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Tyler Cormier's Special Olympics jersey was retired in a pre-game ceremony before RHAM High School boys' basketball home opener on Dec. 20. Tyler died last year.

Jersey Retired Before RHAM Home Opener

by Sarah McCoy

A familiar face was absent in stature, but not in spirit, from the RHAM High School gymnasium when the Sachems took on Northwest Catholic in the boys' basketball home opener on Dec. 20.

Prior to tip-off, RHAM honored Tyler Cormier, the late manager of the team, by retiring his jersey.

For nine years, Tyler sat alongside his friends and teammates as a member of the RHAM basketball team. He passed away last February from respiratory failure after an extended stay at Hartford Hospital.

An estimated 800 people filled the

RHAM gymnasium, most in their memorial blue T-shirts. RHAM Athletic Director Mark Logan, who has been involved with RHAM athletics since 1980, called the festivities "one of the most exciting nights" he has ever been a part of.

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie described Tyler, who was diagnosed with Down's syndrome, as a man with a positive attitude, who will have a lasting impact on the school.

"Tyler transcended limitations," Leslie said. "He forged a way that allows all RHAM students to fully participate."

Leslie also said that one individual, who never knew Tyler, was inspired by the stories he had heard to start a scholarship fund in Tyler's memory. Each year \$5,000 will be awarded to a RHAM graduating senior in recognition of their community service. It is one of the largest single scholarships offered to RHAM students.

Tyler's family joined Leslie and Logan at center court during the event. Tyler's father, Paul Cormier, thanked all who attended the ceremony. "I know [Tyler] will never be forgotten because of nights like

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From left, Paul, Cathleen, and Anna Cormier unveil Tyler Cormier's jersey during the pre-game memorial on December 20. Tyler, who passed away last February, served as the manager for the RHAM boy's basketball team. He was honored by the school before the Sachem's home opener against Northwest Catholic by having his Special Olympic's jersey retired.

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this and people like you," he said. "He is happy tonight knowing he is being honored in the RHAM gym with his RHAM teammates and in the presence of 800 rabid basketball fans."

After speaking, Paul, his wife Anna, and daughter Cathleen walked to the wall nearest to the locker rooms and unveiled Tyler's Number 2 Team RHAM Special Olympics jersey. It will forever hang alongside the jerseys of Mike Ely and Erin Garvie. Ely, a stand-out basketball player, died in a car crash in 1995. Garvie, who ran track and played soccer for RHAM,

died in 1999 as a result of a car accident. The three individuals are the only ones to have their numbers retired.

Just prior to the commencement of the game, Jim Bottaro, a Hebron resident and friend of Tyler's, stood up in the bleachers replacing his signature R-H-A-M cheer with one more appropriate for the evening. He shouted, "Give me a T. Give me a Y. Give me an L. Give me an E. Give me an R. What does that spell?" And the whole crowd answered, "TYLER!"

Portland Teen Novelist Writes Another Book

by Michael McCoy

Estevan Vega is only 18 years old, and is currently home on break from his first semester at college. However, he has a goal for the next month that few of his cohorts do: finish his third novel.

Vega, born in Meriden, has lived in Portland for the last six years. His writing career began when he was in the fifth grade at Fellowship Christian Academy in Middletown. His teacher assigned the class several one- to two-page fiction papers. Vega's first one was titled, "The Mystery of the Murder of Church Street." Vega still has the assignment, on which his teacher had written: "the best story I've ever seen by a fifth-grader."

Vega described the work as "a detective story and it kind of has demonic elements."

While Vega wrote the piece, he and his father Jose brainstormed and talked through story ideas together, a method they still practice today. Vega's father is a barber and, Vega said, "He says he doesn't have the drive to sit down and write, even though I know that if he did it, he could, and it would be awesome."

Then in sixth grade, Vega said he remembers thinking, "If I actually dedicate myself to this, I could someday be a writer." So, he set a goal for himself. "I wanted to have some sort of name for myself by the age of 16."

In 2004, at the age of 15, he had published his first novel, *Servant of the Realm*. It was a dark tale about a man who discovers a serum that allows him to manipulate the fates of others.

Finishing the book was one thing; publishing it was another. "I was 15; I didn't have a clue how to publish," said Vega. "Basically, I just did an Internet search of publishers." After three or four months of searching, Creative Book Publishers of Washington accepted him. Vega was so excited to be accepted that he decided to go with them, though they required a \$1,000 fee. His parents agreed to loan him the money, which he paid back later.

In effect, the fee meant Vega had to sell 50 to 100 books just to turn a profit, not always an easy task for a first-time author. "You're relying on word of mouth," he said. "You're relying on someone stumbling upon the books somehow on the Internet."

By the time *Servant of the Realm* was pub-

lished, Vega was well on his way to finishing his second book, *The Sacred Sin*. Vega finished a first draft in August 2004. This novel tells another dark tale, this one about an LA detective named Jude Foster who investigates murders. The kicker is that the killer is stealing the victim's souls without even touching them and Foster's old partner may be responsible.

Vega describes the book as "moody" and "noirish" and was inspired by the films *Seven* and *Fallen*.

"He's a real anti-hero," Vega said of his latest protagonist, who has a number of personal and family issues. However, Vega said he hopes that readers would all find something to relate to. "He's not perfect and neither are we," Vega said.

This time around, Vega went with Publish America out of Baltimore. Vega's goal for his third book is to have it published with one of the major houses. But, Vega said, in order to do that, he must have an agent.

Vega revealed that, prior to *The Sacred Sin*'s publication, he received a call from a New York agent who had read the manuscript – Vega had sent copies out to several agents – but he was eventually turned down.

"I thought, 'I'm 16 years old. Maybe they'll be impressed with that,'" Vega said when explaining why he sent out copies of the manuscript. "But that's not the way it works."

Nevertheless, Vega said, "You learn so much from this process." When asked if he thought he grew as a writer from his first to second novels, Vega said, "Definitely," noting improvements with grammar, vocabulary, and precision.

Vega said he's noticed a trend in writers publishing at a younger age of late, such as Christopher Paolini, who published the bestseller *Eragon* at age 19. "If you realize your potential early, why not start early?" Vega said.

