

ALICE JANE BROWN

Life's passion was caring for other family members

Alice Jane Brown, 82, of Lehman Township passed away suddenly on Friday, Nov. 24, 2006 while recovering from heart surgery. She showed her usual courage in deciding to undergo the surgery, which carried the promise of substantially prolonged life. During the recovery her two sons took turns staying by her side. She was a very hard-working, compassionate and giving woman whose main mission and passion in life was caring for other family members.

She was born in Trucksville on May 14, 1924, the fourth of seven children born to the late Bert and Gladys (Dymond) Brace. She graduated from Dallas Township High School in 1943 and later that same year she married Earl Brown. They were able to share nearly 60 wonderful years together. After a brief period working in Connecticut, they returned to Dallas and lived there until Earl's retirement from General Electric in 1983. They then undertook the design and construction of a new family home in Lehman Township. Alice loved living in the country and she had a special appreciation for the wildlife, native plants, sunsets and night sky.

She was a loving homemaker and caregiver for all of her life. In addition to raising two sons with her husband, she cared in her home for her husband's parents (Frank and Nellie Brown), her husband's great uncle (Herbert Riley), and in later years, for her husband after he developed Alzheimer's disease. The joy she received from caring for others and the kindness and respect she showed in providing that care was always apparent.

Alice enjoyed traveling, particularly to St. John in the Virgin Islands, where the family spent several wonderful vacations together. She loved dancing with her husband to big band music and was a great cook known for her pies and cookies. For nearly 60 years, she was an active member of the Dallas United Methodist Church, where she served as treasurer of the Durbin/Colwell class.

Alice is preceded in death by her husband Earl in 2003 and survived by two sons, Allan of Fairfield; Roger of Stonington, Conn.; a brother and his wife, Elton and Janice Brace of Dallas; a sister and her husband, Barbara and Hank Evans of Gettysburg, Pa.; nieces, nephews; special friend, Dan Leonard and the family dog, Winston.

Interment, Warden Cemetery in Dallas. Memorial donations may be made to Dallas United Methodist Church, the Visiting Nurse Association or to another charity of the donor's choice.

DANIEL R. CARR

Considered everyone his buddy

Daniel R. Carr, 53, of Dallas, lost his fight against pneumonia. He was born Aug. 15, 1953, in Kingston, Pa., to the late Catherine H. Davenport and the late James L. Carr. In his later years Dan liked to relax and enjoy life in such activities as tearing out ads for the newspaper, trips to McDonald's, shopping, and Sunday morning church. He especially enjoyed his vacations to Florida and Disney, the dinner dances put on by the Parent/Friend Group, and numerous activities put on by the Luzerne County Recreational Center. Danny attended Day Development Program, Kingston. He was one of the friendliest people you could have met. He always greeted you with a hug and a kiss for the ladies. He considered everyone his buddy.

Dan was preceded in death by sisters, Ethel Gray, Catherine L. Carr; brothers, Lawrence J. and David E. Carr; and stepfather, Ralph Naugle.

Dan lived with his sister, Ann Karuza, who he lovingly referred to as "My Ann." Dan also leaves stepmother, Barbara Carr of York, Pa.; sisters, Rose Lightner, York, Pa.; Diane Stedje of Waverly, N.Y.; numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment, Memorial Shrine Cemetery.

BETTE L. SNYDER

Longtime board member of Back Mountain Memorial Library

Bette L. Snyder of Orchard West, Dallas, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2006 at Wesley Village, where she had been a patient for the past year.

Born in Milton on May 15, 1919, Bette was a daughter of the late S.C.B. Lynn and Sara Balliet Lynn of Kingston.

She graduated from Kingston High School and Bucknell Junior College. In 1940, she relocated to New York City, where she became an advertising personnel placement specialist with the Walter A. Lowen Agency.

It was there that Bette met her husband, the late Charles S. Snyder, whom she married in 1948. In 1959, Bette and her husband returned to the Wyoming Valley to work with her father's family business, The Lynn Organization Advertising Agency.

Bette was a faithful member of the Church of Christ Uniting in Kingston. She was an active member in her community, serving as a long time board member of the Back Mountain Library and the Wilkes-Barre SPCA. Her firm belief in volunteerism was evident during World War II, where she served others as a dedicated driver of the Motor Corps.

She was a vivacious woman who believed in living each day to the fullest. She was an avid golfer, tennis player, and cherished her weekly bridge club.

Bette was an accomplished artist, specializing in oil painting and the skill of applying decoupage. She was extremely adept at needlepoint and sewing.

She also loved to travel, taking her last trip to Europe at the age of 80.

