

William Paris Franklin, 79, of Clayton died Tuesday, July 12, 2005, at his home.

He was born Nov. 28, 1925, in Clarkesville, to Paris and Nora Taylor Franklin.

He served as an anti-aircraft gunner aboard the USS Lancesing, a destroyer escort that patrolled the Mediterranean Sea, during World War II. He then served as a member of a 5-inch gun crew aboard the USS Camp, a destroyed escort that patrolled the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

He spent his life working in the electrical and radio fields, including spending 14 years on the staff of WALH radio in Mountain City. He was a ham radio operator since 1952 and was a member of the Rabun County Amateur Radio Club, the Toccoa Amateur Radio Club, past vice president of the Albany Amateur Radio Club and of National Geographic Society. He also was a member of the American Legion Post 220 of Clayton and Flat Creek Baptist Church, where he was the church pianist for several years before retiring because of ill health.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Albert Franklin.

Survivors include: his wife, Alice Tyler Franklin; his stepmother, Mary Franklin of Turnerville; three sons, Kenneth Franklin of Turnerville, Paris Franklin of Lakemont and Marty Franklin of Clayton; three stepsons, Donnie Brock and Milton Brock, both of Cornelia, and Chris Brock of Lakemont; a daughter, Debbie Franklin of Doraville; a stepdaughter, Pam Kilby of Lakemont; two brothers, Ray Franklin of Turnerville and Leon Franklin of Orlando, Fla.; two stepsisters, Janie Loudermilk of Lakemont and Vickie McConnell of Cleveland; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held July 14 at the Hunter Funeral Home chapel with the Revs. Wilmer Ivester and John Gipson officiating. Burial followed at Mount Zion Cemetery in Turnerville with full military honors by DAV Chapter 15 of Rabun County.

Hunter Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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