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Norman Hanson points to the name of Henry Chapman, who was killed in action during World War II. Hanson's name appears on the stone as well, as does that of his 92-year-old brother George. Hanson served in the 3rd Army's 95th Infantry Division in Europe during 1944-45. He has lived the rest of his 89 years in Portland.

New Portland Veterans Memorial

by Michael McCoy

It was, says Reg Farrington, a community effort.

"It" is the new Portland Veterans Memorial, which was dedicated on Memorial Day behind the Portland Town Hall after just over a year of fundraising and work.

Farrington and fellow veteran Richard G. Murphy were two of the prime movers behind the monument, which lists the name of every serviceman who left from Portland for military service.

But ask the two veterans who deserves the credit, and they'll point to nearly everyone but themselves: the restaurant owner who held fundraisers, the scouts who collected money, the anonymous residents who made significant donations, the artist who donated his work to benefit the cause...the list goes on and on.

Farrington never had any doubts about the project—or if he did, he concealed them well. Raising a total of \$55,000, arranging for the stones, compiling the names—none of it fazed the group of veterans from the Ormont American Legion Post working on the memorial.

Back in February, still \$12,000 short of the total needed, Farrington vowed, "Come hell or high water, the memorial will be installed and dedicated on May 28."

And it was.

On Memorial Day, a crowd approaching 1,000 people gathered to witness the unveiling of the Portland Veterans Memorial. The three stones remained concealed by blue tarps as the ceremony got underway.

Father John Ashe of St. Mary's Church delivered the invocation with these hopeful words: "Bless the day when veterans will no longer be, because armies will be unnecessary." Fa-

ther Ashe also made note of what the long lists of names represent: citizenship, service, dedication and sacrifice.

After the National Anthem, State Representative Jim O'Rourke mentioned what makes the United States unique. "We're not united by a single ethnicity or religion," said the senator. "We're united by a single idea, and that idea is freedom." O'Rourke added, "This memorial, which has been a labor of love, will serve as a fitting tribute."

Next, the Board of Selectmen rose as First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield declared, "It's been our decision to name the park Veterans Memorial Park today and forevermore."

After a regal bagpipe performance of "Scotland the Brave" by Rachel Stevenson came the moment everyone had been waiting for.

The left stone, bearing the names of veterans from World War I and Korea, was uncovered first. Robert Forsberg and Richard O'Neal did the honors. Most of those in attendance probably did not know that a Forsberg from Portland was killed in the Meuse-Argonne campaign in 1918 during World War I. His name is inscribed on the monument stone.

The largest stone, this one representing World War II, which stands in the middle, was unveiled next. Three World War II veterans—J. Paul Peterson, John McBrien, and Harold Bailey—removed the tarp. All three were prisoners of war during World War II.

Finally, the stone honoring veterans serving in the Vietnam and Persian Gulf conflicts was unveiled. Among the names on the stone is that of Peter Ferguson who was killed in action during the Vietnam War. His brother and sister, Richard and Susan, unveiled the stone along

with 1st Sergeant Kenneth Fletcher who represented the Gulf veterans.

Charlie Shefcyk led the crowd in "America the Beautiful" prior to Reverend James Reemts' benediction. Rev. Reemts is pastor of Zion Lutheran Church. Echoing the bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace" from earlier, Reemts suggested, "What we see here is a monument to grace."

The ceremony ended with a 21-Gun Salute, followed by a rendition of Taps & Echo by Jeff and Mackenzie Kelsey.

To one degree or another, everyone seemed moved.

Selectman John Anderson, whose nephew Alan, a Portland High School Class of '06 graduate, is presently serving in the U.S. Army, was deeply impressed. "I love it. It's better than I expected. It's awesome," he said.

Ron Organek of the Greater Middletown Military Museum Inc. observed, "It's simple; it's plain; yet it's absolutely beautiful." Organek turned to Farrington and said, "You guys did a hell of a job."

"You guys" means Reg Farrington, Richard G. Murphy and their band of brothers who saw this thing through for 14 months. The team sold cookies at the Brownstone Festival and Agricultural fair, held a Tip-a-Veteran at Portland Restaurant on Valentine's Day, and sold prints of Dave Magee's watercolor painting, a tableau that represents Portland's long history of military service. In the end, thanks to fundraisers and donations from citizens and businesses alike they came up with the \$58,000 for the monument.

Also present at the ceremony was veteran Sal

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Memorial Cont. from front

Logano. "I think it's great," he said. "It's nice to be remembered."

Logano served in the U.S. Navy for three years to the day from 1943-46. On D-Day he delivered soldiers to the Normandy Beach in a small landing craft that had been loaded onto an LST 534. Logano achieved the rank of coxswain during the war.

Noting the large crowd that came out to honor their veterans, Bransfield commented, "It's a testament to the warm community that we have here. It's a living memorial that will last forever."

Because there were more names than had been anticipated, the stones, which were fashioned at Rock of Ages in Barre, Vermont, ended up being 6 inches wider than originally expected. The outer stones ended up being 7 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft. 6 in. The middle stone measures 8 ft. by 8 ft. 6 in. All three are 8 inches thick. Together, the memorial weighs over 11 tons.

East Hampton Board of Ed Selects Schools Superintendent

The East Hampton Board of Education has selected Dr. Judith A. Golden as the next Superintendent of Schools effective July 1.

For the past six years, Dr. Golden has worked in Wethersfield public schools. She is currently their Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Board Chair Alan Hurst said this week that her selection came from a pool of excellent candidates.

"East Hampton attracted an outstanding slate of candidates," he remarked. "We believe Dr. Golden's experience will best provide for the continued improvement of East Hampton Public Schools."

Dr. Golden is a seasoned administrator and has for many years provided vision and leadership at the high school, elementary school and central office levels, according to the board.

Prior to her position as assistant superintendent, she served as Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

"She has provided the vision and leadership in moving the district forward in major curriculum, assessment, technology, and professional development initiatives," noted the East Hampton Board of Education in a press release on the appointment. "Her focus has always been on ensuring success for all children. She has

Reg Farrington, who is a man of few words when it comes to collecting credit said simply, "It was better than I expected."

He did mention, "I won a bet." It turns out that he, Richard G. Murphy and Susan Bransfield all wagered a dollar on how many people would show. Though Farrington would not divulge the guesses, his high estimate won him \$2.

After the ceremony, the crowd surrounded the monument, admiring the detail and reading the names. Hours later, people were still streaming through to look at the stones and the names.