The young author admitted that his work has had a dark common thread throughout, and he hopes this will convince readers to be better people. But, he added, "I don't want to be preachy... Hopefully somewhere in there, people can find something they can relate to."

As for his influences, Vega says, "Stephen King is the man. I love his work. He's a lot like the writer I want to be someday. He's very versatile in that he can go from horror to drama



Portland resident Estevan Vega sits behind a spread of his works, ranging from elementary school assignments to his latest novel, *The Sacred Sin*, as well as a number of rejection letters. Vega is only 18, but has already published two novels.

very well." He also expressed a current affinity for fellow supernatural thriller author Ted Dekker. Giving a nod to more classic works, Vega also expressed his admiration for the works of Shakespeare. He also mentioned, "I'm a big fan of *The Great Gatsby*."

Vega graduated from Xavier in the spring and just finished up his first semester as a creative writing major at Roger Williams University.

Later this month, Vega will promote *The Sacred Sin* at the American Library Association's Book Fair in Philadelphia. He is also scheduled to do a signing at the Avon Public Library in March. Vega said the novel is available at virtually any online site, including Barnesandnoble.com, Target.com, and Amazon.com. *The Sacred Sin* is also stocked at Broad Street Books, located on Wesleyan University's campus.

Vega also said that the book may be ordered at bookstores such as Barnes and Noble or Borders, and added, "If people go in and request it enough, they'll actually start stocking it."

Vega is already hard at work on his latest book, which he hopes he can finish before heading back to college in late January. Though he is somewhat tight-lipped about the plot, he did call it a "coming of age story" that would rely less on the supernatural. He also said he threw more of himself into the protagonist, which was somewhat prompted by the recent divorce of his parents.

What began as an assignment seven years ago has become something Vega cannot tear himself away from.

"Writing has become part of who I am," Vega said. "So far, I've been blessed to do it."

Vega added his goal "is to write as much as I can and as best as I can. If I do that, I believe people will buy my books."

More information on Vega is available at his web site, Estevanvega.com. Though it does not contain information on the latest novel, he plans for the completion of a thorough site renovation within the next few weeks.

Portland Native Son Earns Bronze Star for Service in Iraq

by Michael McCoy

Staff Sgt. James Proudman had the chance to spend a little time in his hometown over the holidays. It was a nice vacation for the newly-decorated war veteran.

Proudman received a Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Service at a ceremony in California last July. Proudman was awarded the medal due to his actions in 2006, when the Marine Corps sergeant was stationed in Iraq.

On April 8, 2006, Proudman was with Sgt. Anthony Scardino, Corporal Gabriel White, and Sgt. A.J. Tachutti, scoping out Iraqi insurgents who were installing Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Initially unbeknownst to them, a team of five insurgents was actually watching them.

However, Proudman and his crew noticed the insurgents and a firefight ensued. Proudman killed two of the Iraqis and Scardino killed two others, Proudman said, adding that the fifth got away.

"We ended up recovering this video camera," said Proudman. "They were going to sneak up on us, kill us, and film it for propaganda.

After viewing the video, which showed the insurgents assembling IEDs, Proudman and his crew were able to locate the house, which contained the "explosives cache."

Then, between that incident and August of the same year, Proudman and Scardino located and killed 12 insurgents installing IEDs.

The citation recommending Proudman for the honor reads, "His actions and leadership had a decidedly disproportionate impact on the battlefield, inflicting substantial casualties on the enemy and measurably altering the enemy insurgent activity within the battalion battle space... By his zealous initiative, courageous, actions, and exceptional dedication to duty, Sergeant Proudman reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and United States Naval Service."

Proudman, 30, graduated from Vinal Technical High School in 1996 and enlisted in the Marines later that year. "It was just something I always wanted to do," remembered Proudman, but it is also something of a family tradition. His father served in the Navy and his paternal grandparents actually met during their service

in the Army.

Immediately following boot camp, Proudman was stationed at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, and has been stationed there ever since. But during the past 11 years, Proudman has had tours of duty in such places as Nairobi, Kenya and Okinawa, Japan.

He has also completed three seven-month tours in Iraq, in 2003, 2004, and 2006. During that time, Proudman was a Scout Sniper Team Leader. This primarily consisted of reconnaissance work involving IEDs, the roadside bombs that are often disguised as other objects. "One of our big missions was to locate the guys putting in these roadside bombs," said Proudman.

When asked if the April 8, 2006, fight – the one that led to his receipt of the Bronze Star – was the most intense episode of his time in Iraq, Proudman responded, "No, not at all." He then relayed another incident. While not included in Proudman's official citation, he said it also contributed to him getting the Bronze Star.

In 2004, four Marines were killed by Iraqi insurgents in Ramadi, Iraq, who took a sniper rifle with them. "It was a big deal in the military," Proudman said. In July 2006, Proudman was with a part of a group stationed in the Al Anbar province, and was perched in a building, scanning for insurgents. A car pulled up near the building and parked, and a man got out of the car. Initially, Proudman's team thought nothing of it. However, a little later, someone noticed a cracked window in the car with a video camera pointing at some Marines that were also on street level.

"We knew something was about to happen," said Proudman, who said the videotape was meant to either be used for propaganda, intelligence gathering, or both.

Citing "hostile intent," Proudman's team took out the cameraman. Once at his vehicle, they found a sniper rifle, the same one that was lost two years ago.

"It was kind of eerie," said Proudman, "because my team knew the guys that were killed in '04. I was really good friends with two of them." The rifle was recovered some 30 miles east of where it was taken

Expressing pride for his work, Proudman said, "I enjoy what I do. I don't enjoy being



Marine Corps Staff Sgt. James Proudman was home for the holidays recently. Proudman, who has spent three tours of duty in Iraq, received the Bronze Star last summer.

away from my family, but I enjoy what I do." When asked if the situations he found himself in were scary, he admitted to having those feelings later, but not in the moment. "It's almost just like adrenaline takes over, and you just kind of react... It's scary afterward."

Proudman's Bronze Star was announced in November 2006, and he received it at a ceremony at Camp Pendleton last July. It was presented to Proudman by General James Mattis.

