

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Ret. Massachusetts State Police Sgt. Dan Clark, known as the "Singing Trooper," renders honor to the nation's fallen soldiers, as the American Legion Ormont Post 69 Honor Guard fires a gun salute, during Sunday's Memorial Day ceremony in Portland.

## Memorial Day Marked With Song, Tributes

by Elizabeth Regan

Ret. Massachusetts State Police Sgt. Dan Clark, known as the "Singing Trooper," stopped traffic on Main Street Sunday afternoon with his tribute to the nation's fallen soldiers.

Clark, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, began an approximately 30-minute musical set in front of the Portland Memorial Day Parade reviewing stand at Brownstone Intermediate School while marchers lined up almost two miles away.

Cars were still passing through the intersection and parade-goers were still searching for shade as Clark launched into a medley of high-spirited, patriotic songs like "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Clark has appeared at several thousand federal, state, local, and military events, according to a biography on his website. Among them have been numerous funerals for fallen troopers, firefighters and military members.

He dodged a vehicle or two on his way to the other side of the street, where he rallied his audience to join him in song. On his way back, he danced with a family in red, white and blue

crossing over to set up chairs near the reviewing stand.

Then the traffic stopped completely and the marchers grew closer, but still could not be heard. That's when Clark's jaunty performance turned into a military march. As he sang the country ballad "Arlington," his steps were clipped and precise along the center of the street before he turned sharply on his heel. The song is an ode to those buried at the national cemetery.

The annual parade is coordinated by American Legion Ormont Post 69.

Portland resident Michelle Donahue, whose son, Andrew, has just finished his freshman year at West Point Military Academy, called Clark's performance "amazing."

She said a woman sitting behind her has a son who recently set off for boot camp with the U.S. Marine Corps. The bond between the two military mothers – and so many other people along the parade route with ties to the long military tradition in the United States – was

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## Portland Votes to Ban Fracking Waste

by Elizabeth Regan

The town of Portland is set to become the fourth town in the state to ban fracking waste within its borders.

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday unanimously approved an ordinance to prohibit the handling, treating, storing and processing of fracking waste in Portland. The ordinance means fracking waste cannot be used in town construction or maintenance projects, in the sewer treatment plant and transfer station or as a road de-icer.

Portland joins Washington, Coventry and Mansfield in enacting such a ban.

About a dozen people came out to a public hearing prior to that evening's vote by the selectmen. Several residents spoke in support of the ban; none spoke against it.

The ordinance will be published in the newspaper within 10 days of passage and will go into effect on the 31st day after publication, according to town charter.

Fracking is the common name for hydraulic fracturing, the process through which natural gas is extracted from deep underground by pumping millions of gallons of highly pressurized, additive-laced water and sand into a well. The fluid "fractures" the rock formations and releases natural gas.

The nearest fracking operations are along the Marcellus Shale region in New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Various studies show the wastewater that returns to the surface can endanger humans and the environment if not recycled, properly disposed or treated.

The state is currently in a three-year moratorium on the use of fracking waste products,

which went into effect in 2014. Meanwhile, the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has been charged with devising its own regulations to control the substance as a hazardous waste.

Portland Clean Energy Task Force Chairman Andy Bauer told those at the public hearing that insufficient federal oversight of fracking complicates the state's ability to come up with its own regulations.

"We have grave misgivings that the DEEP will satisfactorily be able to come up with rules governing waste when it's difficult to identify toxins that the waste contains," Bauer said.

A 2011 minority staff report from the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee stated that a lack of federal disclosure requirements surrounding fracking and the exemption of most hydraulic fracturing injections from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act "has left an informational void concerning the contents, chemical concentrations and volumes of fluids that go into the ground during fracturing operations and return to the surface in the form of wastewater."

The report, using information voluntarily provided by 14 oil and gas service companies, went on to identify 29 known or suspected carcinogens among the 750 additives used in the fracking process, including lead, diesel, benzene, ethylene glycol, methanol, hydrochloric acid and formaldehyde.