Ironically, neither Farrington's nor Dick Murphy's name appears among the listing of veterans on the face of the monument since they did not enter the service from Portland.

If you ask them if they care, they'll tell you this project wasn't about them. It's about recognizing their "buddies," even those they never actually knew.

also been responsible for major building projects. Her work in establishing positive relationships with community members has served the district well in its work and has established her as a leader in the community. "

Prior to Wethersfield Public Schools, Dr. Golden was Principal of Oswegatchie Elementary School in Waterford, CT. She has also served as an assistant principal of Bacon Academy in Colchester, CT.

In addition, she is active in state and national professional organizations. She has been co-chairperson of CREC Curriculum Council for the past two years and is currently president-elect of CASCD and participates in the national leadership council for ASCD.

Dr. Golden received her doctoral degree from the University of Connecticut. Her doctoral work focused on the induction and retention of new teachers.

In Wethersfield, she created the vision for and led a comprehensive teacher orientation and induction initiative with continuous support for new staff members, which led to increased retention of teachers in the school district.

Dr. Golden and her husband Bill have one married daughter, Jennifer, and a one-year-old grandson, Liam.

appropriately mark the town's founding in 1708. Committee members also are selling a variety of mementos based on the theme "Hebron Rocks" including candy "rocks," rock candy, lapel pins, refrigerator magnets, and an opportunity to be a part of Hebron's history by having your name inscribed on a rock in the stone wall that will be built in the center of town.

Events now in the planning stages include a community picnic and dance, an old-fashioned baseball game, a Revolutionary Era military reenactment, and a float in the Memorial Day parade commemorating the generations of Hebron veterans who have served in the military during our nation's wars.

The committee also is appealing to individuals and businesses that are interested in helping fund the observances. Tax-exempt donations can be sent to the 300th Celebration Committee at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248, Attn: Town Clerk.

Bus Policy Change Irks Parents, Daycare Providers in Colchester

by Jim Salemi

About 30 working parents and day care providers showed up at a special Board of Education meeting last Wednesday to appeal a proposed bus transportation policy change.

The change would bar students from switching from their assigned bus on their regular route during the week in order to go to a different destination, such as a daycare provider.

A student can continue to be dropped off at a different stop on his or her regular assigned route, with permission from a parent, according to the policy, but cannot change routes.

The proposed revision would have a significant impact on working parents who depend on the current policy to get their children to their daycare providers, a number of parents said at the special meeting.

Superintendent of Schools Karen Loisel said that while she understands the difficulties the policy would cause to some parents, the district simply does not have the room on the buses to accommodate additional children switching back and forth to ride them.

"If we do it for one, we have to do it for everyone. That simply isn't possible," she said.

Loiselle said everyone involved had to "work together as a community" for a solution.

Some proposed solutions were immediately discounted. For instance, Loiselle said adding more buses is out of the question in light of the recent failed budget referendum. The finance board, she said, asked the Board of Education to cut \$1.1 million from its requested budget.

Suggestions for a crossing guard, more buses, sports, more Parks and Rec programs—"none of this is going to happen unless there is support for the budget," she said.

A relatively significant number of parents use after-school daycare as a pickup-point, since the working parents can't get home in time to meet their children's buses. Loiselle suggested that those parents arrange to have children

dropped off at other day care providers that are on the child's assigned route, where they can wait for the bus.

But daycare providers at the meeting said that was impossible, as they are at capacity, and the state has strict regulations in place about the number of children allowed on the property, whether they are accompanied by a parent or not.

"We're at capacity," said one resident who works at the CASTLE day care center. "There's also the issue of liability. If parents are five or 10 minutes late, we can't have kids standing around in the parking lot. If the state drives by at 3:30 and kids are outside, the provider can lose their license. It doesn't matter if the parents are there or not," the resident said.

In a slide show presentation for residents on hand for the meeting, safety was cited as another reason for the bus policy revision.

Loiselle said the results of a parent survey was the basis for a study, which included state law, time spent on buses, safety and discipline.

Loiselle said the Board of Education will continue to receive comments and the district will do everything it can to assist parents in finding solutions to the problem, but held out little hope for a change back to the original policy.

After the meeting, Karen Germain of Today's Child Care Association said she is skeptical that viable solutions can be found without money.

"It's tough. But we need a study on how many part-time parents will be affected," she said. "Children will still need to be dropped off at daycare...There was a lot of discussion about what's best for the kids. Well, a lot of these kids have friends at daycare and they've been going to the same one since kindergarten. We're asking them if we can uproot them and put them in some after-school program. I don't think Parks and Rec is the answer," she said.

Community Health Fair Next Saturday in East Hampton

The public is encouraged to attend a community Health Fair on Saturday, June 9 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Community Center on Maple Street in East Hampton.

This year the East Hampton Village Lions are sponsoring the service in conjunction with East Hampton Chiropractic, operated by Dr. Patrick Connelly. They group will provide a variety of free and reduced cost health services.

For a reduced rate of \$35 (normally over \$100) the Middlesex Hospital Lab will provide diabetes, kidney and liver function, anemia, and cholesterol screenings, including a complete blood count. Interested individuals are asked to fast after midnight for accurate results. The lab is also offering men the P.S.A. (prostate) test for \$30, normally a \$100 charge.

In the women's health arena, representatives will register women for free mammogram screenings. These mammogram screenings

will take place on June 12 and 19 at the East Hampton Senior Center.

The East Hampton Lions will provide free eye screenings. A technician from the Lions Low Vision Center will be available to dispense their low vision services and tools (such as magnifying glasses and other large print items) to assist the sight impaired in their daily living. The public may obtain information on Connecticut Radio Information Services as well.

Dr. Connelly will be available to provide information on chiropractic care and treatment for people of all ages.

The public is invited to attend this event. Individuals will be seen on a walk-in basis; no prior appointment is necessary. More details will be forthcoming. For more information please call Mary at 267-9166 or Dr. Patrick Connelly at 267-6688.

Marlborough Offers Memorial Day Tributes

by Sarah McCoy

The town of Marlborough honored its veterans and war dead Monday with a parade to Town Hall followed by a series of speeches from local dignitaries.

With the sun high overhead, the Memorial Day parade kicked off at Elmer Thienes- Mary Hall Elementary School. Hundreds of veterans, scouts, politicians, emergency personnel volunteers, musicians, and young athletes marched the route in celebration and remembrance.

Once at Town Hall, American Legion Post 197 President Brian Hope emceed the event. He introduced First Selectman Bill Black as the first speaker. Black quoted former President James Garfield when he spoke at the first Memorial Day celebrations in 1868 at Arlington Heights:

"If silence is ever golden, it must be here, beside the graves of fifteen thousand men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem the music of which can never be sung."