"It was overwhelming," Proudman said of his winning the medal. "I thanked my team," he added, and said he could not have done any of it without them

Over his recent Christmas leave, Proudman got to spend time with not just his wife Kathryn and three-year-old son Landon, but as well as his father James, mother Brenda, and his sister and brother, who are 18 and 17, respectively.

"My brother does want to go into the Marine Corps," Proudman said, "but my father's not really keen on that." Proudman attributed this reluctance to the current war.

Yesterday, Proudman returned to Camp Pendleton, along with Kathryn and Landon. Proudman is to return to his detail as Sniper Special Reconnaissance Instructor for Marine Special Operations Command. He is not currently scheduled to be redeployed.

East Hampton Police News

12/12 — A 13-year-old female juvenile was referred to Juvenile Court for family with service needs, East Hampton Police report.

12/14 — Gregg Bernard, 48, of 25 Green St., Middletown, was issued a ticket for following too closely and passing in a no-passing zone, police report.

12/15 — Luis Olivencia, 18, of 66 Pinebrook Dr., Colchester, was arrested for operating under the influence and failure to drive right, police report.

12/15 — Indigo E. Cohen, 35, of 151 North Main St., Jewett City, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for sixth-degree larceny, police say.

12/15 — Timothy Ford, 21, of 20 Asheville Rd., Newton, MA, was involved in a one-vehicle accident on East High Street, 100 feet east of Pine Trail, police say. Ford was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and traveling too fast for conditions, police report.

12/16 — John Marquis, 43, of 39 Chapman Rd., Marlborough, was issued a ticket for illegal deposit of snow, police say.

12/17 — A 16-year-old female juvenile was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, police say.

12/19 — Joeline Geysen, 43, of 145 Main St., was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police say.

12/21 — Russell Baker, 20, of 4 Minnetonka Tr., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for speeding, operating a motor vehicle under suspension and failure to appear, police report.

12/21 — Thomas Oswell, 46, of 8 Deer Rock Dr., Amston, was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police say.

12/22 — Charles Mastropietro, 35, of 101 Stratford Rd., Mansfield, was arrested for driving under the influence, police say.

12/22 — Patricia Banning, 48, of 70 Flanders Rd., was arrested for operating without minimum insurance, police report.

12/22 — John Cote, 49, of 122 Middletown Ave., was arrested for failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police say.

12/23 — Daniel Cook, 44, of 240 Lake Dr., was arrested for possession of drug/marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, drinking while operating a motor vehicle and impairing the morals of children, police report.

12/24 — Melanie J. Henshaw, 44, of 20 North Main St., was arrested for violation of a protective order, police report.

12/26 — Jennifer L. Paixao, 30, of 19 Main St., was arrested for operating while under suspension, police report.

12/26 — Gregory S. Rose, 39, of 67 Flanders Rd., was arrested on a court-ordered warrant for not obeying traffic control signals, operating/towing an unregistered motor vehicle, operating under suspension and second-degree failure to appear, police say.

12/29 — Barbara J. Abbott, 37, of 10 Irving St., Hartford, was arrested for operating under suspension, police say.

12/31 — A 17-year-old female juvenile was arrested pursuant to a warrant for first-degree criminal mischief, police report.

1/1/08 — Cynthia A. Campbell, 25, of 49 Wyman St., Waterbury, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-degree burglary, conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary, third-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny, police say.

1/1/08 — Michael E. Casey, 31, of 46 Mallard Cove, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, operating under suspension and failure to drive right, police say.

Colchester Police News

12/19 — Michael Fiondella, 26, of 147 S. Main St., turned himself in to State Police for the charges of second-degree robbery, third-degree assault and second-degree larceny, State Police said.

12/21 — Dean Molinari, 21, of 543 Amston Rd., was charged with larceny, State Police said.

12/21 — Anthony Fontana, 22, of 111 River Rd., was charged with criminal mischief, State Police said.

12/21 — Jodi Stone, 30, of 69 Fairhaven Rd., Niantic, turned herself in to State Police after charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

12/22 — Daniel Gay, 25, of 54 Forest St., Hartford, was charged with reckless endangerment and reckless driving, State Police said.

12/22 — Richard E. Dempsey Jr., 19, of 716 Rt. 32, Franklin, was turned in to State Police by the UConn Police Department for charges of evading motor vehicle property damage, failure to drive right, and operating motor vehicle without owner's permission, State Police said.

12/24 — Elizabeth Pelletier, 30, of 147 R South Main St., turned herself in to Colchester Police custody for charges of conspiracy to commit and identity theft, State Police said.

12/24 — Ralph Pallozzi, 47, of 147 R South Main St., turned himself into Colchester Police custody for charges of identity theft, State Police said.

12/24 — William Bednarz, 42, of 5 Olde Homestead Village, was charged with DUI, Portland Police report.

12/22 — Corinne McGinley, 38, of 33 Dunham Rd., was charged with reckless driving, evading responsibility and failure to drive in established lane, police say.

12/28 — Todd Ducas, 44, of 25 Hammond St., Rockville, was charged with first-degree criminal mischief and third-degree assault, police report.

12/31 — Caleb Sonnichsen, 18, of 137 Ague Spring Rd., Haddam Neck, was charged with possession of cocaine, less than four ounces of

12/28 — James Heeney, 49, who police had no address for, turned himself into State Police with charges of promoting a minor in an obscene performance, importing child pornography, and possessing child pornography in the first degree, State Police said.

12/29 — Nicholas Marino, 19, of 63 N. Main St., East Hampton, was charged with DWI, possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of alcohol by a minor, State Police said.

12/29 — Leslie Muscarella, 50, of 204 Middletown Rd., was charged with DWI, State Police said.

12/30 — Yvan Soucy, 49, of 755 Middletown Rd., was charged with unsafe movement, DUI, and failure to drive right, State Police said.

12/30 — Omor Hernandez, 30, of 94 Memorial Dr., Willimantic, was charged with possession of narcotics, breach of peace, and third-degree assault, State Police said.

12/31 — Hugo Roberto Pineda, 35, of 2884 Jordan Woods Dr., Lawrenceville, GA, was charged with DWI, speeding, and operating a motor vehicle without a license, State Police said.

