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ROBERT 'MACK' ASHBY

March 26, 1922 - Nov. 25, 2005

Robert "Mack" Ashby, 83, of Albany died Friday at the Mennonite Home.

He was born in Charleston, Ill., the son of James Harrison and Nettie Mae (Brooks) Ashby.

Mack attended school in Charleston. He was baptized in the East Harrison Street Church of God in Charleston.

He served in World War II in Company E, 383rd Infantry, 96th Division Deadeyes. He was an Army staff sergeant and served in the Leyte and Okinawa campaigns.

He worked from 1947 to 1952 as a department manager for Sears Roebuck in Eugene. He owned and operated a Texaco station and Firestone store in Forest Grove before coming to Albany in 1953, where he owned and operated Ashby's Ice Cream Store until 1961. He then operated ServiceMaster in Albany; he became a distributor and operated the business for 20 years.

Mack enjoyed camping, fishing and skiing with family and friends. On retirement, Mack and JoAnne logged many hours of travel in their motorhome and on their motorcycle.

Mack and JoAnne Penson were married in Salem on April 15, 1944. She survives, as does son Jerry Ashby and wife Sandy of Federal Way, Wash.; daughter Teresa Burcham and husband Jay of Albany; brother Harold Ashby of Charleston; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Randall Keene Ashby; brothers Gene and Ernest, and sister Harriet.

A private family service will be held. An open house reception will be from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday at Ashwood Court 1 dining room at the Mennonite Village.

Contributions may be made to Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Samaritan Evergreen Hospice or the charity of one's choice in care of Fisher Funeral Home (www.fisherfuneralhome.com).