

OBITUARIES

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FAIRBANKS

Blanche Walters , 78

Lifelong Alaskan Blanche O. Walters, 78, died peacefully Dec. 10, 2004, at the Fairbanks Pioneers' Home.

A service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Methodist Church in Nome.

She was born Blanche Irene O'Connor on Dec. 29, 1925, near Nome at the Salmon Lake Roadhouse, which was owned by her parents, Edward "Duffy" and Irene O'Connor.

She married John Walters on June 14, 1955.

During her career, Mrs. Walters worked for the Lomen Commercial Co., then for the Federal Aviation Administration. She retired from the FAA in 1991 after 35 years of service.

During her active years, Mrs. Walters served on the boards of the Bering Straits and Sitnasuak Native corporations, on the Governor's Council for the Gifted and Handicapped, on the Alaska State Education Commission and on the Nome City Council.

Her interests were fishing, camping, knitting, reading and card games. She played cribbage right up to a few days before her death.

Her family wrote: "Although Blanche was a lifelong resident of Nome until moving to Fairbanks in Sept. 2000, she became well known statewide through her many years of public service. She will be missed by many."

Mrs. Walters was preceded in death by her husband, John; sons, Gerild, Lawrence "Lonnie," George and Eric; brothers, George and Roy; and sisters, Matilda Jones, MaryAnn Hicklin and Grace Johnson.

She is survived by her brother, Edward O'Connor of Elephant Butte, N.M.; sons, Michael O'Connor and children, Edward and Devin, of Anchorage; Robert O'Connor, wife, Kim, and children, Nathaniel, John, Katy and Jennifer; Olaf Walters and partner Suzanne Castel, all of Nome; and John Fern of Seattle; daughters, Lorena Hegdal,

husband, Ian, and children, Charles and Kyle, of Fairbanks; and Noreene Cooper, husband, Fred, and children, Valerie, Tony, Cathy, Frank, Garrett and George of Anchorage; daughter-in-law, Maggie Ludwig, husband, Terry, and children, Kimberly, Floyd, Harold and Dawn; 11 nieces and nephews including special niece, Janet (Jones) Trigg; 18 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.