1/1 — Alexander K. Shanfeld, 19, of 92 Parum Rd., was charged with first-degree larceny, State Police said, due to a reported motor vehicle theft.

Portland Police News

12/21 — William Bednarz, 42, of 5 Olde Homestead Village, was charged with DUI, Portland Police report.

12/22 — Corinne McGinley, 38, of 33 Dunham Rd., was charged with reckless driving, evading responsibility and failure to drive in established lane, police say.

12/28 — Todd Ducas, 44, of 25 Hammond St., Rockville, was charged with first-degree criminal mischief and third-degree assault, police report.

12/31 — Caleb Sonnichsen, 18, of 137 Ague Spring Rd., Haddam Neck, was charged with possession of cocaine, less than four ounces of

marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of narcotics not in original container, police say.

12/31 — A 14-year-old female was arrested on charges of possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police report.

12/31 — A 17-year-old male was arrested on charges of criminal attempt to commit third-degree robbery, risk of injury to minor, and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police say.

1/1/08 — Grzegorz B. Kuron, 26, of 820 Matthews St., No. 35, Bristol, was charged with DUI and failure to obey traffic signal.

Ham Radio Goes State of the Art in Colchester

During severe weather and other large scale disasters, good communications helps greatly – and Colchester now has a “state of the art” Emergency Operations Center to help with the communications.

“Ham radio” is a term frequently used to describe Amateur Radio. In June 2006 and again in April 2007, the Colchester Health Department used members of the Connecticut Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to help with public health emergency preparedness drills that were designed to test parts of the Town’s Pandemic Influenza Plan.

The town has an active Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Team that meets monthly. Many of the ideas and work product generated by the group have all-hazard applications, including the use of ham radio for back-up communications.

Dr. Wayne Gronlund, District Emergency Coordinator for ARES Region 4, which covers all of eastern Connecticut, said, “Our mission is to provide a cadre of licensed and trained volunteer emergency communicators. Our equipment is designed to be very portable and can be set up fairly quickly. We work with numerous agencies throughout the area, including the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the American Red Cross, municipal emergency management departments, local/regional health districts, and departments of public health.”

Colchester has an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that incorporates the use of ham radio and now has the capability to communicate with the National Weather Service office

in Florida, should the need arise. Local ham radio operator Victor Muzzelin has been the official EOC ham radio operator for many years. He and Reed Gustafson, the town’s Emergency Management Director and a recently-licensed ham operator, ensure close coordination with ARES.

Sue Dubb, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Manager for Colchester, said, “The ham radio operators were a critical piece of our drill, both in June of 2006 and in April of 2007. We built in communication failures as part of the drill so we could utilize the ham radios and the transition was seamless. The hams certainly lived up to their motto: ‘When all else fails . . . Amateur Radio!’ It is very reassuring to know that there is such a reliable form of communication available during emergencies when communication is so critical.”

ARES went to an alert status for the recent storm resulting from the remnants of Hurricane Noel. Hams conducted radio call-ups every two hours to check for power outages and flooding. Last spring, local hams provided communications assistance for the American Red Cross and the town of East Lyme when flooding required sheltering residents who were evacuated from their homes along Latimer Brook.

Gronlund said new operators are always welcome. Anyone interested in becoming a ham radio operator can contact him by e-mail at N1CLV@aol.com. For more information about local emergency preparedness issues, contact Sue Dubb at preparedness@colchesterct.gov or 859-7591.

Hebron Police News

12/31-Jack E. Balint, 43, of 25 Stagecoach Rd., Lebanon, was charged with DWI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

12/31-Patricia A. Wark, 58, of 285 Skinner Ln., was charged with DWI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

Andover Selectmen Look at Health Insurance

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Selectman (BOS) created a sub-committee at its Wednesday meeting to look at how the town approaches health insurance premiums.

In preparation for the 2008-09 budget discussions, First Selectman Robert Burbank, Vice First Selectman Jay Linddy, and selectman David Ziff will compare Andover’s approach to neighboring towns to determine if this could be an area for potential savings.

Linddy approached the BOS Wednesday night and asked for the establishment of this sub-committee, after studying the estimated health insurance costs for the upcoming fiscal year. Insurance premiums are believed to rise 19.4 percent but employee contributions are scheduled to remain constant. Employee contributions range from 5 percent for town office staff to 20 percent for the Superintendent of Schools. Teachers, the largest group of town employees, contribute 17 percent.

“As it stands, we are looking at a \$26,385 increase for the 12 Town of Andover employees,” Linddy said of the employees who currently contribute 5 percent. “We can’t take a hit like that. I think we have to look at the reality of the situation. Even though we have great employees, we have to answer to our taxpayers.”

Burbank said he understood Linddy’s position, but is not yet convinced that this is a change the town needs to make. “Other towns

tend to pay their town employees a little more than we can afford but we pick more of the cost of benefits,” he said.

Ziff agreed with Burbank, saying, “I think we have to find where the best fiscal break point is. Is it better for the town to swallow more of the employees’ health costs and manage the salary increases at a lower level versus having a higher level of salary increases with more employee contribution for health care?”

Burbank reported that the Andover School District and the Town of Andover partner with Regional District No. 8 (RHAM) to purchase health insurance at a lower cost. As a result of this agreement, Andover does not have control over the choice of insurance carrier. However, if the town were to seek a separate carrier it is likely that the cost would increase dramatically.

The charge of the newly formed sub-committee will be to inform the Board of Selectmen as to the approaches of neighboring towns to insurance and employee contributions, as well as other pertinent information. The BOS will then make a decision on the issue during their budget deliberations.

The BOS also voted on Wednesday to cancel its next regularly scheduled meeting, which was planned for Feb. 6. Instead, the selectmen will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. for a special meeting in the Community Room of the Town Office building.

Marlborough Police News

12/23-Rebecca Adams, 37, and Jeannette Adams, 70, of 20 Fuller Rd., were both charged with second-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

12/27-John Francis Drew, 28, of 14 School St., Groton, was charged with threatening, third-degree assault, and minor injury or intent to cause injury, State Police said.

Andover Police News

12/24-Raymond Pisch, 56, of 25 Lakeside Dr., was charged with sixth-degree larceny and interfering with an officer, State Police said.