Bette is survived by her devoted sister and brother-in-law, Peggy and Matt Fields of Kingston; stepchildren Susan (Snyder) Harris and husband Larry of Naples, Fla.; and Peter Snyder and wife Barbara of Las Vegas, NV. She is also survived by nephews Chris Fields, Kingston; Mark Fields and wife Lori, New York City; Jeffrey Fields and his companion Josh Wunner, both of Kingston; niece Cathy (Fields) McHugh and husband John, Kingston; and great-nephew, Jesse McHugh.

Interment, family mausoleum in Paradise Valley in Milton. Memorial donations may be made to the SPCA or the Church of Christ Uniting in Kingston.

JOHN PAUL LUBA

Decorated World War II veteran

John Paul Luba, 83, of Lake Silkworth, passed away Friday, Nov. 24, 2006.

He was born in Askam and lived in Elizabeth, N.J., Rahway, N.J. and Warrior Run, where he served as mayor from 1980 to 1982 before moving to Lake Silkworth. He was employed for 29 years by the Singer Corporation, Elizabeth, N.J., where he also served as chief shop steward. After retiring in 1978, he returned to Lake Silkworth. Mr. Luba also maintained a winter residence in Bradenton, Fla. He loved cruising to the Caribbean and Florida.

He was a member of the Silkworth Lake Commission, the Sweet Valley Golf Course, the Luzerne Posse Comitatus, V.F.W. Post 2636 in Iselin, N.J., and the American Legion Post 0176, Warrior Run. He was a decorated World War II veteran of the 16th Infantry Regiment First Division, receiving the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious action during the American first wave landing at Normandy Beach, Purple Heart Medal for injuries during the liberation of Germany, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, and the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars.

He was predeceased in 1969, by his wife of 21 years, Victoria (Mitros) Luba. He is survived by his daughters, Constance Lysko and her husband, John, of Ocean Twp., N.J.; Nancy Luba of Lake Silkworth; his brother, Walter P. Luba of Quakertown; and his sister Pauline Sterling of Encino, Ca.

LORETTA KOKASKO

Volunteered for church, civic and community groups

Loretta Kokasko, of Dallas and Brentwood, N.Y., passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2006 at the age of 77.

She was the beloved wife of the late Frank A. Kokasko; the loving mother of Frankie (Cynthia) Kokasko, Evelyn (Joe) Scalise, Barbara (Pat) Cantwell, and Carol Barrett; the devoted grandmother of Joey, Dawn, John, Christopher, Sean, Kim, Patrick, Brianna and Mykel; the cherished aunt of Robert Ekstrom and the faithful friend to Peggy, Joe, Mary, and Norma. She was a volunteer with church, civic and community groups and was a life-long member of the Brentwood Youth Organization.

Interment, Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn, N.Y.

JOHN J. GRULA JR.

Loved entertaining family and friends at Harveys Lake home

On Nov. 25, 2006, John J. Grula Jr. of R.R. 1, Harveys Lake, formerly of Luzerne and Swoyersville, went home to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and Peg lost the love of her life. After almost 20 years of successfully battling cancer, he lost the fight for his life in a brief but overwhelming battle with a sudden internal infection. His reward for bravery, above and beyond the call, was a much-deserved trip home.

John was born and raised in Luzerne on March 20, 1941. Upon graduation from Luzerne High in 1958, John worked in Connecticut and New Jersey until being drafted into the U.S. Army (June 1960 to March 1963). After his military obligation was fulfilled, he worked for Automatic Vending, American Cyanamid, Celotex, Bridon American, and in 1983 he and his son, Michael, started the family business, J&G Cleaning Services.

John and Peg were married Aug. 20, 1960. Beloved son John J. III was born in Alaska and second precious gift from God, son Michael Matthew, was born in Kingston.

John loved to play guitar, listen to music, fishing trips to Canada with his son Michael and his dear friends, and entertaining family and friends at his home at Harveys Lake.

John is preceded on the glorious trip home by his first-born son, John J. III, in 1982; mom Caroline (Mullish) Grula in 1954; and dad John J. Sr. in 1994. Surviving are his devoted wife of 46 years, Margaret "Peggie" Monforte Grula; precious children Michael and Lisa (Roginsky) Grula and their precious sons, whom he cherished, John J. IV and Matthew Michael. He is also survived by his brother, Robert J. Grula, and his wife, Margaret, Churchville, MD, their children, Bobby, Cindy and Steven Peters, Christine; sister Dorothy and Joseph Popivachak and their children, Joseph, Suzanne and Steven Meyers, and their grandchildren, Shelby and Trent Meyers; all of New Jersey; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins; and all of his extended family.

