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Thank you for offering me membership in the Association. As an honor to my husband's memory I accept. But I don't know how active I will be.

Sincerely  
Veronica Wayshak

824th Bombardment Squadron (H)  
Office of the Operations Officer  
APO 520U S Army

9 April 1945

Subject: : S/Sgt Charles Wayshak, 31302124.  
To Whom It may Concern.

1. S/Sgt Charles Wayshak, 31302124, flew thirty-one combat missions as a member of this organization and eighteen combat missions as an aerial photographer. In flying as an aerial photographer, he used both the K-20 and the K-22 cameras, and his work was excellent. Due to medical reasons, it is not advisable for S/Sgt Wayshak to continue flying and it is recommended that he be sent to a technical school for advanced work in ground photography. It is believed that he has a definite aptitude for photography as shown in his reclassification from aerial gunner to aerial photographer with a very short course of intensive training.  
Wilson B Wilkes, Major, Air Corps,  
Operations Officer

15th AAF IN ITALY

S/Sgt. Charles Wayshak, 94 Hudson St., Boston, Mass., aerial photographer of a B-24 Liberator squadron in the 15th Air Force in Italy, was recently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievement during aerial flights over enemy territory."

During a recent bombing attack on the vital oil refineries at Regensburg, Germany, Sergeant Wayshak remained at his post and took pictures of the bomb strikes of his formation despite the crippled condition of his aircraft which was severely damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire.

A veteran of 31 missions, he holds the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and is authorized to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge with one Oak Leaf Cluster as a member of a heavy bombardment group which has been twice cited by the War Department for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy.

Sergeant Wayshak was employed by the E. M. Loew's The-

ater Corp., Boston, Mass., until entering the service in March, 1943 He attended school at Buckley Field, Colo., and gunnery school at Laredo, Texas .

His mother, Mrs. Mary Wayshak, lives at 94 Hudson St., Boston, Mass.

Kenneth J. Juster  
Certified Passed  
By Field Press Censor  
US Army

## Gretchen Gifford

(wife of William Gifford, 824 Sq.)

Gretchen Mundhenk Gifford, of Marco Island, Florida, passed away of congestive heart failure She was born in Chicago, Illinois; She grew up in Barrington, Illinois; Auburn, Alabama; Denton, Texas and Pearl River, New York.

Gretchen was a graduate of Ohio State University where she met her husband William Ralph Gifford. She was actively involved in charity and community organizations including the Twigs at Overlook Hospital and the American Association of University Women. She frequently donated her time to caring and helping others. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her husband William, sons William Ralph Gifford Jr. (grandchildren William Ralph III, Geoffrey Carr, and Grace Elizabeth ; son Russell Mundhenk Gifford grandchildren Ashley Sarrah, Chelsea Lauren and Kara Brooke and son Gregory Kent Gifford .



*Charles Wayshak*

## Marie Hicks

(wife of John Hicks, 826 Sq.)

Marie Hicks of Port Jervis, NY a homemaker and long time resident of the area, died at 77. She was born Jan. 30, 1922, in Jersey City, NJ the daughter of the late Erasmo and Clementina Marzano DiSpirito.. Survivors include her husband, John Hicks, one son, Dr. David J. Hicks ; one brother, Gino Dispirito, one sister, Ida Aber, and several nieces and nephews. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Port Jervis, NY