

OBITUARIES

LOUIS BETHEL

U.S. Navy veteran

Louis C. Bethel Sr., of Dallas, died Tuesday April 1, 2003 at the Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township.

Born Nov. 5, 1933, in Plymouth, he was the son of the late Angeline Bethel. He was a 1951 graduate of Harter High School, Nanticoke, and was a U.S. Navy veteran serving as a third class petty officer on the LST 603. He was a member of the American Legion Post 463 and a member of the United Methodist Church, Center Moreland.

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, the former Peggy Waters; son, Louis Jr.; daughter, Annette Montante; three grandchildren; sister, Louise Wildon; and nieces and nephews.

ALFRED SWELGIN

Army veteran of World War II

Alfred A. Swelgin, 86, of Lehman Township, died Wednesday April 2, 2003 at the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas.

Born Oct. 11, 1916, in Nanticoke, he was a son of the late Adolf and Martha (Kruger) Swelgin. He was a graduate of Harter High School, Nanticoke, and was an Army veteran of World War II, serving in the 407th Infantry Regiment as a staff sergeant. He earned the Bronze Star. He was employed as a landscaper for Huntsville Nursery for many years and was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Dallas. He served on the Lehman Township Municipal Authority for many years.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Richard; and sister, Olga Hawley.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years, the former Jane Smith; daughter, Linda Anesi, Hallstead; two grandchildren; brothers, Henry, Plymouth; Elmer, Jackson Township.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

HELGA DANNERT

Employed as a designer

Helga M. Dannert, 67, of High Point Acres, Dallas, died Tuesday April 1, 2003 at home.

Born Feb. 17, 1936, in Friedeck, Czechoslovakia, she was the daughter of the late Emanuel and Maria Wrana. She was educated at Liberal Arts College, Vienna, Austria, and the Krefeld Textile College, Germany. She was employed as a designer in New York and Dallas.

Surviving are her husband, Wilfred; sons, Mark, Dallas; Frank, Kingston; daughter, Susanne Dannert, Rosemont.

LILLIAN HARRISON

Worked for Dallas School District

Lillian J. Harrison, 71, of Staub Road, Trucksville section of Kingston Township, died Saturday April 5, 2003 in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township.

Born in Luzerne, she was a daughter of the late Edgar and Mae (Hankey) Gruver. She attended Luzerne schools. She worked as a cafeteria worker for the Dallas School District. She was a member of the Trucksville United Methodist Church and the Meadows Nursing Home Auxiliary.

Surviving are her husband of 49 years, Richard P.; son, Richard P., Endicott, N.Y.; a granddaughter; brother, William Gruver, Dallas; and sister, Helen Scott, Brick, N.J.

Memorial donations may be made to the Trucksville United Methodist Church Building Fund, Trucksville, Kingston Township.

YOLANDA TOMASELLI

Resident of Dallas

Yolanda Tomaselli, 71, of Dallas, died Wednesday April 2, 2003 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born Jan. 23, 1932, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Concetta (Zappala) LaColla.

Surviving are her husband, Fred; sons, Peter, Pottstown; Joseph, Trucksville; four grandchildren; sisters, Millie Foti, Massapequa Park, N.Y.; Grace Zadera, New Jersey; Gloria Minutillo, Massapequa Park, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dialysis Patient Association, Attention Bob Cooney, 512 Lackawanna Ave., Mayfield, PA or to the American Diabetes Association, Wilkes-Barre.

LOUIS CONTINO

U.S. Navy veteran

Louis J. Contino, 69, of Fullerton, Calif., died March 24, 2003 at Brea Community Hospital, Brea, Calif.

Born Nov. 28, 1933, in Luzerne, he was the son of the late Thomas and Josephine (Nocella) Contino. He graduated from Luzerne High School. He served with the U.S. Navy. He graduated from the University of Scranton and from California State College, Fullerton, Calif. He worked for Rockwell International Corporation and also worked on the space shuttle program.

Surviving are his wife, Lois; sons, Thomas, Laguna Niguel, Calif.; Anthony, Orange, Calif.; sister, Anna, Phoenix; a granddaughter; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

FRANK PICCHI

Served in the Navy

Frank T. Picchi, 76, of Harveys Lake, formerly of Plains Township, died Tuesday April 1, 2003 at Hospice Care of the VNA Inpatient Unit, Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre.

Born July 4, 1926, in Plains Township, he was a son of the late John and Stella (Doblix) Picchi. He graduated from Plains Memorial High School. He served in the Navy as a Fireman First Class, during World War II, where he received the American Theater Medal and the Victory Medal. He worked as a salesman for Stull Brothers Auto Parts, Kingston. He owned and operated Mountain Creations, Hazleton. He was associated with the Bloomsburg Fair. He umpired for semi-professional baseball and Little League. He was president of Schuyler Avenue PTA, Kingston. He was a member of Plains American Legion, Joseph E. Conlon Post 558 and the VFW Post 283, Kingston.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Blanche I. Lawson.