Kerry Darby, a member of the Clean Energy Task Force, said the group had been discussing a potential ban on fracking waste for the past year and a half.

"Basically, we're trying to prevent toxic

waste from being stored or disposed of in Portland," she said. "We know some of the carcinogens that are in the toxic waste; we don't know all of them. We don't know how they work synergistically. Quite simply, I think it's a good idea for the town and the people of the town to keep toxic waste out of Portland."

Bauer emphasized that the use of oil or natural gas is not addressed in the ordinance. "Nor is it a commentary on fracking itself or anything of that matter," he said.

But Connecticut Petroleum Council Executive Director Steven Guveyan has described any rule banning fracking wastes as "a symbolic attempt to slow down the use of natural gas at a time when the trend line is going the other way."

Guveyan said last week that about 50 percent of the electricity produced in New England comes from natural gas. The number is increasing as power plants – including a facility in Bridgeport – switch from coal to natural gas.

He pointed to natural gas as a main plank of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's energy platform.

While the selectmen's vote was unanimous, Democrat Fred Knous said he had reservations about the ban.

"There's no fracking going on in New England," he said. "There's no storage of waste anywhere in New England. We have three jurisdictions out of 169 that have passed an ordinance. So there's clearly not a whole lot of fear that public safety is at risk. If I thought at all that public safety was at risk, I'd jump aboard 150 percent. But I don't see that."

Knous remained concerned about the chilling effect of another ordinance on the town's ability to foster economic development.

"There may be some folks looking to develop business – and heaven knows we need business if we're going to grow our grand list – that will say, 'Eh, I don't know, Portland is a town that seems to be overly aggressive and, really, how friendly are they going to be toward business?'"

Bauer, on the other hand, cited the ordinance as a potential draw.

"We could be a community where people who are looking to move in say 'Hey, Portland's got an ordinance against fracking. That sounds like a place I want to raise my kids,'" he said.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield on Thursday credited the Clean Energy Task Force with bringing the ordinance to fruition.

"They assign themselves a task, they do the necessary research and they inform, inform, inform," she said.

She added that the ordinance was carefully reviewed by selectmen as part of their commitment to protecting public health.

"By prohibiting drilling and extraction wastes, we've provided the best means possible to prevent any potential chemical or radioactive contamination from these wastes in our town," she said. "Thank you to all the citizens of Portland who worked on this measure and to those who voiced support at town meetings."

Bauer on Thursday expressed gratitude to the selectmen for their thorough and concerned deliberations. He also commended the members of the Clean Energy Task Force and residents who spoke in favor of the ordinance.

"It'll shield Portland from the possibility of exposure to an array of harmful toxins, and that's a good thing no matter how you slice it," he said.



**Ret. Massachusetts State Police Sgt. Dan Clark, known as the “Singing Trooper,” adds a musical perspective to a solemn Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, as town and state officials look on.**

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heightened by the sound of Clark’s voice and his dedication to telling the country’s story of sacrifice in song.

When the parade reached the intersection of Main Street and Fairview Street, Clark greeted the American Legion Honor Guard with the story behind “The Star-Spangled Banner” and then with the anthem itself.

The song faded into a 21-gun salute by members of the honor guard, which was composed of active duty and retired service members from different branches. Gunfire was soon replaced by the stark tones of three trumpets playing Taps.

What followed was the long line of parade participants led by honorary parade marshal George Brede, a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Antique vehicles and Corvettes mingled with groups including the Portland Fire Department, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the town Unified Sports program, the Portland Fireworks committee as well as Little League players and young martial artists.

Musical acts included the Portland High School marching band, whose members stepped off for the first time in their new uniforms, and the middle school band.

The Shriners, in festive costumes on tiny cars, and the Portland Cellar Savers’ antique fire

trucks were two returning favorites.

Parade organizer Sara Sterry Rudder said she was looking to “change up” the event this year, after almost two decades at the helm. When she heard Clark perform at a fundraiser for a Massachusetts firefighter with cancer, she knew she’d found the way to do it.

