Wilson, and Ruby Fleenor.

A reception for the family and friends was held on Tuesday, Aug. 15, at 1:30 p.m., at Broadmore Assisted Living, 406 Mountain View Rd. in Johnson City.

A graveside service with full military honors was held at 2 p.m., at the Mountain Home National Cemetery, when the remains of Mr. Boehm and his wife will be interred.

A memorial service and celebration of his life and their lives together was held Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 3 p.m., at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 603 Sunset Dr., Johnson City, TN.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to a nursing scholarship in Mr. and Mrs. Boehm's honor at Tri-County Community College Foundation, 4600 East U.S. Hwy 64, Murphy, NC 28906.

Condolences for the family may be sent to [www.appalachianfuneralhome.com](http://www.appalachianfuneralhome.com).

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