

Nellie Mae Skinner Neighbors, 99, died Monday at Britthaven of Franklin in Franklin, N.C.

She was born Oct. 16, 1908, in Ponce de Leon Springs, Fla. The youngest of 11 children born to Will and Mary Skinner, she was the last surviving member of her family. She married Jay Ell Neighbors in 1926, and they had five daughters. She worked in St. Augustine, Fla., at Weinstein's Grocery, the Matanzas Theater and Marine Studios. While at Marine Studios in 1953, a pink champagne dolphin was named after her in her honor. The dolphin recently celebrated its 54th birthday. She enjoyed bridge and golf, which she played until she was 83 years old. She loved picnics, musicals, hot dog roasts on the beach and freshwater fishing. She was an accomplished seamstress.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her first daughter, Bobby Lee Neighbors.

Survivors include: four daughters, Marian N. Beccue of Scaly Mountain, N.C., Lynette N. Irby of Otto, N.C.; Shirley N. Thompson of St. Augustine, Fla.; and Nina N. Crosby of Walterboro, S.C.; a sister-in-law, Nellie Jane Graham of Daytona, Fla.; 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation, funeral services and burial will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday at Mulberry United Methodist Church, Mulberry Road, Otto, N.C., with the Rev. Michael Binger officiating. The family will receive friends from 2:30 p.m. until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to Mulberry United Methodist Church, c/o L.C. Howard, P.O. Box 14, Franklin, NC 28744, Hospice House Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc., P.O. Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744, or to a charity or church of one's choice.

Beck Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. An online registry is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

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