



Earl Stephens

May 27, 1925 - October 31, 2007

Earl was born on May 27, 1925, in Nashville, Ore., to Abraham and Lovina Summerfield Stephens. He moved to Hubbard when he was about 6 years old. He moved back to the Summit area one year later and attended Summit and Philomath schools. He worked for Harmsen Lumber Company until joining the Navy on his birthday in 1943. He served aboard the USS Hopewell, which was involved in nine battles at sea, including one at Corregidor Island in which they were hit by four 6-inch rounds from shore batteries causing the loss of 17 crewmembers. Earl was awarded eight bronze stars during his service with the Navy.

After being discharged in 1946, Earl went back to work for Harmsen Lumber Company. On March 10, 1949, he married Lola Humphrey, and they lived in the Summit and Nashville areas for many years until moving back to the Beaver Creek area south of Corvallis in 1977. He worked in various logging and sawmill positions for Small & Daniels, Rex Clemens, and Hoskins Lumber Company, from which he retired in 1988.

Earl was a devoted family man who enjoyed traveling, fishing, hunting and all outdoor activities. Earl loved country music and traveled to Branson, Mo., and Nashville, Tenn., several times.

He is survived by his wife, Lola, of Corvallis; sons Jack of Peoria and Dale of Philomath; daughters Kathy Whelchel of Philomath and Julie Schudel of Corvallis; brothers Sam and Ted Stephens of Philomath; sisters Carroll Rao of Springfield and Joyce Jones of Eugene; six grandchildren; and three great-

grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Jack and Gene.

There will be a memorial service at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 7, at Suburban Christian Church. Donations in memory of Earl can be made to Benton Hospice Service or the Alzheimer's Network of Oregon in care of McHenry Funeral Home, 206 N.W. Fifth St., Corvallis, OR 97330.