Obituaries

Hebron

Joan C. Halligan

Joan C. Halligan, 77, of Cromwell, beloved mother, sister, aunt and grandmother, passed away peacefully at her home December 27, 2007.

She was born in Brooklyn, NY, daughter of Warren and Lucille Carson. She graduated High School in Ardsley, NY and attended New York State Teachers College in Albany.

Joan was a true humanitarian and believed deeply in the value of life, in all its forms and passages and the triumph of spirit, against all odds, to which her own life gave testimony. She was a lover of the arts, humanities and the music which was her lifetime devotion as an accomplished pianist and teacher.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, William K. Halligan, himself a noted musician, whose lives together were a joyous celebration as their music continued together. For decades they touched the lives of many students of all ages that came to Halligan Music Studio for lessons.

She is survived by her children Bruce Johnston and his wife Margaret of Granby, Susan Johnston of Hartford, Ernest Johnston and his wife Laura of Hebron; her sister, Lois Piontkowski and her husband Jeff of Poughkeepsie, NY; grandchildren, James, David, Melissa and Rebecca; along with cousins, nieces, nephews and their children, all of whom she loved without measure. She also "leaves behind those that trudge the road of happy destiny in the spirit of the fellowship."

A memorial service will be announced at the convenience of the family. There will be no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the William Halligan Scholarship Fund, Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford, CT 06117. To share a memory with the family, please visit www.dillonbaxter.com

Hebron

Joseph Edward Aubin

Joseph Edward Aubin, 81, of Palmetto, FL, passed from this life Friday, Dec. 7, 2007. He was born in New Britain June 12, 1926, and was son of the late Ulric and Yvonne Aubin. He was a World War II veteran who served in the US Navy in the South Pacific. He is survived by a former wife of 24 years Dorothy Aubin, a daughter and son-in-law Linda and Toby Goodrich of Canton, a son and daughter-in-law Timothy and Emily Aubin of Columbia, a son and daughter-in-law John and Tamara Aubin of Rocky Hill; four sisters, Jeannie Steucek, Lillian Mancini, Marie Archambault, Gemma Josephson; seven grandchildren, Kim and Kris Aubin, Joey, Melissa, Gabrielle Aubin, Buddy and Carey Goodrich. He was predeceased by sons Joseph E. and Ulric L. Aubin, a brother, Lucien Aubin and sister, Gilberte Bednarz.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Saturday, Jan. 5, from noon-2 p.m. at Brooklawn Funeral Home, Rocky Hill, for online guest book and directions go to www.brooklawnfuneralhome.com, in lieu of flowers, please make contributions to American Legion Post #95 Hebron, CT 06248.

Marlborough

Cynthia Garratt

Cynthia Elizabeth Jaycox Garratt, 60, of Marlborough, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007, from cardiac arrest. The daughter of the late Clinton Robert Jaycox and the late Bessie Grace Gilmore Jaycox, Cynthia was born in Hartford on Dec. 4, 1947, and spent her childhood in Farmington. Following school, Cynthia married and became a successful legal secretary for many years. After a brief residency in East Hartford, she moved to Marlborough, where she spent the next 31 years. Cynthia was highly involved in the community and had a strong network of friends. As a proud member of the Marlborough Congregational Church, she was an active member and for many years helped make Santa's Breakfast a success. She will also be remembered for her passion for her 1988 Corvette, and could be seen driving around town on warm, summer days.

Cynthia was the widow of James Alexander Garratt, having been married for 24 years. She was also predeceased by her sister, Barbara Anne Jaycox Warner. Surviving are her son, James Alexander Garratt III, and wife, Karen, of Rincon, GA; son, Christopher Robert Garratt; and two grandchildren, James Alexander Garratt IV, and Christopher Michael Garratt. A funeral service was held in the Marlborough Congregational Church, Marlborough, on Thursday, Jan. 3, with the Reverend Robert Faulhaber officiating. Burial followed in Marlborough Center Cemetery. Visitation was held on Wednesday Jan. 2, at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Memorial contributions may be made to the Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447, or to the Hundred Club, 119 Oakwood Dr., P.O. Box 419 Glastonbury, CT 06033.

East Hampton

Paul Scianna

Paul Scianna, 42, of Lake Vista Dr., East Hampton, died Friday, Dec. 28, 2007, at his home following a brief illness. He was born June 9, 1965, in Middletown, son of Peter and Jeannette (Tellier) Scianna. He was a member of St. Sebastian Church and a graduate of Portland High School. He was employed by American Security.

Besides his parents of Portland, he is survived by a sister, Maria Scianna of East Hampton; also many relatives and friends. Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 31, from the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Sebastian Church. Burial was in the family plot in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home Sunday, Dec. 30. Donations in his memory may be made to the Renovation Fund of St. Sebastian Church, 155 Washington St.

East Hampton

George N. Seely

George N. "Fuzzy" Seely, 84, of East Hampton, husband of Hannelore (Lorie) A. Seely, died Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007, in Salmon Brook Rehabilitation Center, Glastonbury. Born in Rochester, NY, the son of the late Jessie (Nason) and Stanley Seely, he moved to Hartford at a young age where he attended and graduated the Hartford School System. Later in his career he settled in East Hampton. He was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving in Europe. In 1947, he began his long career in the CT Army National Guard, working his way through the ranks until he was Chief Warrant Officer-4 when he retired in 1983.

During his career he was known for running of the "Crow's Nest" on the third floor of the armory by the Military and the Shrine. George joined the Orient Lodge No. 62 on April 18th 1951, affiliated with Daskam Lodge No. 86, where he became life member and served as its Master in 1973 and 1984. He also served as a secretary of Daskam Lodge. He later affiliated with Anchor Lodge No. 112 in East Hampton. He was Past High Priest and member of Pythagoras of Welles Chapter No. 17, RAM; PTIM and member of Wolcott Council No. 1 R & SM, also a member of Washington Commandary No. 1 KT, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Hartford, Life Member of Hartford Chapter No. 56, National Sojourners, Conn. York Rite College No. 17 and Sphinx Temple AAOMNS, where he became Marshall Emeritus, Treasurer Emeritus of the Directors Staff, and held many officer positions with other Shrine units and clubs. George was also a member and past director of the Hartford Court No. 141 Royal Order of the Jesters. He was a member of Good Intent Chapter 17, O.E.S. of Glastonbury. George was a Life Member of the V. F. W. of East Hampton.