Rudder, a professional caterer, said her event-planning experience has taught her the value of using different mediums to get a message across.

“Not everybody wants to be lectured to in a speech,” she said.

The medium of song fit right into the parade, as well as the solemn ceremony that followed.

Clark followed up his Main Street performance at Veterans Memorial Park, where he stopped in front of the town’s monument to military members living and dead.

The ceremony was led by Major Tom DeRing, executive officer of the Army National Guard’s 192nd Engineer Battalion. The Portland High School marching band played the national anthem. Prayers were offered up by members of the local religious community; First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and state Rep. Christie Carpino made brief remarks.

Clark pointed to the three granite panels as a



**Members of the American Legion Ormont Post 69 Honor Guard approach the reviewing stand in front of Brownstone Memorial School, where Clark would meet them with the story behind the national anthem and a stirring rendition of the song.**

sign of the town’s commitment to recognizing the shared sacrifice of those in the military.

“This is incredible that you remember your men and women: Not only those who have passed away – the gold star families – but the blue star families who are also serving,” he said.

On the circular path surrounding the flagpole at the center of the monument, he sang a song about the “Ragged Old Flag” popularized by Johnny Cash.

“She’s been getting threadbare and she’s wearing thin, but she’s in good shape for the shape she’s in,” he intoned.

Then he called out the five full-time branches of the military, plus the U.S. Merchant Marine, in a medley of service songs. When each branch’s signature song came up, he asked those who had served and their family members to raise their hands.

Diane Bascom of Portland said Clark’s performance at the monument resulted in “the most incredible ceremony” she’d ever seen.

“I’ve never been so moved by one singer in my entire life,” she said. “He made eye contact with every person who raised their hand. It was amazing. Absolutely amazing.”

Bascom was there with her father, Paris Kollias, who served in the European theater in

World War II. The 91-year-old disabled Army veteran, a combat engineer, fought the winter elements and the German offensive in the Battle of the Bulge. The operation started in December 1944 and ushered in the last year of the war.

Kollias participated in the Memorial Day parade as the passenger in an authentic World War II Jeep for the second year in a row. He said he enjoyed the procession and the ceremony, but he was nonchalant about his membership in what’s been called the country’s greatest generation.

“Someone’s got to do it,” he said. “And I’d do it again.”

Kollias, who cleared mines in Europe and liberated a concentration camp, said the source of his wartime injury is unknown.

“I don’t know what it was. No one knows what it was,” he said. “But I know they carried me in. I was in the hospital for a couple days, then they discharged me and I still had the shrapnel in me.”

He was hit on Christmas, he said; the shrapnel was finally removed on Valentine’s Day.

But when it comes to sympathy, Kollias would have none of it. Instead, he repeated his mantra: “If I had to do it again, I would do it.”

## State Approves Funds for Bridge Replacement in Hebron

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The state Bond Commission last week approved \$360,000 in funds for Hebron for the replacement of the Marjorie Circle bridge over Jeremy Brook.

Hebron was one of 11 towns to receive grants for local bridge projects, totaling more than \$5 million, to be released through the Department of Transportation’s Local Bridge Program.

The \$359,750 awarded to Hebron will be used to replace the bridge, which was built in 1960 and was found to have considerable deterioration several years ago, with part of the bridge recently blocked off for safety.

“It’s a large project with a big price tag, so that’s going to help quite a bit,” Town Manager Andy Tierney shared. “That’s just another grant we applied for to help offset the cost so the taxpayers don’t have to pick up the dime for that bridge. We applied for a STEAP [Small Town Economic Assistance Program] grant as well, which we got, but this will help cover the rest

of the cost.”

The town was one of six municipalities to receive STEAP grant money to help with capital improvement projects last April; Hebron received \$391,000 from that round of awards.

