

OBITUARIES

JUDGE RAYMOND J. DURKIN

Retired U.S. Judge

Judge Raymond J. Durkin of Dallas Township died September 28, 2003 at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Born June 20, 1933, he was the son of the late Raymond J. and Rose H. Meehan Durkin.

He was a graduate of the former Kingston High School. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, where he was a member of the honor society and also participated in athletics. He received his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University School of Law, Washington, D.C., in 1958.

Before beginning his legal career, he was employed as a Supervisory Accountant and auditor by the United States General Accounting Office, Washington, D.C. He was then appointed as a law clerk to the late Honorable Michael H. Sheridan, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania. He was also an Adjunct Professor in government contract law and business law at King's College, and he engaged in the private practice of law.

In 1971, he was appointed as United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania. He remained in that capacity until his retirement in 2000.

He was a member of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association, a permanent member of the United States Judicial Conference for the Third Circuit, and was admitted to practice before the Pennsylvania and federal courts.

He was a member of St. Therese's Parish, Shavertown, and the Century Club of King's College.

Surviving are his wife of 45 years, the former Dorothy M. Wallison; daughter, Julie Anne Henstenburg, Philadelphia; sons, Raymond A. Durkin, M.D. and Michael J. Durkin, M.D., Allentown; sisters, Rosemary Schultz and Regina Baur of Kingston; and Claire Miller of Mechanicsburg; and four grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Medical Oncology Associates Prescription Assistance Fund, 382 Pierce Street, Kingston, 18704.

Remembrances may be sent to tribute@mjmclaughlin.com.

RUSSELL BEHNEY

Harveys Lake resident

Russell S. Behney, 89, of Harveys Lake, died September 24, 2003 at Riverstreet Manor, Wilkes-Barre.

Born Feb. 27, 1914, in Newark, N.J., he was a son of the late Harvey and Mary (Dieffenbach) Behney. He graduated from Central High School, Newark, N.J. and attended Newark College of Engineering. He was a self-employed carpenter. He was a member of the Knee Deep Hunting and Fishing Club, Lake Hopatcong.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Florence Salance; sister, Lorraine Bitten; brothers, Melvin and Henry.

Surviving are his daughter, Ellen, Kingston; son, Russell, Harveys Lake; and nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

THOMAS SAXON

Won 5 Battle Stars in WWII

Thomas C. Saxon, of Swoyersville, died September 27, 2003 in the General Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Swoyersville, he was the son of the late Thomas and Anna (Katchmar) Saxon. He graduated from Swoyersville High School, and worked as a pharmacy technician for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II, where he was awarded the Purple Heart and five Battle Stars during the European Theater conflict. He was a member of Holy Trinity Parish, Swoyersville; and the American Legion Post 644, Swoyersville.

He was preceded in death by sisters, Josephine Chorb and Anna Saxon.

Surviving are his wife of 55 years, the former Helen Yanok; sons, Thomas, Wyoming; Paul, Shavertown; Alan, Kingston; and Dr. Mark, Lake Harmony; daughter, Elaine Chase, Warrior Run; fourteen grandchildren; sister, Agnes Cordaro, West Wyoming; and a nephew.

Memorial donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

WILLIAM JOYCE

Life member of Shavertown Fire Department

William Michael Joyce Sr., 68, of Shavertown, died September 28, 2003 at General Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Larksville, he was a son of the late William and Anna (Brennan) Joyce. He worked for the 65 Public Square Associates, Wilkes-Barre, and was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving during the Korean War. He was a life member of the Shavertown Fire Department and was affiliated with St. Therese's Church, Shavertown.

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, the former Elizabeth Russell; sons, William Jr., Harveys Lake; and Shawn, Edwardsville; daughter, Holly Joyce, Shavertown; three grandchildren, a great-grandchild, brothers, James, Pittston; Frank, Trucksville; and Thomas, Williamsport; sisters, Nancy Matson, Succacanna, N.J.; Kay Stensic, Jenkins Township; Agnes Unice, Jackson Township; and Theresa Schobert, Shavertown; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Shavertown Volunteer Fire Co.

SARAH PECHAL

Kingston Township native was Red Cross volunteer

Sarah Pechal, 81, of Stites Avenue, West Wyoming, died September 25, 2003 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Kingston Township, she was the daughter of the late Edwin and Sarah (Corliss) Burnett. She graduated from Dallas High School. She worked as a secretary for Culp Brother's Co. and Roat Hardware, Kingston. She was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, West Wyoming and the Christian Mothers. She was co-chairperson for the Bishop's Annual Appeal. She received a 10 year accommodation award from the American Red Cross for volunteering.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Aloysius and brother, Edward Burnett.

Surviving are her daughter, Joan Pechal Metcalf, Dallas; son, Allan, West Wyoming; and two grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the West Wyoming Ambulance Association.