"We can't let the day pass in silence," Black instructed. "We proudly say, as a nation, we remember."

The Marlborough American Legion post organizes the parade each year with the help of the East Hampton Veterans of Foreign Wars post. On Monday their President, Fred Schluntz, spoke to the massive crowd outside the Marlborough Town Hall. He spoke of honoring the flag and for servicemen.

"It is important for those who do have respect to keep it going and to teach our children," he said. "Sometime during your day, when you're having hamburgers and hot dogs, take a few moments to think about and to honor the soldiers who didn't come back for us to have these freedoms."

The Marlborough Junior Ancient Drum Corps played Amazing Grace followed by America the Beautiful by the RHAM Band to close the day's formal events.

Hebron Town-Wide Tag Sale Set For Saturday

The 300th Celebration Committee's Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held this Saturday, June 2 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Tag sales throughout town are listed on maps available at various locations. The tailgating portion of the sale will be held in the Hebron Elementary School parking lot.

Maps showing the locations of residences that are participating in the tag sale will be available at the Town Clerk's office in town hall, at the Douglas Library and at businesses throughout town.

The Town-Wide Tag Sale is the latest in a series of fund-raising events to support the 300th Committee's planned series of events to mark the town's 300th Anniversary in 2008.

Further information on the tag sale can be obtained by contacting 300th Celebration Committee member Neal Alderman at 228-2678, or by email at neal.alderman@uconn.edu.

The committee is planning a series of observances and events throughout 2008 that will

New Salon Ferrara to Host Open House Saturday in Portland

by Michael McCoy

Thanks to the efforts of a father-daughter team, a touch of the chic has come to East Hampton—and visitors are welcome to drop by and take a look.

Salon Ferrara, which opened on January 3, will host an open house tomorrow, June 2, from 4-7 p.m. at 40 West High St.

Saturday's open house will include refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. Everyone is invited to pop in and see the transformed space. "It will be a nice way to let people know what we do," said Nicole Ferrara, who operates the salon with her father, Jim.

It's a professional match that's been sometime in coming.

In the early 1970s, Jim Ferrara was looking for a career change. "The guy that I used to go to get my hair cut asked if I had thought of doing hair. I thought about it and gave it a shot."

So, Ferrara, originally from Cromwell, went to hairdressing/barber school in 1972, and began cutting hair. By March of 1978, just as he had moved to East Hampton, he opened his own shop called Professional Haircutters.

Then, 25 years later, his daughter Nicole, who admitted, "I think it's in the blood," graduated from the New England School of Hairdressing. Nicole began working for her father, before working at Michael Rappa's in Glastonbury two years later.

During her time there, Nicole became a certified L'Oreal Professional Colorist, which has given her a greater command of coloring techniques and trends. In fact, on occasion, Ferrara visits other salons to teach them these techniques.

This specialty of hair styling has become Nicole's primary passion. "Because of that training, it pushed me to want to open my own salon," she observed.

So, the Ferraras decided to start a business together. Jim felt it was long overdue. "I wanted to do this when she first came on board with me," he admitted.

But now was a good time. "We felt that with the town growing and expanding, it could use a higher end salon," he said.

So, the Ferraras spent the next month and half following Thanksgiving transforming the space, both night and day. The business had previously shared a building with two other offices. Jim and Nicole acquired that space, incorporating it into the business.

Like a butterfly from a cocoon, Professional Haircutters emerged on January 3, re-launched as a brand new business: Salon Ferrara.

"We wanted a light, modern feel," said Nicole. The result is a minimalist and elegant interior. "We actually had special lights put in for a more natural feel."

The salon will exclusively use L'Oreal Professional coloring and styling products, including a line called Serie Expert, a molecular precision hair care collection.

Nicole stressed the difference between commonplace L'Oreal products, including knock-offs, that are available in various grocery and drug stores, and this premium line, which is only available at salons.

Salon Ferrara also features something called a Color Bar, which is relatively new to salons. The set-up lays out all the color options for the customer, and allows them to watch while Nicole mixes various colors for the desired effect. Rather than the commonplace practice of putting together colors out of the customer's view, Nicole said, "It's an interactive approach."

There are currently three members on the Salon Ferrara team. Nicole focuses on coloring, as well as the management aspects. Jim favors cutting, while Gail Embachler specializes in skin care.

Embachler is a certified esthetician, who graduated from the New England School of Hairdressing in 1978, as well as the New England School of Esthetics in 2000.

The salon offers a variety of relaxing and rejuvenating facials. Gail incorporates the



"We're here; we're open; and we're ready," proclaimed Nicole (middle). She, Jim and Gail will be available at this Saturday's open house at Salon Ferrara.

Pevonia Botanica line of products into her treatments, and also offers various waxing services. Incidentally, Gail, who also works at a salon in Rocky Hill, has lived in East Hampton for 14 years.

"My focus is quality and time with people," said Nicole, who offers a consultation prior to the appointment. "It's a very customized approach to doing hair. We're taking the time to produce the quality and using superior products to do that."

Speaking about the complete overhaul that was done to create Salon Ferrara, Jim says, "You wouldn't even recognize the place," adding, "From what I see, people are enjoying it."

Jim, who was open for business during the entire renovation, noted how patient and supportive his clientele was during the process.

Pointing out the cohesive and complimentary team at Salon Ferrara, Nicole figures, "We kind of have our own specialty."

Jim puts it this way: "It's a whole different experience now."

Salon Ferrara is located at 40 West High Street, along Route 66 in East Hampton, and is open Tuesday and Friday 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Consultations are by appointment only, and can be made by calling 267-0648.

Marlborough Set to Get Its Second Traffic Light

by Sarah McCoy

One spotlight.

It's become the quintessential symbol of a small town—both a joke and an blessing.

For many years, Marlborough has fit that picture, but soon the town will leave those days behind as the town prepares for its second stoplight. As part of the ongoing construction along Route 2, a stoplight will be installed at the end of the westbound exit 13 ramp.

Representatives from the State DOT engineering firm were in town last week for an initial site visit with First Selectman Bill Black and Resident State Trooper Manny Acosta.

The project is still in its infancy. Black said he doesn't expect the installation to occur until next year.

Black said the town requested some assistance for the exit ramps two years ago. Last year the state received a federally funded grant to address issues from Route 2 just north of Park Road to the exit 16 ramp. This money will now fund the town's second light. The reconfiguration of exit 15 in the south end of

Marlborough is also included in this project.