According to a release from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy at the time the STEAP award was received, the replacement project “will restore a vital element of area travel for a surrounding residential community, a group home, a church and access to the town hall complex. The improved infrastructure will also provide better, safer access for emergency vehicles to reach other parts of town that may be unreachable during high-volume traffic times in surrounding major intersections.”

Public Works Director Kevin Kelly explained this week the total cost for the project is estimated at \$751,200 which means, as of right now, the portion the town has to cover stands at “\$450 and change.”

He added, however, there’s a chance those numbers could change between now and when the project goes out to bid.

“We don’t know how that’s going to pan out because the project is put off until next year, but we’re hoping those numbers won’t go up,” he stated. “We’re waiting now for the final permits to come in and we expect to see them sometime in July.”

Once they’re received, Kelly said, “We can start preparing our bid documents and specifications for the fall and winter, get it out to bid, and hopefully put it together for next year.”

State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19th District) wrote in a May 20 release that she anticipated the commission’s approval of the projects – which came May 27 – and applauded the state’s investment. She wrote, “I am always looking for ways to improve vital infrastructure projects in our district, and am glad that the state is investing in the critical needs of our municipali-

ties.”

Also commenting on the approval, state Rep. Gayle Mulligan (R-55th District) wrote this week, “This is fantastic news for our town. I’m proud to have been on the Board of Selectmen when we originally applied for STEAP funding for this project and I am glad I can see it come to fruition as the town’s state representative.”

She added, “It is imperative that we make the necessary improvements to our roads and bridges. Investing money to update our infrastructure is critical to protecting our assets, and providing safety for our residents is paramount. After listening to constituents last week at a Route 2 informational forum, it became even more clear to me that we must also do a better job prioritizing all of the state’s transportation projects and support those of critical need first and foremost, especially in these very difficult financial times.”

## Arrest Made in Fatal Andover Route 6 Crash

by Geeta S. Sandberg

A Tolland man was arrested last week in connection with a car collision last September that claimed the life of a Coventry woman.

Brian Filbig, 27, of Tolland, turned himself into Troop K in Colchester May 24 following an investigation that found he was legally intoxicated with cocaine in his system at the time of the Sept. 30 incident.

He was charged with second-degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle – a felony – as well as third-degree assault with a motor vehicle, first-degree reckless endangerment, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, evading a motor vehicle accident, failure to drive right, disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer.

According to police, Filbig was heading west on Route 6 in his Chevrolet Silverado with his girlfriend Sarah Donahue, 22, of Columbia around 2 a.m. when, near the intersection of Burnap Brook Road he collided with Amber Buczko, 30, of Coventry, who was traveling east in her Toyota Celica.

Buczko was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to the arrest warrant affidavit, following the collision Filbig walked away from the scene and was located by Coventry Police Sgt. Chris Fiori walking east on Route 6. Walking behind Filbig was a man who witnessed the crash, who waved Fiori down and told him he believed Filbig was the operator of the Silverado. According to the affidavit, when Fiori asked Filbig to stop and talk, he began to resist and continued walking; Fiori said he needed the assistance of the witness to place Filbig into investigative custody.

Meanwhile, Donahue was interviewed on scene and, according to the affidavit, she said she was arguing with Filbig while they were

driving, and that Filbig was looking at her when he suddenly swerved to the left and struck another vehicle in the opposite lane of traffic.

According to the affidavit, Donahue also stated they had consumed beer earlier in the evening, but she was unsure exactly how much Filbig had to drink.

Both Filbig and Donahue were transported to Windham Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. While there, according to the affidavit, Filbig provided a verbal statement saying he had been drinking prior to driving, that he and Donahue had been arguing, that he “turned the steering wheel of his truck into the oncoming lane of traffic,” and that the accident was his fault.

As per the normal course of practice at the hospital, the affidavit states blood and urine samples were taken and analyzed for drugs and alcohol. Filbig’s medical records were later seized pursuant to a warrant, and the tests showed Filbig tested positive for cocaine and had a blood alcohol content (BAC) level of .132. According to the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, an individual over the age of 21 is considered legally intoxicated with a BAC of .08 or above.

