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## 100-Year-Old Woman is Inspirational to Family

She never got married or had children, but she had about 20 nieces and nephews there to help her celebrate.

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**Reporter:** Andrew Colegrove

**Email Address:** [Andrew.Colegrove@wsaz.com](mailto:Andrew.Colegrove@wsaz.com)

[Celebrating 100 Years](#)



CHARLESTON, W.Va. (WSAZ) -- When you think about the big birthdays in life, 16, 21 and even 40 may come to mind, but how about a hundred?

A woman in Charleson added a third digit to her age Sunday.

Ella Skaggs has been alive for a century, but she's never had a birthday this big.

"I imagine this is the biggest one I've ever had," she said. "I don't think we've celebrated birthdays too much. Maybe a little but not like today."

About 20 of Skaggs' nieces and nephews helped her celebrate the big day in her apartment, but she never got married or had children of her own.

"She did make her own way without the support of a husband, which was the traditional thing for women to do back then, depend on their husbands and look to the man for support," Skaggs' great niece Lisa Greene said.

Skaggs got a job in the 1920s working in the probation office in Charleston. Her family says her independence is in inspiration.

"She's a trail blazing woman," Greene said. "She worked before women worked outside the home. She was on the women's basketball team at her high school whenever they just started having women's sports in school."

"To have an aunt who was so forward thinking at such an early part of the century, it's really neat," Skaggs'

great niece Daintee Dubites said.

"I always admired her for being always on the job," her 94-year-old brother William Skaggs said. "Anytime I would come to Charleston to see her, I'd find her at the office."

Skaggs credits her work ethic and dedication to family for living an especially long and happy life.

"I worked hard," she said. "I did. I took care of my family and everybody in the family at one time or another. We all stuck together and tried to do the right thing."


After all these years, she continues to be independent and live by herself.

"She made her own way, and she's still is making her own way," Greene said.

A caregiver does stop in to help Skaggs throughout the week. She says she doesn't expect to have too many more birthdays, but she says she's just fine with that because she has strong faith in God.

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