Initially Marlborough had asked for help with both the east and westbound ramps. Black said there is still an outside shot that this could happen, but the conservative guess is that the state DOT will only have enough to fund one light.

Because of the federal grant, the Town of Marlborough will not incur any expenses from the stoplight—with one exception. There is an option to install an emergency preemption system to allow the fire department the ability to override the signal in the case of an emergency. The federal government would pick up 90% of the cost associated with this technology, leaving the town to foot the remaining \$1,000-\$1,200.

No decision has been made regarding the overrider but Black did say he would take direction from the fire chief.

The work on Route 2 in Marlborough and Colchester began last April and is expected to continue through the fall of 2009.

Hebron Honors Those Who Fell for the Nation

By Sarah McCoy

What looked like a rainy Monday turned into a picture-perfect day for the Hebron Memorial Day parade.

Raindrops fell lightly on the hoards of residents who lined Routes 66 and 85 early, but let up just in time for the veterans to lead the parade from RHAM High School to St. Peter's Church.

The Memorial Day parade kicked off with Hebron American Legion Post 95 Commander Daniel Arnini leading the march. Close behind was Don Daigle, a U.S. Army and Air Force veteran who served as Honorary Grand Marshal for this year's celebration.

Following the veterans, marched politicians, scouts, athletes, musicians, and emergency per-

sonnel. They were greeted by the support of thousands of local residents who filled the Hebron parade route.

Immediately following the parade, Arnini lead a brief presentation at the Veterans Memorial in the center of town. A naval veteran himself, Arnini implored the thousands of residents gathered at the memorial to, "honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice."

"Let us not forget them and those they left behind. It is because of them we are free. Because of them our nation lives."

In closing Arnini read the names of Hebron residents recently deceased, those who have recently returned from harm's way, and the eight who currently serve.

Students Turn Out in Living Tribute to Hebron's 300th

Blue skies and cool weather prevailed on Tuesday morning, May 29, as hundreds of RHAM students and faculty gathered on the school's football field.

The event?

An aerial photograph of the participants, forming the words "HEBRON 300" in honor of the town's upcoming 300th birthday celebrations next year.

The "live sign," the result of several months planning, was a joint venture by the Hebron Historical Society, Region 8 School District, well-known local photographer, Peter Billard, and Hebron's 300th Birthday Committee.

Pilot Eric Sawyer of Bolton flew Billard over the field to take a number of photographs of the students and faculty in formation. Sawyer's company, El Paso Aviation, a division of El Paso Energy, based in Houston, TX, donated the helicopter and air time to the cause.

"I approached my company and explained how important the 300th anniversary of incorporation is to the Town of Hebron," said Sawyer. "They were pleased to be able to contribute to the effort."

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie was visibly excited about this unique event. "In

years to come, students will look at this picture and say, 'Look, that's me!' he said.

Leslie praised RHAM Middle School Principal Linda Crossman, RHAM High School Assistant Principal Jason Peacock, and RHAM Band Director Tim Ketterer for their efforts in getting the students prepared and ready for the big event.

The "Hebron 300" photograph will be the cover of the Historical Society's 2008 calendar, available for sale in early November. Other groups will also be using the photograph to promote 300th birthday events.

Anyone who has not yet submitted a photograph for possible usage in the calendar, it's not too late! Both historical and modern pictures are needed. The calendar will feature a collage of photographs, with a theme of "Hebron Then" and "Hebron Now."

Mail your pictures by June 20 to Hebron Historical Society, P. O. Box 43, Hebron, CT 06248, or drop them off at the Town Clerk's office at 15 Gilead Street in Hebron. Make sure your name, address and telephone number are printed on the back of the photographs; all pictures will be returned.

Belltown Memorial Day Parade Honors the Fallen

by Michael McCoy

Memorial Day was celebrated Monday with the annual parade, speeches and ceremonies in local cemeteries and at the veterans monument.

The procession started off at 9 a.m. from the high school and continued onto North Main Street before turning onto Route 66. As always, marchers passed through the Village Center before finishing up at the Center Boulder Monument in front of the Congregational Church.

East Hampton's Police Honor Guard led off the march, followed by Grand Marshal Dennis Erickson and Robert Sypek. Behind them were Town Council members Bill Devine, Kyle Dostaler, Melissa Engel and Scott Minnick.

Three of the town's key officials—Town Manager Alan Bergren, Police Chief Matthew Reimondo and Fire Marshal Philip Visintainer—ushered in the motorcade, which was led by East Hampton Police.

VFW Post 5095 Color Guard and firing squad was the first uniformed military representation of the morning, escorting the Horse of the Fallen Soldier.

A number of Desert Storm and Iraq veterans followed, and the East Hampton High School Band rounded out the first section.

Section II was primarily composed of cars carrying veterans from various wars, the first car being World War II, which was followed by Korean and Vietnam war veterans.

The American Legion and VFW Auxiliary followed, the latter of which carried the pint-sized Poppy Queen. Section II concluded with

American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of Union Veterans.

American Legion Post 197 Color Guard kicked off Section III, while the CT 3rd Regimental Fife & Drum added an upbeat kick. Anchor Lodge 112 and the East Hampton Fire Department Marching Unit were other highlights.

The final section of the parade skewed a little younger as the East Hampton Middle School Band made way for the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Little League, and YMCA Adventure Guides. Finally the town's Fire Department Apparatus and Ambulance Unit acted as the caboose.

The parade participants and spectators then assembled on the Congregational Church lawn as State VFW State Commander Stanley Borusiewicz welcomed all to the service. After selections by the high school and middle school bands, Rev. Thomas Kennedy delivered the invocation.

Summoning up the military heritage of days past were two members of East Hampton's National Honor Society. Secretary Kelsey Aarrestad delivered Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, followed by President Kelsey Taylor's reading of "In Flanders Field."

The CT 3rd Regiment Fife & Drum Corps performed a medley that led to the day's guest speaker, Don Coolican.

Coolican, 69, has lived in East Hampton

since 1974. He entered the U.S. Navy as an aviator in 1960. In 1962 he flew a helicopter during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Coolican's chopper tailed an East German surface ship, which was bound for Cuba with a missile delivery. Had that vessel not returned to Europe of its own accord before unloading its cargo, Coolican would have been forced to sink it. "It was fairly tense," remembers the pilot.

He also served as a Primary Recovery Pilot for the Space shot Gemini II in 1965.

