



Obituary

Born: Friday, January 19, 1934

Died: Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Gladys Rhinehart ELDRED — Gladys “Jean” Rhinehart of Eldred, passed away on Tuesday (June 29, 2021) at the age of 87 at the Olean (N.Y.) General Hospital following a long illness. Jean was born on Jan. 19, 1934, in Cumberland, Md., to Broder and Cora Huff Erichsen who preceded her in death. Following graduation from Oldtown High School, Cumberland, Md., Jean enlisted in the United States Navy, later marrying Howard Rhinehart, PRC (Retired) on Dec. 31, 1953 in Corpus Christi, Texas. Jean served in the United States Navy during the Korean War, where she trained and assessed future pilots using flight simulators. Following the end of her enlistment, she and her husband raised four sons. Over the course of Howard’s military career the family transferred to duty stations in Pensacola, Fla., Patuxant, Md., Lakehurst, N.J., San Diego, Calif., and final duty station Pensacola, Fla. Jean worked a variety of positions on and off military installations, and was proud of caring for her family during her husband’s deployments to Vietnam and Argentina, Newfoundland. After moving to Eldred in 1973, Jean worked at the Ethan Allen furniture plant for 21 years. Her skill as a seamstress was a source of pride. Among her virtues was the value she placed on education and the encouragement she provided as she raised children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Jean volunteered for PTAs and Head Start, and served as a reading and math tutor for elementary students. She coached Little League, was a Cub Scout Den Mother, and was a proud supporter of school bands and choruses. In later life, she attended the Smethport Senior Center, and was involved in the Annual Relay for Life. Jean was a member of the Eldred United Methodist Church and had attended the Duke Center United Methodist Church. Surviving are her husband, Howard; four sons: Walter (Leslie) Rhinehart of Bradford, Gregory (Patricia) Rhinehart of Duke Center, Gary (Valerie) Rhinehart and Jeffrey (Deborah) Rhinehart both of Eldred; nine grandchildren: Kenneth (Kary) Rhinehart of Eldred, Melissa (William) Clayson of Rixford, Timothy (Nicole) Rhinehart of Eldred, Jill (Chad) Obenrader of Rixford, Zachary (Erin) Rhinehart of Pittsburgh, PA, Nicholas Rhinehart of Berkeley, CA, Tessa Rhinehart of Pittsburgh, Morgan Rhinehart (Jeffrey Baker) of Tyrone, and Allyson Rhinehart of Durham, N.C.; ten great-grandchildren: Jacob Rhinehart, Joshua Rhinehart, Emma Rhinehart, Mia Rhinehart, Kaylee Rhinehart, Kate Rhinehart, William Clayson III, Natalie Clayson, Jared Obenrader, and Elliott Rhinehart; a brother, Ronald (Shirley) Erichsen of Granger, Ind.; a sister, Carolyn (Durwood) Thompson of Jarettsville, Md.; a cousin, A. Joseph (Patricia) Bennett of Eldred and family Julie (Philip), Maggie, and Philip Labella, all of Stockertown; and several nieces and nephews. Jean was preceded in death by her

Service Summary

- Service details not available -

brothers, Maynard Erichsen and Jack Erichsen, and sister, Amelia Woods. Memorials, if desired, may be made to the organization of the giver's choice.