

OBITUARIES

ROBERT LASCO

Navy veteran of the Korean War

Robert H. Lasco, 72, of the Sweet Valley section of Ross Township, died Sunday June 30, 2002 at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre.

Born April 2, 1930, in the Mountain Springs section of Ross Township, he was a son of the late Harold and Verna Hacker. He was a 1949 Lehman High School graduate. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War. Before retiring 11 years ago, he was an officer at State Correctional Institution at Dallas for 31 years. He was preceded in death by his brother, Lewis. Surviving are his wife of 43 years, the former Donna Price; sons, Robert P., Gilbert, Ariz., and David A. Shavertown section of Kingston Township; daughters, Elizabeth Sennick, Benton; Mary Davidson, Harveys Lake; and Kathleen Orlando, West Pittston; six grandchildren; and half-sister, Verna Bliss, San Diego. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

NELLIE KOVALICK

Resident of Meadows Manor

Nellie H. Kovalick, of Meadows Manor, Dallas, formerly of Swoyersville, died Saturday June 29, 2002 at her home.

Born in Luzerne, she was a daughter of the late John and Anna (Tier) Sudimak. She attended Chase area schools and later graduated from the Empire Beauty School. She was a member of Holy Trinity Church, Swoyersville. She was preceded in death by her husband of 47 years, George J. "Happy"; sisters, Margaret Sudimak and Helen Salone; and brothers, Joseph and John.

Surviving are her sons, Rick, Dallas, and George, Franklin Township; daughter, Georgette Sorber, Dallas; five grandchildren; and sisters, Marion Rebar and Ann Taylor, both of Coral Gables, Fla. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265.

JOSEPH KUNEC

U.S. Army veteran

Joseph B. Kunec, 69, of Dallas, formerly of Plains Township, died Tuesday June 25, 2002 at home.

Born in Plains Township, he was the son of the late Peter and Victoria (Novakovsky) Kunec. He graduated Sacred Heart High School, Plains Township, and King's College, Wilkes-Barre. He taught school in Phillipsburg, N.J. and Prince George County, Md. He was last employed as an insurance broker. He was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a member of the American Legion Post 0945, Wormleysburg. He was a member of Our Lady of Victory Church, Harvey's Lake, where he also served as a lector. He also was a former member of the Dallas Area School Board. He was preceded in death by brothers, Peter, Andrew and Albert; and sister, Alberta Borkowski. Surviving, in addition to his wife, the former Ethel Thomas, Dallas, are brothers, John, Rockville, Md., Edward, Falls Church, Va., Dr. Peter, McLean, Va., Thomas and Robert, of Plains Township; sisters, Mary Morris, Acworth, Ga., Margaret Plumlee, Tulsa, Okla., and Helen Krubitzer, Plains Township; and nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of Victory Church, Harvey's Lake, or St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Wilkes-Barre.

LAURA RAY

Member of St. Therese's Church

Laura Catherine (Kaye) Ray, 81, of Dallas, formerly of Sweet Valley, died Friday June 28, 2002 at the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas.

Born in Connellesville on Sept. 15, 1920, she was a daughter of the late Harry L. and Nell (Jaynes) Martin. She graduated from Immaculate Conception, Connellesville High School. She had worked as a medical librarian at the State Hospital of Connellesville. Later, she transferred to Eastern Dispensary and Casualty Hospital, Washington, D.C. She retired from Culbro Corp. as a supervisor of returned merchandise. She was a member of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown, where she was a member of the Altar and Rosary Society and the Bereavement Committee. She also was an avid horsewoman and taught children in her youth. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Albert L.; and son, Brian Albert.

Surviving are daughters, Karla Narkiewicz, Dallas, and Paula Grace Gelinis, Wyoming; sons, Barry L., Bennington, Vt., Randall Kevin, Forkston, and Shawn Holbrook, Sabattus, Maine; five grandchildren; and brothers, Jack, Shavertown, and the Rev. Ralph, Bethany Beach, Del.

SR. MARY CATHERINE KELLY

Member of the Dallas Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Mary Catherine Kelly, R.S.M., a member of the Dallas Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, died Monday June 24, 2002 at Mercy Center, Dallas.

Born Esther Teresa Kelly on Feb. 23, 1913, in Plymouth, she was a daughter of the late John Edward and Helen (Driscoll) Kelly. She graduated from St. Mary's High School, Wilkes-Barre, and attended College Misericordia, Dallas. She entered the Sisters of Mercy at Dallas on Sept. 8, 1929 and professed her vows on Aug. 16, 1935. At her reception, she was given the name Sr. Mary Catherine De Ricci. She taught in elementary schools in the Altoona-Johnstown, Scranton, Rockville Center, N.Y., and Brooklyn, N. Y. dioceses. She also served as a housekeeper and cook in several convents of the Sisters of Mercy. She served on the staff of Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, Villa Mercy, Bethesda, Md., Mercycrest Convent, Harrisburg, and Mercy Center, Dallas. She entered the Prayer Ministry at Mercycrest Convent and moved to Mercy Center in 1986, where she continued in the Prayer Ministry. She was preceded in death by her brothers, James, and Cornelius; sisters, Anna Dougherty, Jean Rogers, Helen Buckley, and Margaret O'Neill.

Surviving are her sister-in-law, Kathleen Kelly, Wilkes-Barre; and nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Retirement Fund, Sisters of Mercy, P.O. Box 369, Dallas 18612.

HENRY BERGSTRASSER

Dallas resident and member of Idetown U.M. Church

Henry P. Bergstrasser, 88, of Dallas, died Thursday June 27, 2002 at home.

Born on May 9, 1914, in Wilkes-Barre, he was the son of the late Philip and Stella (Barber) Bergstrasser. He lived in Dallas for the past 58 years. He attended GAR High School, Wilkes-Barre. He worked as a manager of the meat department in various former A&P Super Markets in the Wyoming Valley. He retired 26 years ago.

He was a member of the Idetown United Methodist Church, where he served as Sunday School Superintendent, taught Sunday School, served as a lay leader, and was a member of the church Couples Club. He was a licensed lay speaker for the United Methodist Conference, speaking at many area churches, nursing homes and day care centers. He also was a member of the Pennsylvania Sunday School Association. He was preceded in death by a brother, David, and sisters, Ruth, Williams and Dorothy Cooper.

Surviving are his wife of 65 years, the former Dorothy Stacey; daughters, Beverly Burnaford, Dallas, and Judy Johnsen, Williamsport; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a brother, William, Shavertown. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution may be sent to the Idetown United Methodist Church, in care of Willis Ide, 17 Oak Drive, Dallas, 18612, or Radio Station WRGN, 2457 state Route 118, Hunlock Creek, 18621.

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OLGA OSIKA

Sister lives at Harveys Lake

Olga Alice Osika, 86, of Schooley Avenue, Exeter, died Monday June 10, 2002 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Juliana (Raksh) Bertosh. She was a member of Harding Church of Christ, Exeter Township. Until their retirement in 1974, she and her late husband, John, owned and operated the Riverside Hotel in Falls. She

lived in Falls before moving to Exeter.

Surviving are her sisters, Mildred Schuler, Fort Myers, Fla. and Julia Yuscellis, Harveys Lake; nieces; great nieces and nephews; and Anita Rakos, Exeter, her dedicated friend and caregiver. Memorial donations may be made to the Harding Church of Christ, R.D. #1, Box 187A, Falls, 18615.

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The Dallas Post (ISSN - 1090 - 1094)

Published weekly by Cypress Media, Inc. \$20 per year, in Luzerne and Wyoming counties (PA); \$24 elsewhere in PA and additional offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612.

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