Coolican achieved the rank of captain and ended his active duty in 1967. However, he served in the Navy Reserves for the next 14 years. During this time, the Captain served as Commanding Officer for a helicopter squadron, as well as a cruiser/destroyer group.

Don Coolican and his wife Maggie have six children, four of whom have served in the armed forces. One son is retired after more than 20 years with the U.S. Air Force, another served in the Army, and another followed in his father's footsteps as a naval aviator. Finally, their daughter served in the U.S. Army for three years.

Reflecting the somber nature of this holiday, Coolican remembered veterans who are no longer with us as he led off his address: "My heart is full of losses today." He continued, "War is a lonely, dirty job, as any man or woman who has served in combat can tell you."

Coolican also reminded the public that dur-

ing the World War II draft, 11% of the country's population was serving in that effort. "Today that would mean that over 1300 of our fellow citizens from East Hampton—almost every man between the ages of 18 and 30—would be in uniform. No deferments. That's how it was from 1942 to 1945."

Not mincing words, Coolican stated flatly, "There is nothing glorious about killing one's fellow man or being killed by him ...there is nothing glorious about passing many, many days in fear and misery. Any one who says war is all about glory has not been to war."

The speaker then listed some of the numbers that corresponded to U.S. casualties during these various wars. As he drew to a close, he proposed, "What can we learn from those deaths? Not much, but we can try to live our lives as those men would have wanted to live theirs."

Charles Walton read the name of each town veteran who passed away this year. They were then remembered in prayer by Chaplain Zeak Hubbard.

The High School Band performed the take on "The Star-Spangled Banner," which was followed by the VFW Post 5095 Firing Squad's 21-gun salute to the deceased. Scott Wasserman and Robert Robinson played "Taps & Echo."

Kathy Schluntz, President of the VFW Auxiliary, closed the solemn proceedings with the benediction

Portland Parade Comes With Reminders of Sacrifice

by Michael McCoy

Dave Kuzminski assumed his post once again this year as emcee for the Portland Memorial Day Parade—this time perched in front of the police station.

Though always an entertaining and knowledgeable commentator, Kuzminski immediately took note of the solemnity of the day, exhorting all present to remember those who fell on behalf of the nation.

"That's why we're all here today, and why we enjoy the freedom we enjoy," he reminded the crowd. Kuzminski's own son is currently serving in the U.S. Army.

After spinning tunes reflecting the variety of the American spirit, including Paul Simon's "Graceland," Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind," and John Fogerty's "Centerfield," the parade—all six divisions of it—got underway. As in years past, the American Legion organized the enormous effort, a process that begins in January.

As in past years, the procession commenced at Gildersleeve School, making its way down Main Street, and finishing up on the Town Green.

The American Legion Color Guard led the charge with a salute, followed by Parade Marshal Richard G. Murphy, now in his eighth year in that slot, and Grand Marshal Bill Bloomquist.

Once again, the Melha Shriners from Springfield, Massachusetts brought excitement to spare. These daredevils scaled a stretched Suburban on their mini-buggies, while motor-trikers strutted down the street doing 90-degree wheelies

The Connecticut Valley Field Music ushered in the winning floats. Cub Scout Pack #15 won first prize, while the Portland Middle School took 2nd and Boy Scout Troop 2 took 3rd.

Next came the elegant vintage trucks of the East of the River Classics. Kuzminski commented, "These are the big boys with the big toys who give the fire trucks a home!"

Chief Bob Shea and Deputy Chief Jim Lynch and the rest of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, including their drill team, looked

sharp as always.

Then, a little less precise but very enthusiastic, came the youngsters from YMCA Camp Ingersol dancing in their sparkly blue garb.

Next were the Sphinx Shriners of Newington. Of course, they brought along eccentric motorized vehicles of all sorts, including the Funsters, Mounted Sheiks, False Alarmers, and the Mounted Patrol.

Kristin Novak directed the Portland High School Band down Main Street, with the Portland Little League close behind.

As people made their way to the town green for the ceremony, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield observed, "It's been a wonderful parade with lots of participation."

Noting the hot weather and the heavy uniforms, Richard G. Murphy started the ceremony by saying, "I hope somebody sprays that band down with water."

Phyllis Prokop announced the Portland Junior Women's essay contest winners, though the readings were canceled due to the heat. The theme was "What do we as Americans believe and what rights do we have?"

Key speaker Bill Bloomquist spent his career in the Air Force, and is now employed by the National VFW. The native Portlander opened by saying, "What a great day to be an American. What a great day to return home to Portland."

He reminded the crowd that "Memorial Day is much more than a three- or four-day weekend that marks the beginning of the 101 days of summer. It's much more than a bonanza sale. Often we do not observe the day as it should be."

After reciting John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields," Bloomquist exhorted all present to show their appreciation to their local veterans "no matter what political party you belong to or how you feel about this war."

Immediately following the 21-Gun Salute, Jeff Kelsey and daughter Mackenzie closed the program with "Taps & Echo."

Portland Budget Passes Despite Low Turnout

by Michael McCoy

The Portland 2007-08 proposed budget passed on its second try Wednesday by a vote of 607-493.

Those 1,100 votes translate into an 18.6% voter turnout, down from the 20.6% that turned out for the first referendum on May 14. That \$28.4 million budget proposal was defeated.

Two days later, the Board of Selectmen reconvened and cut almost \$400,000—\$80,000 of which came from the Board of Education budget. The adopted budget comes to \$27,989,141, a 1.94% increase over the current year's.

At the May 16 meeting, Finance Director Rob Buden estimated the mill rate would come to 26.99, though it is not expected to be formally set until June 6.

Had the budget failed again, the Board of Selectmen themselves would have set the final figure, as authorized by the Town Charter.

Though clearly relieved that the town has a budget in place, First Selectwoman Susan

Bransfield admitted it wasn't much of a mandate. "I would have expected more people to have turned out," she commented.

"Because Portland only has two referenda, we put our best budget forward the first time. If voters say 'no,' we're forced to reduce it significantly," explained Bransfield

Selectman Scott Adamsons said he had supported the proposal. "Yes, I voted for it. I stand behind the budget," he remarked.

As for the cuts, Adamsons said, "People spoke loud and clear at the first referendum," though he had supported that original proposal as well. "I thought that it was the best budget brought forward by the other party," he said.

Recalling the somber process that the selectmen went through two weeks ago as they tried to trim a budget that they felt, for the most part, was already quite lean, Adamsons noted, "We really had to nickel and dime the budget—\$400 from here, \$500 from there, and try to spread the pain as best we could."