According to the affidavit, the two main contributing factors in the collision that resulted in Buczko’s death were that Filbig failed to drive in the established westbound lane of Route 6, and alcohol impairment. The affidavit adds Filbig recklessly endangered Donahue’s life by driving under the influence.

Filbig was released from custody on a \$150,000 bond. He is scheduled to appear in court June 6.

## East Hampton Woman Pleads No Contest to Manslaughter Charges

by Elizabeth Regan

An East Hampton woman has pleaded no contest to several charges, including second-degree manslaughter, that resulted after police say her vehicle veered into the opposite lane of traffic on North Main Street and continued onto the sidewalk one Friday morning in 2014.

Jennifer VanWycke, 36, is accused of striking and killing Jim Morris, 79, of East Hampton, on Oct. 27, 2014. She was arrested seven months later and has been held in jail since.

She will be sentenced Sept. 14 in Middletown, according to court documents.

In a plea bargain brokered by prosecutor Brian Kennedy and defense attorney Angela Anastasi, VanWycke did not contest the charges of second-degree manslaughter, risk of injury to a child and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The agreement, outlined in court documents, said VanWycke would serve four years of a 10-year sentence. She would be on probation for five years.

An arrest warrant affidavit said VanWycke failed field sobriety tests after the crash, even though the officer conducting the tests did not smell alcohol. After VanWycke agreed to an examination and blood tests at Marlborough Medical Center, police brought in a drug recognition expert from the Norwich Police Department. The Norwich officer said he believed VanWycke was under influence of several drugs and was unable to safely operate a motor vehicle, according to the affidavit.

Second-degree manslaughter with a motor vehicle is a Class C felony. It carries a penalty of one to 10 years in prison, a one-year driver’s license suspension and the installation of an ignition interlock device for two years after driving privileges resume.

Jim Morris’ wife of 50 years, Katie, said Wednesday that the important thing is a sen-

tencing date has been set.

“It’s been a long struggle,” she said. She reserved further comment for the sentencing.

A letter submitted to Judge David P. Gold by friends of the Morris family explained that Morris had a morning routine of taking a half hour-long walk to McDonald’s, buying a coffee, and walking home.

The couple wrote in their letter that Katie Morris, a member of the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association, heard the call go out the morning VanWycke drove onto the sidewalk, and that she knew the location was along her husband’s route.

Jim Morris had three children and nine grandchildren at the time of his death, according to his obituary. He had lived in East Hampton for 15 years after spending most of his life in New Canaan and Stamford.

“His children and grandchildren have a void in their lives,” the couple wrote to the judge. “Justice for Ms. VanWycke would be years in prison with drug rehabilitation.”

In another letter to the judge, Town Manager Michael Maniscalco described Morris as an active member of the East Hampton community who was always willing to share his unique perspective.

Morris was a voice of “wisdom and moderation” on the town committee tasked with identifying options for the outdated and undersized police department, according to Maniscalco.

Morris also served as president of the ambulance association and on the Planning and Zoning Board, his obituary said.

“Your Honor, I am sure you will make not only the right choice to make sure justice is found but will also make the right choice to ensure Ms. VanWycke receives the help she so desperately needs,” Maniscalco wrote.

## Maple Leaf Farm Named Business of the Year in Hebron

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The Windham Chamber of Commerce last month recognized Maple Leaf Farm as Hebron’s Business of the Year.

The farm, and owner Ned Ellis, were nominated by the Hebron Economic Development Commission and received the recognition at the chamber’s Annual Awards Dinner & Celebration May 4. According to a newsletter from the Economic Development Commission, the award “recognizes the farm’s economic contributions as a member of the Farmer’s Cow dairy collaborative, as well as Ellis’ civic contributions.”

Hebron Economic Development Coordinator John Guskowski said this week Ellis’ farm was the “obvious candidate” for the recognition.

