

Melvin Joseph McKay

Melvin Joseph "Joe" McKay, 78, of Stevensville, died at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004.

Joe was born on Sept. 6, 1926 in Butte, and was the son of Charles and Angeline (LeCoure) McKay.

He attended school in Butte and Stevensville. Joe entered the U.S. Navy during WWII in 1944 and was honorably discharged in 1946. He served in the South Pacific, including Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the final Japan siege aboard the USS **Muliphen**.

Joe and June Zeiler were married on Jan. 26, 1948. He worked as a tree faller for various logging operations, working his way up to supervisor for Champion International.

He was a past commander of American Legion Post 94 in Stevensville, past member of the Stevensville Town Council, former Stevensville fire chief and he was a little league baseball coach. Joe was a loving husband and father. He spent his whole life helping others and asked nothing in return. He enjoyed woodworking, mechanic work and spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Archie, Donald, and Kenneth McKay and sisters, June and Angeline.

Joe is survived by his wife, June of Stevensville; sons, Joe (Sue Ann) McKay of Florence, Jerry McKay of Stevensville, and Mike (Rae) McKay of Lolo; four grandchildren, Megan, Matthew, Jacob and Emily, and his sister, Laverne Mastel, of Missoula.

No formal services are scheduled at this time. Should friends desire, memorials are asked to the Stevensville Fire Department.

The Whitesitt Funeral Home and Cremation of Stevensville is in charge of arrangements.