Surviving are his son Frank and daughter-in-law, Andrea, with whom he resided; daughters, Nancy Bohonko, Plains Township; Carol Kosisky, Kingston; seven grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; brothers, Angelo, West Nanticoke, Plymouth Township; John, Danville; sister, Jennie Martin, Plains Township and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to the Dialysis Patient Association, Mayfield, to the attention of Bob Cooney.

ALICE PIASTA

Member of St. Joseph's Church

Alice (Korony) Piasta, 92, of Edwarsville, died Wednesday April 2, 2003 at home.

Born in Kingston, she was employed by the Crane Silk Mills, Kingston, and was a member of St. Joseph's Church, Hudson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph; great-granddaughter, Kaylie Johnson; sister, Blanche Szakas; and brothers, Victor, William, Leo, Anthony and Edward.

Surviving are son, William, Las Vegas; daughter, Marian Johnson, Shavertown; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

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DORIS RUGER

Member of the Back Mountain Farm Bowling League.

Doris M. Ruger, 80, of Meadows Apartments, Dallas, died Sunday March 30, 2003 in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Luzerne, she was a daughter of the late Michael and Loretta (Rothery) Shonk. She attended Luzerne schools. She was a member of the Back Mountain Farm Bowling League.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Hugh; son, Terry G.; brothers, Albert, William, Francis, Theodore Shonk' and sister, Charlotte Banta.

Surviving are her son, Hugh M., Swoyersville; Richard W., Idetown; daughter, Carol Eason, Dallas; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; brothers, George Shonk, Luzerne; and Michael Shonk, Dallas.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hospice of the VNA, Wilkes-Barre.

ELEANOR LIBENER

Member of Gate of Heaven Church

Eleanor Libener, 80, of Dallas, died Saturday April 5, 2003 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born Oct. 26, 1922, in Edwarsville, she was a daughter of the late John and Anna Hrehach. She graduated from Edwarsville High School. She worked as a proof reader for the Hazleton Standard Speaker, Hazleton, and also as an aide with the Bureau of the Aging, Wilkes-Barre. She was a member of Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John; two brothers and three sisters.

Surviving are her daughter, Ann Williams of Coral Springs, Fla.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, Wilkes-Barre.

JOHN FRANIA SR.

Served in World War II and awarded the Purple Heart

John S. Frania Sr., of Dallas, died March 31, 2003 at home.

Born Jan. 23, 1921, in Wilkes-Barre, he was the son of the late Andrew Thomas and Sophie (Laskowski) Frania. He served in World War II, stationed at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He also served in the European Theater and was awarded The Purple Heart and Medal for Distinguished Service in honor of his bravery.

He was educated at Stanford University and West Point Military Academy. He worked as a government contractor and machinist for Russell, Burtz and Ward, designing and building military ships during peacetime.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Josephine.

Surviving are his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and his companion of 10 years.

GRACE MCKENNON

Daughter lives in Dallas

Grace McKennon, 86, of West Union Street, Shickshinny, died Wednesday, March 20 at the Berwick Retirement Village.

Born April 12, 1916, in Free-land, she was a daughter of the late William and Carrie (Shelly) Sneddon. She was a 1933 graduate of Berwick High School and was employed by the Luzerne Outerwear Plant, Salem Township, for many years. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Shickshinny and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Shickshinny.

She was preceded in death by brother, William; sister, Margaret Werts.

Surviving are her husband of 64 years, Fred; daughters, Janice Kadtké, Shickshinny; Judy DeNamur, Tucson, Ariz.; Karen Berlew, Dallas; son, Earl, Newberry Port, Mass.; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

CLIFFORD FOSS

Owner and operator of motorcycle shop in Dallas

Clifford K. Foss, 91, formerly of Copper Kettle Mobile Home Park, Evans Falls, died Saturday April 5, 2003 at Lakes Nursing Center, Dallas.

Born July 26, 1911, in Sweet Valley, he was a son of the late Corey and Louise (Cobleigh) Foss. He owned a Harley Davidson motorcycle sales and service shop in Dallas. He was a volunteer police officer in Dallas and was a licensed airplane pilot. He was also self-employed as a truck driver.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Mary Slatyk; grandson, Brian Granoski; sister, Catherine Lynn; and brother, Thomas.

Surviving are his daughters, Cheryl Pavlick, Nanticoke; Deborah, Florida; sons, Clifford J., Mountain Home, Pocono; Kollin K., Harveys Lake; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

The Dallas Post publishes obituaries of Back Mountain residents and close family members without charge. Send obituaries to: The Dallas Post, 607 Main Rd., Dallas, PA 18612 Photos are welcome.

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