Marlborough Police News

5/23—Akin Hogan, 30, of Manchester, was arrested for driving without a license and driving too fast for conditions, according to reports.

5/28—Tracy A. Church, 46, of South Meriden, was arrested for speeding and DWI, according to police.

Hebron Police News

5/25—Kathleen Fournier, 48, of Meriden, was arrested for DWI and failure to drive in a proper lane, according to reports.

Colchester Police News

5/27—Regina Rosen, 44, of 545 Parum Rd., was arrested and charged with two counts of theft, according to police. Residents attending the town's Memorial Day Parade sought out Colchester police officers assigned to the event and reported that a woman was going through purses belonging to other people, according to reports. The woman allegedly told police she took wallets because she is having financial difficulties.

Portland Police News

Clarence Braun, 21, of 87 Silliman Rd., East Haddam, was charged with burglary 3rd degree and larceny 3rd degree, said Portland police.

East Hampton Police News

5/15—Earl B. Brookshire, 26, 99 Midwood Farms Road, East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a court ordered warrant on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, failure to drive right and failure to appear second degree.

5/18—Jeffery D. Strong, 27, 83 Mott Hill Rd, East Hampton, was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions and failure to renew license.

5/21—Brad C. Hruska, 18, 65 Main St., Ivoryton, was arrested pursuant to two warrants on the following charges: Conspiracy to commit burglary, 3rd degree, conspiracy to commit larceny 5th degree, conspiracy to commit credit card theft, \$500 on revoked credit card, conspiracy to commit \$500 on revoked credit card, larceny 6th degree, and failure to appear first degree. Conspiracy to commit illegal use of a credit card, conspiracy to commit receipt of money/goods obtained by illegal use of a credit card and providing a false statement in the 2nd degree.

5/25—Robin Baldelli, 37, 205 West High St., East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for following too closely, evading responsibility and operating a motor vehicle while under suspension.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Charles Barber, Jr

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service will be held for Charles a. Barber, Jr. on Saturday, June 9 at 12 p.m. at the home of Ted Barber, 50 Mott Hill Rd., East Hampton., CT. All family and friends are invited.

Andover

Katharine Depatie

Katharine "Kay" (Dickinson) Depatie, 71, of Andover, formerly of Enfield, beloved wife of Russell M. Depatie, passed away peacefully Sunday, May 27, at Manchester Memorial Hospital surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Oct. 16, 1935 in Bellows Falls, VT, daughter of the late George and Marjorie (Lovell) Dickinson and had been a resident of Enfield from 1963 to 1985 before moving to Andover in 1985.

Kay was employed with the *Hartford Courant* as a teletypist and proofreader for over 25 years. She was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron.

Kay was a gifted cook, a wonderful piano player and also an animal lover/ rescuer. She enjoyed playing cards, going to the casino with friends and shopping for her grandchildren. She typed books for the blind and was very devoted to her family.

Christmas was a magical time for the Sweeney/Depatie family. Kay would shower her children and grandchildren with gifts filled with love. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Besides her husband Russ, she leaves her seven children, Alfred Depatie of Denver, CO, Catherine Raiken and her husband Bruce of South Windsor, Douglas Sweeney and his significant other Laurie Ebrahimi of South Windsor, Karen Vella of Suffield, Robin Messenger and her husband Rick of Hebron, Steven Sweeney and his wife Lesley of Mansfield Center and Scott Sweeney and his wife, Lisa of Enfield; 11 grandchildren, Jessica, Stephen, Lauren, Brian, Jeremy, Kimberly, Emily, Michael, Erin, Sarah and Ryan; her two sisters and brothers-in-law, Dorothy and Raymond Darling of Williston, VT and Marion and John McLaughlin of Bradenton, FL; and numerous nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, Kay was predeceased by five brothers and sisters.

Calling hours were Wednesday evening at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester. Funeral services were Thursday morning, May 31 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Route 85, Hebron. Burial was to be private, in St. Peter's Cemetery, Hebron, at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Mrs. Depatie may be made to ECHN Health Care Foundation for the Infusion Center and/or Ambulatory Care; 71 Haynes St., Manchester CT 06040.

Colchester

Thomas W. Evans

Thomas W. Evans, 54, husband of the late Maureen Rutka Evans of Colchester, passed away on Sunday, May 27, at the Hartford Hospital. He was born on May 30, 1952 in Norwich, son of Dorothy Siborowski Evans Moletich of Colchester and the late Thomas C. Evans.

Tom worked for many years as a salesman for the Diamond Blades & Bits. He was an avid sports fan and loved the UConn Huskies. He was a graduate of Bacon Academy Class of 1970, where he was active playing baseball, basketball and soccer.

Surviving besides his mother Dorothy, he leaves two daughters; Stacy D. Evans of Tarrytown, NY, and Kallie K. Evans of East Hartford, his step-father William Moletich, and numerous cousins.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, June 2, 10 a.m. at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Norwich Ave., Colchester. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations of the donor's choice in his memory. Belmont Funeral Home of Colchester has care of arrangements.

Colchester

Theresa D. Gardner

Theresa D. Gardner of Colchester passed away on Wednesday, May, 23, after a long illness. Theresa was born on January 25, 1928 in Putnam, to Joseph and Donald (Boucher) Dumas.

Theresa and her loving husband, Earl G. Gardner, were married on May 28, 1949. They dedicated the next 58 years to raising and spending time with their family. In their later years, Theresa and Earl spent time together traveling all over the U.S. and Mexico.

Theresa was predeceased by her son Bruce E. Gardner. Besides her husband, Earl, she is survived by daughter Lesley Gardner of Willimantic, daughter Cheryl Billian and her husband Skip of Plainville, son Don Gardner and his wife Jean of Lebanon, son William Gardner and his wife Sue of Columbia; daughter-in-law Linda Scanlon of Ashford; grandchildren Aubry, Scott, Nichole, Stacy, and Steven; as well as three great-grandchildren with one more expected this summer.

She is also survived by two sisters, Blanche and Elsie; and predeceased by her sisters Loretta, Tilly, Eldora, and her brother Joseph.

Theresa was a long time resident of Columbia, and Zephyrhills, FL. Before retiring, Theresa worked at Electromotive Corp., Grants, and as a head cashier at the UConn Co-op.

Calling hours were Friday evening, May 25, at the Bacon Funeral Home, 71 Prospect Street, Willimantic. Funeral services was May 26 at Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, 46 Valley St, Willimantic. Internment was at the West Street Cemetery, Lake Road, Columbia.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 279 New Britain Road, Ste. 5, Kensington, CT 06037.