EDWARD G. DUBIL JR.

Lifelong Steelers fan; Civil War enthusiast

Edward G. Dubil Jr., 37, of Harveys Lake, passed away unexpectedly at home on Thursday, Nov. 23, 2006. Born Nov. 1, 1969, he was the son of Edward G. Dubil Sr. and Donna Bryant, both of Harveys Lake.

Ed graduated from Lake-Lehman High School in 1987, and was a member of the Alderson United Methodist Church, Harveys Lake. Throughout his life he has worked for the SPCA, as a state humane officer, he volunteered for many veterinarians in the area, including his friend, Dr. Mark Stair of the Trucksville Animal Hospital. He was most recently employed by First Hospital, Kingston, as a mental health technician.

Eddie was a devoted, lifelong Steelers fan and he lived for the black and gold. He greatly enjoyed playing baseball as a youth and softball as an adult. He was also a Civil War enthusiast. Along with his father, he founded the American Battlefield Ghost Hunters Society and the White Dog Ghost Chasers, named after his American bulldog and constant companion, Brutus. Together they traveled the battlefields of the Civil War from Gettysburg to Andersonville, in search of battlefield spirits. Ed also gave tours in Gettysburg for his friend, Mark Nesbitt.

Ed was preceded in death by his grandparents, whom he held dear, Joshua and Margareta Bryant Jr. and Michael and Marguerite Dubil. Surviving, in addition to his parents, are a sister, Lori Giunta and her husband, Joseph, Harveys Lake, with a niece on the way; a great-aunt, Eleanor Puterbaugh; many uncles, aunts and loving cousins.

Eddie will be sadly missed and never forgotten by all who came to know him. May his grandparents welcome him to heaven in their loving arms along with Jesus, his Savior.

Interment, Chapel Lawn Memorial Park, Dallas. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Alderson United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 271, Harveys Lake, PA 18618; or the SPCA of Luzerne County, 524 E. Main St. Fox Hill Road, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

PAULINE E. POLACHEK

Longtime member of Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas

Pauline E. Polachek, 95, of Wilkes-Barre Township and formerly of Dallas, passed away Sunday, Nov. 26, 2006 at the Manor Care, Kingston.

Born in Republic, she was a daughter of the late John J. and Anna Tomko Baloga. She attended the Sacred Heart School, Wilkes-Barre. She was a member of Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas, and was a life member of its Altar and Rosary Society, and was a life member of Mercy Center Auxiliary, Dallas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John M., in 1973; daughter Susan Casey in 2001; and 16 siblings.

Surviving are daughters Theresa Shiner, Wilkes-Barre; Mary Ann Balwierczak, Cotter, Ariz.; Monica Kormas, Hunlock Creek; 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and eight foster children.

Interment, Sacred Heart Cemetery, Dallas. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

DONALD M. CRAGLE

Worked on roads in Ross Township

Donald M. Cragle, 80, of Sweet Valley, passed away Sunday, Nov. 26, 2006, at the Hospice Community Care, Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Cragle was born in Kingston, and was the son of the late Theodore and V. Maude Cragle. He served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952. He worked on roads in Ross Township and was a member of the Isaac Walton Farms, Red Rock.

He was preceded in death by brothers Harold and Leo; sisters Gladys, Alma, Hazel, Helen, Arlene and Edna. He is survived by his wife, the former Marsha Grey; children Donald, Chad, Matthew, Dawn Marie, Carol Lee; stepchildren Cindy, Harry, Alice, Carl; a brother, Kenny; nieces, nephews and 10 grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Outlet Bible Tabernacle, 134 Lincoln St., Dallas, PA 18612 or the Sweet Valley Ambulance, P.O. Box 207, Sweet Valley, PA 18656.

DAVID PARKS

Member of Sons of the American Legion, Dallas

David (Dave) Parks, 27, of Dallas, passed away Friday, Nov. 24, 2006 in the Community Medical Center, Scranton, following injuries he sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Known by many as Dave and Scooter, he was born in Wilkes-Barre, son of Art and Melanie (Zeveney) Parks of Dallas. He was a graduate of the West Side

Vocational Technical School in Pringle. He was employed as a truck driver by Keystone Automotive; and for the past year employed by Auto Transport of Maucungie. Dave was a member of I.A.N. and Sons of the American Legion Post 672, Dallas.

Surviving, beside his parents,

are a sister, Tara Parks Fenner, Dallas; niece, Alissa; nephew, Shawn; aunts and uncles.

Interment, Orcutt Grove Cemetery, Noxen. Memorial contributions may be made to the Armed Forces Relief Trust Dept. 6055 Washington, D.C. 20042-6055.



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