Besides his wife Lorie, he leaves two sons: Steven and his wife Gail Domin of West Suffield, Paul and Peg Seely of Old Saybrook; his five grandchildren, Ben, Meghan and Rob Domin of West Suffield, David and Tyler Seely of Old Saybrook; and a nephew Rob and his wife Jackie McQueeney of Bristol. A memorial service was held Friday, Dec. 28, in the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury, followed by a Masonic service by Anchor Lodge No. 112 AF & AM of East Hampton. Private burial will be at the family's convenience. Memorial contributions may be made to the Shrine Burn Hospital for Children, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114-2699. For memorial tributes and condolences please visit online at www.mem.com.

Portland

Suzanne Joy Chasse

Suzanne Joy Chasse, 33, of Sunset Terrace, Portland, died Friday, Dec. 28, 2007, in Hartford Hospital. Born in Hartford Oct. 3, 1974, a daughter of Elmer and Elaine Bondarko Chasse of Portland, she was a lifelong area resident. Besides her parents, she is survived by her twin sister, Carrie Chasse of Middletown; her maternal grandmother, Lovejoy LaBella of Portland; her paternal grandmother, Irene Chasse of Rocky Hill; her maternal "Grampa," Edward Bondarko of East Hartford; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. She also leaves Oscar, her furry "little buddy." She was predeceased by her "Grampy" Sebastian LaBella and her paternal grandfather Levite Chasse.

Her family will receive relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Friday from 7-9 p.m. In honor of Suzanne's love of animals, in lieu of flowers, gifts in her name may be sent to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

East Hampton

Mary Hitchcock Stickle

Mary Hitchcock Stickle, 91, beloved wife of the late Charles Willard Stickle, died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007. Born in Middletown to the late Albert and Mary Hitchcock on Sept. 17, 1916, Mary grew up in East Hampton and graduated from Middletown High School. Her memories of a childhood spent in East Hampton, as the youngest of nine children, were a great source of happiness to her. She worked as a laboratory assistant in Saratoga Springs, NY. There she met and married Charles, known as Pete, Stickle. She supported his work as an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and as Executive Assistant to the Attorney General of New York State. She was a longtime resident of Baldwin, NY. Mary gave her family unfathomable love and she filled their home with comfort and beauty.

Mary leaves two daughters and a son: Mary Felber, and her husband Joseph, of Fairfax, VA; Kathleen Anne Wright of Storrs; and Peter Charles Stickle, and his wife Lynn, of Lambertville, NJ. She also leaves seven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. The family thanks the staff at Marlborough Health Care Center who lovingly cared for Mary during the last four years. Interment will take place in Saratoga Springs, NY, attended by immediate family members. A memorial service will be held in the spring. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. The Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton, has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Geraldine Tourville

Geraldine Tourville, 84, of Marlborough, died Thursday, Dec. 20, 2007, at Windham Hospital. Born May 16, 1923 in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Rosario and Regina (Panfili) Pizzo. She is survived by her six children, Edward Tourville and his wife Darlene, Patricia Groll and her husband Mark, George Tourville and his wife Cindy, Walter Tourville and his wife Marybeth, Theresa Kingsbury and Rick Semeniuk and Robert Tourville and his wife Carol. She is also survived by her sister Mary Johnson, her niece and nephews Judy Levy, John Johnson, and Paul Johnson. Now here are Geraldine's greatest assets and whom she loved with all her heart, her grandchildren Robert Tourville Jr, Laura Lee Tourville, Richard Tourville, Paul Tourville, Chrissy Previti, Eric Tourville, Chris Rival, Adam Kingsbury, and Tanya, Becky, Emily, Marks 2, great grandchildren Megan, Brittany, Samantha, Cassandra, Alex, Olivia, Kayla, Jaden, Nathaniel, Friend, Hannah.

Geraldine's family would like to express our deepest appreciation to the entire staff at the Marlborough Health Care Center, who for the last few years had cared for Geraldine so we could enjoy her for various family functions. To all of us who knew her she will always hold a special place in our hearts. Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 29, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be in the family plot in Marlboro Cemetery in the spring. Friends called at the funeral home Saturday, Dec. 29. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made in Geraldine's memory to the charity of the donor's choice. To leave online condolences or for directions please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Philip Hedges

Philip Hedges, a retired partner at the New York law firm of White & Case, passed away Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007, at his home in Harrison, NY. He was 74. Mr. Hedges was born in Middletown and grew up in Portland. He later graduated from Wesleyan University and The University of Chicago Law School, Cum Laude. He spent his entire law career at White & Case where he was a senior partner in Corporate Real Estate.

He was a loving husband to his wife Edith (Nyman) of 47 years and father to three children, James (Michele von Kroemer), Nancy (Joseph Stein) and David (Gretchen Ohlig). He had seven grandchildren who loved and admired him; Eleanor Hedges; Courtney, Emily and Anna Stein; Matthew, Spencer and Payson Hedges. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Mr. Hedges was the youngest child of Raymond and Clara (Hall) Hedges of Portland and had two siblings now deceased, Raymond Jr. and Eleanor (Hale).

The family held a private Episcopal service and burial in Portland on Thursday, Jan. 3. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492, or the charity of your choice. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland.

East Hampton

Leonard Allan Underwood

Leonard Allan Underwood, 46, of East Hampton, husband of Robin (Rogers) Underwood, died Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital. He was born on Sept. 16, 1961, in Columbus, OH, the son of the late Leonard G. and Geraldine R. (Page) Underwood, and was a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Leonard, a true family man, had a pure heart, loved his family and his friends meant the world to him. He was an incredibly humble man that played the trombone and loved to run. He was a member of the Silk City Striders Running Club and twice ran the Marine Corps Marathon. His military experience spanned 14 years as a Sergeant, and was highlighted by his taking part in the liberation of Grenada and Carriacou; the evacuation of four nationals in Beirut; the eastern exit of the U.S. embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia; and participation in both Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his three children, Jennifer Lyne Underwood of Terryville, Matthew Anthony Underwood and Michael Andrew Underwood both of East Hampton; his sister Lisa McHenry and her husband Barry; his niece, Allicia Breton and her husband Mitchell; and his nephew Shawn McHenry, all of Terryville; and lots of aunts, uncles and cousins. A memorial service will be held Friday, Dec. 28, at Faith Baptist Church, 23 Laning Street, Southington. Burial with military honors will follow in State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. There are no calling hours. Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol, CT 06010 has care of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to Middletown Hospice Care, 23 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06045. Online guestbook available at: www.FunkFuneralHome.com.

