

COMMUNITY LIFE

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THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1995



FLORINE MACK

Choose to be happy now

Every day when I wake up, I say to myself, "Listen, Florine, you've got two choices today, either you can make it a good day or a bad day. It's your choice."

You may ask, "What do you mean it's your choice? Things can happen to me that make me miserable, unhappy, or frustrated. Some things are just out of my control!" But you know what? It's your reaction to those things that can make or break your day. It happens to all of us. Some days we win, and some days we don't quite win. But we deserve some pleasure out of every day. And if we try, we can truly get happiness out of every day.

I know, without a doubt, that my day, my whole life, depends a lot on other people and their reactions to me. If someone says something to me that hurts my feelings, it can make me have a bad day. Likewise, if someone compliments me on a job well done or on the way I look, it improves my day. We are not islands in and of ourselves. Our lives are intertwined to form the land.

Knowing how much other people affect me, I have made up my mind to be the type of person who helps others lead better lives. I try to think the best of people. I try to smile. I try to catch a flicker between us. I try to let my eyes catch someone else's and let them know, without talking, that I think they are special and that I'm re-

See MACK, 18A

Giving resident offers the ultimate gift

Farmington Hills resident James Mackie made a lifetime commitment to helping other people. And he always made it clear to family members that when he died he wanted his organs donated. More people need to have this type of conversation in order to save patients, according to the Gift of Life Agency of Michigan.

By DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER



So much of James Mackie's life was focused on helping people that there was never any doubt his organs would be donated

when he died.

In fact, he talked about it openly, even as a young man.

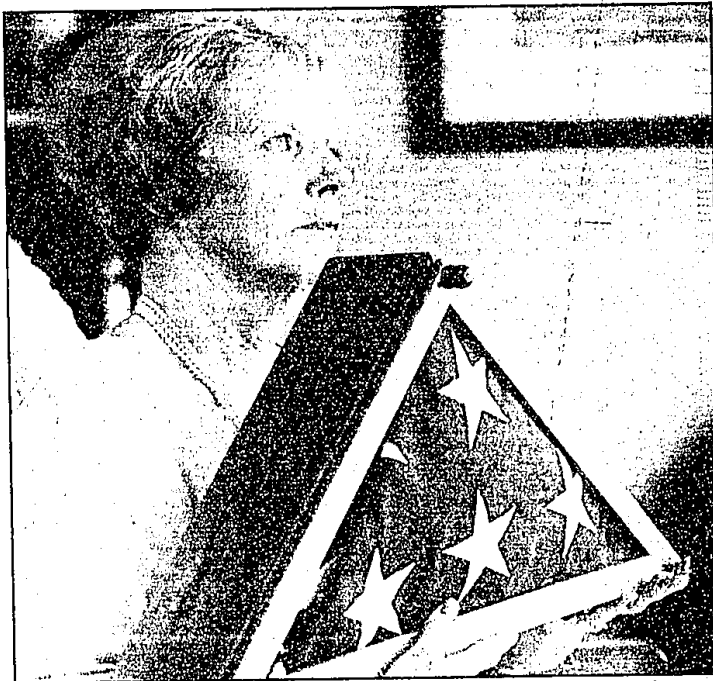
"I had known his wishes practically the second week after I met him," his wife, Lois Mackie, said recently. "That was very important to him."

After he died Oct. 31, 1994 his skin, eyes and at least two other organs were donated to patients.

"When I think of his eyes being donated — that someone is going to see now," Mackie said. "Oh, my gosh, that's incredible."

James Mackie also made his wishes clear to his children, Michael and Kathleen, the two he had with Lois; a son, Joe, he adopted; and Lois' two other children, Kimberly and Michelle, whom he also adopted as youngsters.

"All the kids are all going to be donating organs," said Mackie, adding that her husband would qui-

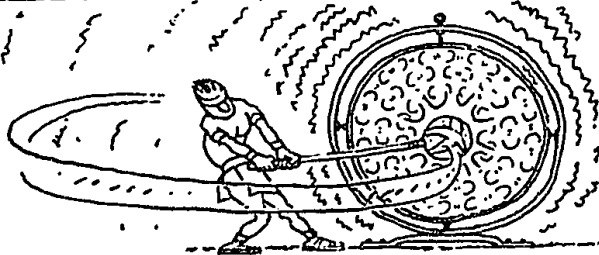


SHARIN LE MISTY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Symbol of love: Lois Mackie holds a flag that was given to her by members of First Presbyterian Church in Livonia in memory of her husband, who launched an annual veterans memorial service.

See DONOR, 18A

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