

LEDGERLAND

GLORIA NOBLE

- Director, Domestic Violence Ended (DOVE Inc.)
- President, South Shore Women's Political Caucus
- Member, Wollaston Mothers Club
- 25-year member, Quincy Christmas Festival Committee
- 10-year member, Quincy First Night Committee
- Member, Quincy Historical Society
- Member, Ward 2 Democratic Committee
- Board member, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Maria Droste Agency counseling services
- Board member, American Ex-Prisoners of War local chapter
- Fundraising committee, Friends of Thomas Crane Public Library
- With husband, supporter of activities for Democratic political candidates, organizer of events for seniors



AMELIA KUNHARDT/THE PATRIOT LEDGER

■ Gloria and Bob Noble, very active in the Quincy community, are both 85 and have been married for 61 years. They were honored by the Manet Community Health Center at an award presentation breakfast this morning.

A NOBLE HONOR

BOB NOBLE

- U.S. Army Air Corps; switched to infantry in late 1944
- Prisoner of war, Germany, December 1944 to April 1945
- Member of several VFW posts; charter member of Stephen Corcoran Post
- Several posts, American Ex-Prisoners of War
- Governor's veterans council
- Master of ceremonies, Former Prisoners of War Recognition Day
- 35-year member, Quincy Christmas Festival Committee
- Board member and volunteer, Quincy Access Television
- 10-year member, Quincy First Night Committee
- Photographer, Quincy Sun
- With wife, supporter of activities for Democratic political candidates, organizer of events for seniors

Quincy's Bob and Gloria Noble honored for community service

By Jack Encarnacao
THE PATRIOT LEDGER

QUINCY

Gloria Dunn had heard of her future husband before she met him. Bob Noble was the Dorchester boy who, at 19, was captured while serving in World War II, and whose mother put out flowers for him weekly at the neighborhood church.

Intrigued, Gloria resolved to meet him when word got out that Noble had survived and returned home.

"He was very thin, like 130 pounds, and his ears stuck out, and his nose," she remembered. "He had on this horrible, pea green polyester suit. ...I said to my girlfriend, 'Is that Bob Noble?' Because I knew his younger brother was a very nice-looking kid. And I said, 'Oh, my God, he looks awful.' I'm known to say the truth all the time."

So began a courtship that brought together two people who became among the most passionate, prolific contributors to civic life in Quincy. The couple, both 85, were chosen to receive the Manet Community Health

Center's Elizabeth A. Swanton Community Service Award. The presentation was to take place at a breakfast this morning.

They married 61 years ago and moved to Quincy's Montclair section in 1952. Gloria was hesitant to leave behind her friends in Boston, as Quincy was considered a long distance away at the time.

"We came a long way since we came over that bridge," she said.

While Bob worked his way through school, Gloria got involved in the Wollaston Mothers Club and became friendly with the wife of former state Attorney General Frank Bellotti. The friendship sparked her longtime involvement in political causes. Raising her four children was her entrée into school and community causes.

Initially, Bob was less a social butterfly, putting in long hours as an industrial engineer and nights at the post office.

"Until I retired, I was known as 'Gloria's husband,'" he said.

He slowly came out of his shell and became known as Quincy's roving photographer, known for his group shots at social and political events. He also got involved in advocacy organizations for ex-POWs, a part of his life he downplayed for years.

"He never talked about it," said his daughter Alicia Gardner, a former city councilor. "The only thing he said growing up was, if he was home for dinner and it was the anniversary, he'd say, 'Do you know what day it is? ... This is the day I was liberated.' And that was all."

Gloria said she and her husband came to Quincy as part of an influx of Boston families who helped shift Quincy's political orientation from Republican to Democratic. The Nobles have long been known for their political activism, volunteering at polls and organizing events for senior citizens.

Gloria said she has rued the change in public regard for politicians and elected office. She remembers a remark she heard when her daughter announced she was running for city office; it suggested that all politicians are in it for money.

"My heart was broken. I really was very upset because none of my friends were like that," she said.

For the Nobles, who today arc great



■ Gloria and Bob Noble on their wedding day in June 1950.

WEB
EXTRA

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■ For video coverage of the Manet Health Center award ceremony, go to PatriotLedger.com.

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FILE PHOTO

■ In this 1987 photo, Bob Noble holds a spoon he filed sharp to use as a knife while being held in a German prison camp during World War II.

grandparents nine times over, civic engagement speaks to enduring values. "My father lived in the generation of Joe Kennedy; you don't get any-

thing for nothing," Gloria said. "Giving back for what you got." Jack Encarnacao may be reached at jencarnacao@ledger.com.



FILE PHOTO

■ Gloria Noble is shown making bread for communion for the final Sunday Mass at St. Albert the Great Church in Weymouth in August of 2004.