Hebron

Joseph Morocco

Joseph Morocco was welcomed into the loving arms of his beloved son Gregory on Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007. Joe was born Oct. 8, 1921, to Giovanni and Rose Morocco of Hartford. He attended Hartford schools, graduating from Weaver High School. Like so many brave young men of his generation, he answered his country's call, serving in Italy and Africa, and was awarded the Bronze Star, a distinction of which he was most proud. The consummate salesman and a friend to all, Joe worked for many years for Lanier Business Machines, and upon his retirement, he kept himself busy with a series of part-time jobs, enjoying most of all his time at WTIC in Hartford, but it was his commitment to his family which truly defined his life.

The quintessential family man, Joe relished his many roles: loving son and brother, devoted father and grandfather. Joe lived his life as a model for his children, instilling in them the qualities he himself possessed: a solid work ethic; a deep respect for responsibility; an integrity not open to compromise; unflinching love, good humor, and generosity of heart and spirit; and courage in the face of adversity. He will live on in those he loved and in who love him.

To celebrate his life, love, and legacy, he leaves the mother of his children, Frances S. Morocco; his son and daughter-in-law, Joseph and Deborah Morocco; his daughters, Donna Morocco and Debra Gallo; "like-a-daughter-to-me," Josephine Campione and Nina Fournier; his beloved grandchildren, Jon and David Morocco, Laura Morocco Kompanik and her husband, Kevin, and Kimberly and Kevin Gallo; his sisters Jenny Camerato, Camilla Beauvais, and Anna Lavioe; several nieces and nephews; and many friends. The family extends its heartfelt thanks to Dr. Feller and St. Francis Hospital's nursing and staff for their kindness and care. Calling hours were Friday, Dec. 28, at D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield, with a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, Dec. 29, in St. Luke's Church, 66 Bolton St. Hartford. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. For on-line expressions of sympathy please visit www.desopo.com.

Colchester

Irving Levine

Irving Levine, born in Hartford Oct. 29, 1921, passed away on Friday, Dec. 28, 2007. He was a member of the Congregation Ahabath Achim and had resided in Colchester for many years. He was predeceased by a brother, Sidney Levine and sister-in-law, Julia Levine. He is survived by a niece, Deenah Levine of East Hartford; two nephews, Stephen Levine of Enfield, and Michael Levine of Stowe, VT; a great-niece Sara Levine of Stowe, VT. There are no services. Donations in Irving's name can be made to an Austic organization of the donor's choice.

Marlborough

H. Steven Cranfield

H. Steven Cranfield, 56, of the Tariffville section of Simsbury and formerly of Marlborough, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007, at the St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford. Born Nov. 22, 1951 in Milford, DE, he was a son of Emma Lou (Trost) Cranfield of Marlborough and the late Phillip Cranfield.

Steven was a 1969 graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron. He was very knowledgeable and skilled in the appliance business, and worked as a salesman for SK Lavery in West Hartford for over 25 years, where he would develop many successful relationships. Steve loved the water; he was an avid fisherman and kayaker and enjoyed vacationing at the beaches of Martha's Vineyard and Delaware. He also enjoyed playing tennis and was a die-hard Red Sox and Cowboys fan. Most importantly, he will be remembered for his love and devotion for his family and friends and his willingness to always lend a helping hand.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by two sons, Joshua and Jeremy and their mother, Sheri Lane, all of Tariffville; two brothers, Robert of Rehoboth Beach, DE and Roy of Marlborough; his godson, Christopher; his beloved pets, Jake the cat and his dogs, especially Max; and numerous extended family members and friends. He also leaves behind Sarge (his Jeep). A memorial service was held Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Fellowship Community Church, 24 South Road, Marlborough with Pastor Chuck Redfern, officiating. Burial private in the Marlborough Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Compassion International, Colorado Spring, CO 80997. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Colchester

Helen M. Jankowski

Helen M. (Dzienis) Jankowski, 92, widow of William W. Jankowski of 57 years married, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007, surrounded by her family at the Harrington Court, Colchester. Born in New Britain, Helen was the daughter of the late Frank and Karolina Dzienis. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield where she resided for the past 45 years. A devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Helen will be missed by her loving family.

She leaves her son Joseph Jankowski and his wife Ellen of Avon, a daughter Joanne Zeniuch and her husband Michael of Hebron, five grandchildren, Michael and Kathy Zeniuch, Lisa Sukosky, Debbi Brooks and Joseph W. Jankowski, two great grandchildren Alexandra M. Sukosky and Joseph J. Jankowski, and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 26, in St. Francis of Assisi Church, New Britain. Burial followed in Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Britain. Calling hours were held Wednesday, Dec. 26, at the New Britain Memorial-Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Ave., New Britain. Please visit www.mem.com to send an online condolence or tribute to the family.

Colchester

Emil C. Koznoski

Emil C. Koznoski, 88, of Colchester, passed away on Monday, Dec. 17, 2007, at the Walnut Hill Care Center in New Britain. He was born on July 31, 1919, in Detroit, MI, a son of the late Karl and Frances Ofiara Koznoski. Emil worked for many years as a buffer for the International Silver Company of Meriden. He was a veteran of World War II serving in the U.S. Army Air Force.

Surviving are a son, Karl Koznoski of Florida; a daughter, Karen Carver; son-in-law Joseph Gibson of Meriden; three sisters, Anna Barber of East Hampton, Bernice Leaghty and Lottie Golet, both of Moodus; six grandchildren; two great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. Visitation was held on Dec. 27 at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Andrews Church. Interment followed in New St. Andrew's Cemetery with full military honors.