JOHN KASKUS

Brother lives at Harveys Lake

John Kaskus, 78, of Wilkes-Barre Township, died September 26, 2003 at the Hospice Community Care, Inpatient Unit, Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Born Jan. 17, 1925 in Wilkes-Barre Township, he was a son of the late Andrew and Mary (Wyda) Kaskus. He attended Wilkes-Barre Township schools, and worked as an equipment operator for the Blue Coal Corp. at the Huber Breaker, Ashley. He was a member of the Centenary United Methodist Church, Ashley.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Mildred Coutts; and a brother, Michael.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, the former Myrtle (Betty) Casterline, at home; daughters, Jennie Heck, Wilkes-Barre Township; Mary Vince, Wilkes-Barre; and Deborah, at home; sons, Raymond, Wilkes-Barre Township; and David, at home; two grandchildren; sisters, Dorothy Rhines, Dallas; and Margaret Nikodem, Wilkes-Barre Township; brothers, Andrew, Tunkhannock; Elmer, Harveys Lake; and Edward, Swoyersville; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice Community Care, 385 Wyoming Ave., Kingston, or to the American Heart Association, 71 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre.

HEDWIG WYBERSKI

Member of Gate of Heaven Church

Hedwig M. Wyberski, 92, of Reservoir Road, Dallas, died September 26, 2003 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Wyoming, she was a daughter of the late Alexander and Viola (Zelewski) Kondraski. She attended West Wyoming schools. She worked for Muskin Pools, Wilkes-Barre. She was a member of Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas J.; son, Donald; daughter, Antoinette Petrask; grandsons, Kenneth Wyberski, Robert J. Phillips Jr.; brothers, Alex and John Kondraski; sisters, Anna Zarzecki and Helen Smith.

Surviving are her sons, Raymond, West Wyoming; Stanley, Woodbridge, Va.; Joseph J., Dallas; daughter, Patricia Phillips, Edwardsville; 14 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and brother, Anthony Kondraski, California.

FRANCIS GRUSZKA

Member of Gate of Heaven Church

Francis Stanley Gruszka, 63, of East Main Street, Nanticoke and formerly of Exeter, died September 26, 2003 at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Pittston, he was the son of the late Stanley and Constance J. (Skripkunis) Gruszka. He graduated from Keystone College, LaPlume. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked as a tech leader at Lowe's Home Improvement Center, Wilkes-Barre Township. He was a member of Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas. He also was a member of the American Legion Dallas Post.

Surviving are his wife of 39 years, the former Judith Dertinger; daughters, Rebecca Flores, Port Orange, Fla.; Jennifer Gramley, Seven Springs, N.C.; son, Frank S. Jr., Wilkes-Barre; 19 grandchildren; a great-grandson; and sister, Suzanne Kupcho, Nanticoke.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

The Post publishes obituaries of Back Mountain residents and close family members without charge.

Send obituaries to:

The Post

15 N. Main St.
Wilkes-Barre PA 18711

Photos are welcome.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Paul Gionfriddo, SPHR, has recently joined Moses Taylor Hospital, Scranton, as Vice President of Human Resources. His responsibilities include



compensation and benefits administration, employee health programs, employee relations, staff recruiting

and retention, and management development. Prior to joining Moses Taylor, Gionfriddo was employed as Director of Human Resources at Community Medical Center, Scranton, and Tyler Memorial Hospital, Tunkhannock.

Gionfriddo is a faculty member of the graduate school at College Misericordia, Dallas. He received an undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut and a master's degree in Organizational Management from College Misericordia. He is a former board member of the Society for Human Resource Management and is a volunteer for the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America, and local youth sports.

Gionfriddo resides in Shavertown with his wife Sheila and their three children.

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners has awarded **Brenda L. Hage**, MSN, CRNP, NP-C, CRRN-A of Dallas, its State Award for Excellence for Nurse Practitioner of the Year. Hage is an assistant professor of nursing at College Misericordia.

These awards are presented to a nurse practitioner in each state who demonstrates excellence as a nurse practitioner

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse Sept. 12-23, 2003.

Estate of Barbara Ann Barakat to John Pike and spouse, Dallas, \$131,900.

Pond Parcel Inc. to Suzy Weinman and spouse, Hillside Condominium, Dallas, \$140,000.

Brian Arthur and spouse to Jennifer Sherry, Dallas Township, \$394,000.

George Sordoni and spouse to Scott Meuser and spouse, 21 Pioneer Avenue, Dallas Township, \$1,575,000.

James C. Timlin administrator to Harold Snowdon Jr. and spouse, 10 Machell Avenue, Dallas Township, \$375,000.

John O'Donnell and spouse to Kenneth Vanartsdalen and spouse, The Maples, Dallas Township, \$544,000.

Willard Bullock and spouse to Kenneth Dailey and spouse, Lot 12, Tall Pines Estates,

and a role model for other nurse practitioners and the nursing profession in general. Hage was also recognized for making a significant contribution to the improvement of care of individuals, families and/or communities; is creative in her approach to nursing care through effective communication and quality of care; has a positive effect on patients and nurse colleagues; utilizes current research to enhance the quality of care; is licensed to practice in the U.S. as a registered nurse and as a nurse practitioner in her state.