East Hampton

Doris M. Dill

Doris "Dottie" May (Nichols) Dill, 81, passed away on Wednesday, May 23. She died peacefully, surrounded by her loving family in the hospice unit at Middlesex Hospital.

Dottie was born on Jan. 16, 1926, in East Hampton. She was the daughter of the late Joseph Aborn and Elsie Mae (Pritchard) Nichols. Dottie was predeceased by her husband of 39 years, William E. Dill and her son Daniel, as well as seven brothers and sisters.

She attended East Hampton schools. Prior to her retirement, she worked for many years as a recreation director at convalescent facilities in Middlesex County. She was an active member of the East Haddam Grange and her beloved Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton.

She was devoted to her family and friends and always thought of them before herself. Her strong faith helped her to maintain exceptional courage and a unique sense of humor throughout her illness.

She is survived by three sons, Randolph (Randy) and his wife, Joan, of East Haddam, Oscar and his wife, Ruth, of East Haddam and Carlton and his wife, Kathleen, of Portland; Eileen (Kieser-Dill) Sullivan, widow of Daniel Dill; ten grandchildren, Erik and his wife, Denise, Jeremy and his wife, Kate, Kristen, Elizabeth, Laura Burgess and her husband, Dan, Steven, Brian, Heather, Patrick and Moira; five great grandchildren, Nicholas, Alyssa, Olivia, Jacob and Lindsay and her longtime friend, Robert Kiefer of Texas.

Her family would like to thank Dr. Saif and the staff of the Yale Cancer Center and the staff of Middlesex Hospice for their kindness and the wonderful care provided to her and her family.

A memorial service will be held at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, East Hampton, on Saturday, June 9 at 1 p.m. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1 East High St., P.O. Box 31, East Hampton, CT 06424. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of arrangements.

East Hampton

Sandra Peszynski

Sandra (Flemke) Peszynski, 65, of Days Point Road, East Hampton, beloved wife of Paul Peszynski and mother of Mark, Jill, Daniel, and Karen, passed away Thursday, May 24, at Hartford Hospital after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Born Jan. 12, 1942 in Middletown, Sandy is survived by her loving husband Paul and her children, Mark and Beth Peszynski, Jill and Richard Kelley, Daniel and Billie-Lynn Peszynski and Karen and David Clark; eight grandchildren, Steven and Rachel Kelly, Angelina and Derek Clark, Isabella and Hunter Peszynski, and Dalton and Cole Peszynski; her mother, Ruth Flemke and longtime companion John Squires; two brothers, Tom Flemke and his wife Judy and Leonard Flemke and his wife Lisa; a sister, Diane Humphrey, and many nieces and nephews and aunts and uncles.

Sandy graduated from East Hampton High School. She worked together with her husband building and operating their family business, Paul's and Sandy's Too. In addition, she unselfishly worked to provide a beautiful and loving home for her husband, children, and grandchildren.

She was an avid gardener and enjoyed traveling with her husband and friends. She found great joy in the many hours she spent on the lake with her children and grandchildren. She was a phenomenal cook.

The Peszynski family wishes to express their appreciation for loving family and friends, the overwhelming kindness and respect of the community, the care of her oncologist, Dr. DeFusco, the Hartford Hospital staff, and the loving staff of the Wethersfield Infusion Center for all the support Sandy received throughout her illness.

At the family's request there will be no calling hours. A private service will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, the family would like to honor Sandy with memorial contributions in her memory to Middlesex Memorial Hospital Hospice Program 55 Crescent St. Middletown, CT 06457, or Connecticut Children's Medical Center 12 Charter Oak Place, Hartford, CT 06106.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of arrangements.

Hebron

Lena M. Hill

Lena M. (Ellis) Hill, 98, of Manchester, formerly of Hebron, died peacefully early Friday morning, May 25.

Lena was the daughter of the late Asa and Winifred (Waldo) Ellis, formerly of Hebron. She was predeceased by her husband of 59 years, Mark Hill; two sisters, Edith Bragg and Ruth Young; and her brother Kenneth Ellis.

During her life, Lena was involved in ladies service activities at Center Congregational Church in Manchester where she was a member for 70 years. She was also a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, the AARP #1275, and The Women's Club of Manchester.

She was very involved with her many nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews, especially in the Ellis family, including the late Kathy Jobin, Ned Ellis, Gwen Mund, Chris Irish, Connie Wilson, and Marilyn Swensen. Other nieces and nephews include Peter, Jim, and Phillip Young as well as Kathleen Hansen, Sylvia Seaman, the late Raymond Scott, Diane Lesyinski, and Elaine Lerner. She is also survived by sisters-in-law, Christine Scott of Washington State, and Dorothy Ellis of Hebron.

We will miss her generous and caring spirit. She was always giving her time and energy to her family. We look forward to meeting her again in heaven.

The family would like to give a special thanks to the staff at Crestfield for their loving and compassionate care to our Aunt these past four years.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 3, at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead Road, (Rte. 85), Hebron at 1 p.m. A private family burial ceremony was held in the Gilead Cemetery.

In place of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Visiting Nurse and Health Services Inc. North Central Hospice, 8 Keynote Drive, Vernon, CT. 06066. The Holmes Funeral Home in Manchester had care of arrangements.

Marlborough

Robert J. Francis

Robert J. Francis, 49, died at Windham Hospital on Sunday, May 27, as a result of complications from an ATV accident in 2004, which left him a quadriplegic.

Born Jan. 1, 1958 in Albany, NY, he was the son of the late Martin and Nancy Francis. He was a 1975 graduate of Roy C. Ketcham High School.

Robert entered the Marine Corps. in 1975, achieving the rank of lance corporal by the time he left the Corps in 1979. He specialized in aircraft electronics maintenance. He was the co-owner of Cordless Data Transfer, Inc. and the sole owner of FAST, Inc.

On May 17, 1986, in Lubbock, TX, he married the former Lisa Rapino. Bob, Lisa, and their two boys Geno and Tim moved to Marlborough in 1992. Since that time Bob dedicated himself to the community, volunteering his time to Cub Scouts as a Den Leader, to MYAL as a basketball and baseball coach and was instrumental in the building and maintenance of three baseball fields in Marlborough. He also volunteered his time to the RHAM Youth Football Program and helped coach the first year of the RHAM High School Football Program.

Bob gave a lot of his time with the Marlborough Congregational Church Senior High Youth Group as a volunteer and chaperone for many camping trips and events between 1994 and 2004. There were also many miscellaneous community activities in which Bob donated his time.

