

Arlene Blair, 90

July 24, 1918 - Aug. 23, 2008

NAPA, CA — Arlene Elizabeth (Chris) Blair, 90, passed away peacefully at home with her family at her side on August 23, 2008. She was born on July 24, 1918 in Harlan, IA to James and Anna Christensen. After her mother died when she was 2 and her father died when she was 9, she was raised by her aunt, Dora Christensen Boye, and graduated from Harlan High School in 1936. In 1938 she received a 2-year teaching certificate from Dana College in Blair, NE. She attended the University of Nebraska School of Nursing and became a Registered Nurse in 1941. She returned to school and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Dana College in 1971. She loved her career as a nurse. She worked as a nursing supervisor at the Orthopedic Hospital in Lincoln, NE and as a nursing instructor at University Hospital in Omaha. Later she was the Assistant Director of Nursing at the Nebraska Veterans Home in Grand Island.

Arlene married Dr. Ralph Blair on July 11, 1943 in Harlan, IA. His work took them to Seattle and Yakima in Washington and Broken Bow and Grand Island in Nebraska. They retired to Yountville, CA in 1985. After her husband's death she shared a home with her daughter in Napa, CA. Arlene was a member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter S Broken Bow, Chapter GP Grand Island, and Chapter BW St. Helena, CA. She was active in Eastern Star in Grand Island. She was also an active member at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Napa where she served on the altar guild and was the founder and leader of the PIE Ministry for 11 years.

Arlene was preceded in death by her husband of 47 years, Ralph Blair, and her brother, James Christensen. She is survived by her children Bob and Janet Blair of Napa, CA, Bruce and Rebecca Blair of Beaverton, OR, and Mary Blair of Napa, CA; grandchildren Melissa and Derek Lehnecke of Napa, CA, Jessica and Alex Paredes of Fremont, CA, Suzanne Blair and Brian Blair of Portland, OR; and great grandchildren Tyler Lehnecke and Emma Paredes; nephews David and Dee Gee Blair, Cherokee, IA, James and Vicki Christensen Jr. of Vienna, VA, Thomas and Patti Christensen, Davenport, IA, and John and Ditto Christensen of Leonardtown, MD, and sister-in-law, H. Sylvia Christensen of Alexandria, VA.

A memorial service was held at noon, Friday September 5 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church with Father Stephen Carpenter officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Mary's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, 1917 Third Street, Napa CA 94559.

Richard Pierce Funeral Home

**1600 Silverado Trail
Napa, CA 94559
707-226-7444 office
www.rpfsc.com**