Portland

Dr. Thomas J. Sullivan

Dr. Thomas J. Sullivan, beloved husband of Lisa Rappa Sullivan, father of Michael R. and Brandon T. Sullivan, of Jobs Pond Road, Portland, passed away unexpectedly while vacationing in the Dominican Republic with family and friends. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced in a future issue. Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

Colchester

William Zenowitz

William Zenowitz, 86, passed from this life late Saturday evening, Dec. 22, 2007. He was born in Colchester, the son of Matthew and Katherine, where he learned at an early age to swim and to love the outdoors. He graduated from Bacon Academy and then served in the United States Air Force during World War II. It was during this time that he met the love of his life, Marjorie Myers. They were married on May 21, 1945 in Boise, ID, and moved back to Connecticut to raise their family.

Bill was a layout director for Connecticut Printers, where he worked faithfully for 32 years. He was an avid and talented artist, oftentimes painting landscapes late into the night. He would also build snow sculptures and skating rinks during the winter, transforming the yard into a wonderland. His deep knowledge and love of all of nature was always evident. It was perhaps best experienced on walks with him through the woods, where he would easily and modestly identify all of the trees, plants, and birds in sight as others listened and learned.

Bill was a lifetime learner himself, burning the midnight oil to read something that would add to his already impressive understanding of any aspect of nature, while also finding time to keep up on politics and sports; he was an enthusiastic Red Sox and UConn Women's basketball fan, and read an occasional novel. Above all, Bill was a doer. He designed and personally built much of their current home. He always had a project underway, and could be found in his workshop or in the garden or somewhere outside tending to the property.

He is survived by his devoted family; wife Marjorie; daughters, Judith and Jane; sister, Helen and grandchildren, Allison, Sean, Benjamin, Melissa, and Michael. We will all miss his wisdom, his wit and his wonderful spirit. A memorial service was to be held on Friday, Jan. 4, at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Hampton. In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer a donation to The Nature Conservancy, 4245 North Fairfax, Dr., Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203-1606, or donate online at www.nature.org. Belmont Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements. There no calling hours.

Colchester

Gilbert Isaac Cormier

Gilbert Isaac Cormier, 95, of Colchester and formerly of Maine, beloved husband of Lillian, passed away peacefully Saturday morning, Dec. 22, at the Liberty Specialty Care Center in Colchester.

He was born Feb. 1, 1912, in Chisholm, ME and grew up in Poland, ME. On Nov. 27, 1938, he wed the former Lillian Robinson in Portland, ME. In 1940, they moved to Hartford to raise their family. During World War II, Gilbert worked for Colt Firearms making machine guns for the war effort. He went on to work for McFarlane Trucking and later Fordham Distribution, delivering beer.

Through the years, Mr. Cormier played baseball for the Colts and bowled on several local leagues, including the French Club team in Hartford. He was an avid fisherman – especially deep-sea fishing with his grandchildren – and was a fan of the Yankees for 63 years.

In addition to his loving wife of 69 years, he is survived by two children, Robert Cormier and Cora and her husband, Eugene Wright, all of Colchester; seven grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by two infant children, Gilbert "Sonny" Cormier and Arlene Cormier; and five siblings.

Friends called from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service will follow at 7 p.m. with the Rev. Shirley Ellis of the Abundant Life of the Assemblies of God, Colchester, officiating. Burial will be private.

Hebron

John J. O'Loughlin

John J. O'Loughlin, 89, of Amston and formerly of New Jersey, beloved husband of Marjorie, passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 21, 2007, at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in 1918 in Brooklyn, NY, he was a son of the late John and Mary (Scully) O'Loughlin. He was a 1938 graduate of Eastchester High School in Tuckahoe, NY and went on to proudly serve in the U.S. Army during World War II. On May 14, 1955, he wed the former Marjorie Clark at St. Vincent Ferrer Church in Brooklyn, NY. John retired several years ago after having worked as a construction materials purchasing agent for nuclear power plants. John was a communicant at the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron. He enjoyed sports throughout his life, playing during high school and later as an avid fan.

In addition to his beloved wife of 52 years, he is survived by three children, Brian and wife, Julie of Northville, MI, Susan Townley of Hebron and Kevin of Port Charlotte, FL; two daughters-in-law, Teri Nofer of Amston and Troy O'Loughlin of Port Charlotte, FL; ten grandchildren, Lauren, Kevin, Erin, Seth, Paul, Andrew, Eric, Kira, Tia and Chase; and numerous extended family and friends. He was predeceased by a son, Denis and four siblings.

Friends called Thursday, Dec. 27, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Rt. 85), Hebron at noon with Fr. Michael S. Smith, officiating. Rendering of full military honors by the Antique Veterans of Colchester will follow Mass. Interment will be private in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to his Church.

Colchester

Helen Sanchi

Helen Hlatky Lucier Sanchi, 74, of Smithfield, PA, passed away with her loving family by her side at Mount Saint Macrina Manor on Dec. 23, 2007. She was born May 12, 1933, at Shoaf, PA, daughter of the late Andrew Hlatky, Sr. and Helen Hoferka Hlatky. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her first husband, Richard Licier; second husband, Walter Sanchi; three brothers, Steve Hlatky, Andy Hlatky, Jr. and Floyd Hlatky and one sister, Anna Jenkins.

Helen lived most of her life in Colchester, and was co-owner of the Hide Away Café until her retirement two years ago and then returned home to Smithfield to live and enjoy time with her family.

Surviving are her six sisters and one brother: Susan Buzas of Charleston, SC; Anita Kollar and Mary Augustine of Uniontown, PA; Joseph Hlatky of Mann Choice, PA; Roslyn Hlatky and Betty Fair of Cleveland, OH and Agnes Goodwin of Smithfield, PA; and many nieces and nephews.

A prayer service was held in the Dean C. Whitmarsh Funeral Home, 134 West Church st., Fairchance, PA 15436, for the family Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in the Saint Therese de Lisieux Roman catholic Church, Mill Street, Uniontown, PA, with Rev. Fr. Kenneth G. Zaccagnini V.F. as the Celebrant. Interment followed in Mount Moriah Baptist Cemetery, Smithfield, PA.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of the Albert Gallatin Hospice and the Mount Saint Macrina Manor.