Bob was a devout New York Yankee fan since he was a child.

Bob had a cabin on 52 acres in Ashford, CT and absolutely loved spending weekends there camping with his two sons and friends. He is survived by his wife Lisa; his two sons Tim and Geno and Geno's girlfriend Jessica Hicks of Marlborough; a sister Mary Francis Linge of Poughkeepsie, NY; three brothers and their spouses, Michael and Teresa Francis of Marlborough, Paul and Deborah Francis of Fair Lawn, NJ, and William and Theresa Francis of Poughkeepsie, NY. He is also survived by his mother-in-law Shirley Rapino Semple of Marlborough; his aunt Lois Maglia of CA; his uncle Russell Francescini of RI; several cousins and many loyal and loving friends including the MYAL Dinner Club and the Ashford Camping Crew. In addition to his parents he was predeceased by both his paternal and maternal grandparents.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 2 at 10 a.m. at the Moose Lodge Baseball Field in Marlborough, with the Rev. Gloria McCanna officiating. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton today (Friday, June 1) from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to RHAM High School Football, 85 Wall St. Hebron, CT, 06248, or Marlborough Youth Athletic League, P.O. Box 124 Marlborough, CT, 06447.

Portland

Thomas Markoski

Thomas Markoski, 72, of Portland, died Tuesday, May 29, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. He was born in West Hartford, the son of the late Joseph and Genevieve (Siecinski) Markoski. He was a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, Class of 1953.

Prior to his retirement, Tom was employed with Town and Country Auto Group.

He is survived by his brother, George Markoski and his wife Bianca of Middletown; nephews, Timothy Markoski of Houston, TX, Greg Markoski of Summerfield, NC, Bob Markoski of Middletown, and Gary Markoski of Cromwell; niece, Darlene Prevatte of Middletown; grandnephews, Christopher and John Markoski, and Billy Prevatte; and grandnieces, Samantha, Amanda, and Nicole Prevatte.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 8:15 a.m. from the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown followed by a 9 a.m. Funeral Liturgy in St. Francis Church, Elm St., Middletown. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery. Friends may call at the Biega Funeral Home Friday from 6 to 8 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK

Colchester

Phillip L. Gagnon

Phillip L. Gagnon, 68, beloved husband of Verna (Dominique) Gagnon, formerly of Colchester and Wethersfield, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 25, in Summerfield, FL.

Born in Madawaska, ME., he was the son of the late Eddie and Rose (Clavette) Gagnon. He lived in Colchester and Wethersfield prior to retiring to Florida 12 years ago.

He was predeceased by a daughter, Lisa Marie Gagnon; a sister, Mona Batty of Nashua, NH.; and brother, Ronald Gagnon, of Madawaska, ME. Besides his wife of 47 years, he leaves behind two sons, Michael Gagnon of Colchester and Geoffrey Gagnon of Andover; five sisters, Rolande Branscombe of Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada, Phyllis Gauvin of Cheyenne, WY., Beatrice Bossie of Lady Lake, FL., Carol Michaud of Lady Lake, FL., and Angela Bossie of Wallagrass, ME; many nieces and nephews and several close friends.

He proudly served in the United States Army, having spent time in Korea and throughout Asia. He was employed as a plumber in the Hartford area for over 30 years. In his later years, he found enjoyment working in his yard, taking road trips throughout the south, visiting with his children and working on special projects around the house. He loved the life that he created for himself and his wife in Florida. He will always be remembered as someone who had a special outlook on life and loved to care for others. The lessons that he taught were immeasurable.

A private funeral service will be held at Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill, CT. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 1311 Mamaroneck Avenue White Plains, NY 10605.

Colchester

Peter D. Penn

Peter Donald Penn, 58, of Colchester, beloved husband of Elaine, passed away Wednesday, May 30, at the Middlesex Hospital in Middletown after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born July 15, 1948 in Hartford, he was the son of the late Donald and Dorothy (Walsh) Penn. On June 14, 1969, he married the former Elaine Veilleux at St. John Church in West Hartford.

Mr. Penn was a Police Officer for the West Hartford Police Department for 23 years before retiring from the force in June of 1994. He then went on to work as an Insurance Adjuster for Wm. Mulvey & Co. of North Branford.

In his spare time, he was an avid golfer, Harley-Davidson enthusiast and a racing fan.

In addition to his loving wife of nearly 38 years, he is survived by two children and their spouses, Steven and Pamela Penn of East Hampton and Joél and William Reinholtz of Colchester; four grandchildren, Mara, Ashley, Joshua and Matthew Penn; a sister, Donna Jutras of Erie, CO; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call today (Friday, June 1) from 5-8 p.m. at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. The Memorial Liturgy will be celebrated 12 noon Saturday directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, with Fr. Michael Giannitelli, officiating.

In recognition of his service with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, rendering of full military honors will follow Mass. Burial will be private. Donations in his memory may be made to Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown 06457.

Hebron

Leon Szwed

Leon Szwed, 76, of Hebron, husband of the late Jozefa “Josephine” (Bolak) Szwed, died Sunday, May 27, at his home.

He was born in Orone, Poland, immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1947, first settled in Hartford then moved to Hebron. He and his wife Jozefa were married in 1962. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving in Korea.

He was employed by Stanadyne for 44 years as a lead tool maker, retiring in 1966. He was honored in 1976 as a “20th Century Pilgrim” by the late Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso. He was the proprietor of Leon’s Christmas Tree Farm for 40 years, a registered bee keeper in the State of Connecticut for 25 years, and was honored with multiple “Blue Ribbons” for agricultural and livestock submissions during the annual Hebron Harvest Fair. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, EWTN Media Missionary, the Association of Marian Helpers, and a parishioner and usher at St. Maurice Church in Bolton. He was a life long gardener and photographer.

He is survived by two sons, Christopher Szwed, and Theodore Szwed and his wife Ranya; and a daughter, Dorothy Starkey and her husband Troy. Three grandchildren Alaina, Lauren and Evan; two sisters-in-law, Lucy Szwed of Hebron and Janina Guza in Poland; a brother-in-law Walter Cebry in Colorado; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by three brothers and four sisters.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, June 2, at 11 a.m. directly at St. Maurice Church, 32 Hebron Rd. in Bolton followed by burial in St. Michaels Ukrainian Cemetery in Glastonbury. Calling hours at the Talarski Maple Hill Chapels, 380 Maple Ave., Hartford will be today (Friday, June 1) from 5-8 p.m.. Memorial donations may be made to the charity of the donor’s choice.

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