

JoAnn Dietrich, 76, of Hiawassee, died Friday, Aug. 10, 2007, at her residence from cancer.

She was born Feb. 5, 1931 in Christian County, Ill., to Lela Adams and Walter J. Beck. She graduated from Ball Township High School in Sangamon County, Ill. She was the owner and baker at Joann's Bakery and Deli in Dillard for 23 years. She took first prize in the cabbage cook-off in Dillard for her cabbage cake, which was highlighted in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. She held two Hawaiian luaus at Chatuge Woods Campground in Hiawassee. She was appointed lieutenant colonel, aide de camp to the governor's staff by Gov. Zell Miller in 1991. She was employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 10 years and worked as a certified wirer and solderer at Sangamo Electric Company in Springfield, Ill., for 13 years. She successfully completed numerous continuing education programs through the Sangamo Electric Navy Department and the USDA. She enjoyed gardening immensely and hybridized several of her own irises and Christmas cacti. She was a member of the American Iris Society.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Burl Beck, Carroll Beck and Robert Beck.

Survivors include: her husband of 56 years, James Henry Dietrich of Hiawassee; a daughter and her life partner, Donna Dietrich and Rebecca Hinton of Hardingsburg, Ky.; a sister, Martha J. Smith of Pawnee, Ill.; two brothers and sisters-in-law, John W. and Mary Beck of Morrisonville, Ill., and Earl D. and Jackie Beck of Palmyra, Ill.; three sisters-in-law, Wanda Beck of Paris, Ill., Elizabeth M. Hildinger of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Dorothy Rice of Jackson Heights, Ohio; two brothers-in-law, Robert J. Hoffman of Golden, Colo., and John L. Hall of Edmonton, Wash.; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Mountain View Funeral Home in Blairsville is in charge of the arrangements. An online register is available at www.mountainviewfuneralhome.com.

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