

Anita Clay, 94

Sept. 17, 1920 - Jan. 29, 2015

HARLAN — Anita Josephine Clay was born on September 17, 1920 to Ingwald and Mary (Neckel) Anderson in Hawarden. As a toddler, she moved with her family to Fort Wayne, IN where she attended school, graduating from North Side High School with the Class of 1938. Anita worked for Kroger Grocery and Bakery Company Warehouse in Fort Wayne for eight years. It was during that time that she joined the WAVES division of the United States Navy for two years during World War II. Most of her time in the service was spent at NATC in Memphis, TN.



March 24, 1947, Anita was united in marriage to R. Stanley Clay, Jr. while living in Indiana. Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Council Bluffs where they spent two years before settling in Harlan. They became parents to three children: Nancy, Bruce, and Terry. In 1957, the family went to Africa for sixteen months, then returned to Harlan. In 1974, Anita moved to Orlando, FL and lived there until her retirement seventeen years later. She came back to Harlan and became a member of the Congregational Church of Christ and the Lebanon Chapter No. 8 Order of the Eastern Star. She was also an active volunteer with Myrtue Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. She enjoyed playing bingo and seeing her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Anita became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Home in Harlan in July of 2013, where she died on Thursday, January 29, 2015 having attained the age of ninety-four years, four months, and twelve days.

Anita was preceded in death by her parents, her daughter Nancy, and grandson Troy. She is survived by her sons Bruce Clay and his wife Alice of Raleigh, NC and Terry Clay and his wife Joyce of Harlan; nine grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; other family members and friends.

Pastor Donna Ewert officiated the 11:00 a.m. funeral with Eastern Star Service on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the Congregational United Church in Harlan. Janet Leader accompanied vocalist Cindy Hulsebus. Serving as casket bearers were Teresa Clay, Michael Coon, Kristine Robertson, Amy Glandon, Erin James, Meagan Owens, Brad Clay, Wes Clay, and Ryan Clay. Military Rites were performed after the service by Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941. Inurnment will be held at the Harlan Cemetery at a later date.

*Pauley
L. Jones*

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