Hage is a family nurse practitioner. Her areas of clinical experience include adult/geriatric health, rehabilitation, and critical care. Her primary teaching responsibilities include adult health, advanced physical assessment, and role development at the graduate and undergraduate level. She has completed research in the areas of health care reimbursement and elder health promotion. She is published in the area of rehabilitation.

Hage maintains an active clinical practice in the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation with Northeastern Rehabilitation Associates. She is board certified in family practice by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (NP-C), adult health by the American Nurses Credentialing Corporation (APRN-B.C.), and in advanced practice rehabilitation nursing by the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (CRRN-A).

In addition, her clinical interests also include transcultural nursing, health care informatics/telehealth, and the use of phytochemicals (plant-based medicines).

Franklin Township, \$31,500.

Robert J. Mills, per sheriff, to Wells Fargo Bank, Minnesota, Lots 15, 13 Parks Row, Harveys Lake, \$4,217.

Wells Fargo Bank, Trustee, to John McLaughlin, 261 Sunset Terrace, Harveys Lake, \$31,000.

Frederick Schofield and spouse to Matthew Frank, Meadowcrest Manor, Jackson Township, \$212,000.

John Shubila and spouse to Jerry Phares and spouse, 3.2 acres, Jackson Township, \$30,000.

Louis D. Sledziewski to Mary Ann Baines, Kingston Township, \$110,000.

Manufacturers & Traders Trust to Thomas Festa and spouse, 77 Davis St., Kingston Township, \$76,900.

Kevin M. Harding to Terry Smith and spouse, Lake Township, \$113,000.

Gary Weston and spouse to Robert Masters and spouse, Ross Township, \$125,000.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

L	E	N	A	Z	E	S	T	M	O	A	N	G	A	S	E	S			
E	L	A	L	A	N	T	A	I	N	G	E	A	N	G	E	L	A		
A	L	S	O	G	O	U	T	S	I	R	E	N	O	R	M	A	N		
F	A	T	H	E	R	S	D	A	I	S	C	A	R	E	S	M	E	I	M
A	G	E	V	E	E	S	W	E	E										
S	P	A	A	B	J	U	R	E	D	T	A	T	E	S	H	A	M		
W	A	X	E	D	O	T	I	S	S	E	V	E	R	E	A	M	O		
A	B	E	T	R	I	A	N	C	A	N	O	E	G	E	L	I	D		
P	A	L	A	C	E														
A	P	T	S	A	M	B	A	R	D	A	T	O	M						
A	F	R	A	I	D	T	H	E	Y	L	L	G	E	T	M	E			
S	A	R	A	I	N	R	E	L	E	E	T	A	R						
O	R	A	T	O	R	A	A	A	R	O	N	L	Y	N	D	O	N		
L	I	B	E	L	A	G	L	E	T	A	L	M	S	O	R	L	Y		
A	S	I	D	E	P	O	T	S	A	L	O	E	C	R	A	G	S		
R	E	A	D	M	I	N	H	A	L	A	B	A	M	A	M	A	E		
A	M	O	S	E	K	E	A	L	E										
S	O	M	E	T	H	I	N	G	I	C	A	N	T	A	F	F	O		
P	I	R	A	T	E	M	O	R	T	S	U	E	Z	R	O	A	R		
S	T	A	G	E	D	A	S	E	A	I	D	L	E	E	Z	R	A		
T	U	N	A	G	E	R	S												

Puzzles appear on page 10

Rational Numbers answers

2	1	8	9
1	5	0	0
	9	2	1
1	2	0	0
4	3	4	2
4	6	9	0
3	5	0	
2	6	7	1
1	2	9	5

King Crossword Answers

B	E	A	U	S	I	M	B	A	L	D	
A	N	D	R	E	T	T	I	E	M	I	
R	E	D	C	R	O	S	S	L	E	N	A
H	O	P	J	A	U	N	T	Y			
P	A	R	I	S	R	U	N	G			
I	V	A	N	R	E	D	T	A	P	E	
P	E	Z	P	A	I	G	E	L	A	D	
R	E	D	L	I	N	E	P	E	R	U	
H	A	N	S	E	R	A	S	E			
S	T	R	A	N	D	I	D	A			
T	I	E	R	R	E	D	D	W	A	R	F
A	D	A	M	O	L	E	A	N	D	E	R
B	E	L	A	P	I	A	S	E	X	Y	

Fire department web addresses

Five local fire departments now have web pages where anyone who is interested may find out more about the departments and how to become a volunteer. They are: Shavertown: <http://go.to/shavertownfire> Trucksville: <http://www.trucksvillfire.com> Kunkle Fire & EMS: <http://home.usnetway.com/~kunkle> Harveys Lake Fire & EMS: <http://www.geocities.com/harveyslakefire> Northmoreland Fire: <http://www.geocities.com/station140>

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