“There was discussion amongst the Economic Development Commission about business owners who have done a lot for the community and who make the community proud,” he explained. “Ned is very active in serving local events – open space preservation and community events. As well as, the town is very, very proud of the success of The Farmer’s Cow collaborative. So it was discussed and he seemed like a natural to receive that honor. He was sort of the obvious candidate from our discussion.”

Ellis is present at many Hebron events, including the annual Maple Festival. He is a vocal supporter of open space in town, and a recent contribution to the community includes a \$475 check Ellis presented to the town’s Open Space and Land Acquisition Committee on behalf of the Farmer’s Cow May 13 to help support the protection and maintenance of the town’s open spaces.

Ellis shared this week he’s always been an advocate for open space.

“I think people say they move [to Hebron] for the education but I think they move for the quality of life and what the community has to offer, including open space,” he explained. At the farm, “we preserved 350 acres of open space from development. I’ve pushed with the town

to try to set aside land because once you put houses there it will never be used for farming purposes again.”

Ellis added along with ensuring land is preserved for farming, it was also important to take wildlife into consideration.

“We have to have quarters in town for wildlife; we can’t just have houses,” Ellis said. “We need places for wildlife to go. So I’m an advocate for open space and preserving what little farmland we have left any way we can, any way we can do it.”

Maple Leaf Farm is located on land that has been in the Ellis family since 1903, when it was purchased by Ellis’ great-grandfather (but the Ellis family has been farming in the area since the 1700s). While the farm originally had dairy cows, raised chickens and grew fruits and vegetables, dairy is now the farm’s main focus with around 500 Holstein cows, and hay and corn crops grown as feed for the herd.

The farm is one of six Connecticut farms that make up The Farmer’s Cow, which offers dairy products as well as locally-sourced eggs, apple cider, summer beverages and locally-roasted coffee.

Ellis added that, along with protecting land from development, the farm also attempts to be “good stewards of the land in everything we do – we have to.”

And steps taken to do just that include the installation of solar panels that generate 40 percent of the farm’s electricity, “and we try to conserve the soil as much as we can; we do whatever we can to be environmentally-conscious.”

Regarding the recent recognition, Ellis said, “It’s nice to see that the farm is recognized as a business because it is; it’s a big business, and there are a lot of other businesses that we support, whether it be the tractor dealership, food companies, vets – there’s just a lot of things that trickle down.”

He concluded, “A lot of people visit the farm. We’re in a beautiful area of town and I think people appreciate that, and we work well with



**Ned Ellis (left), owner of Maple Leaf Farm, presented selectman and Open Space Land Acquisition Committee Chairman Brian O’Connell with a \$475 check on behalf of the Farmer’s Cow May 13. The contribution is to help support the protection and maintenance of the town’s open spaces, and is an example of the farm’s commitment to civic engagement that led to it being recognized by the Windham Chamber of Commerce recently as business of the year. Ellis and O’Connell are shown here with Claudia Nakorski, a member of both the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee and the Parks and Recreation.**

the town fathers.”

Also speaking to the farm’s recognition this week, selectman Brian O’Connell said, “It’s a great thing. They’re a great member of the Hebron community both from an employment standpoint and as a steward of open space.”

Town Manager Andrew Tierney felt simi-

larly, saying “Ned Ellis and his farm is a mainstay in Hebron and I think it was a wonderful recognition.”

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Maple Leaf Farm is located at 788 Gilead St. For more information, visit [thefarmerscow.com](http://thefarmerscow.com).

# Obituaries

## Hebron

### Donald W. Werth

Donald W. Werth, 77, formerly of Hebron, died Friday, Feb. 26, at his home in Venice, Fla. Born Jan. 8, 1939, he was a native of Windham.

He was an industrial arts/technology teacher and department chair at Bacon Academy in Colchester, and was known for his woodworking and design skills. He built his own homes in Windham and Hebron and created custom woodworking and unique furniture. In retirement years, he became well-known for his modeling of HO scale railroad displays. He and his wife Carol enjoyed their retirement spending the summers at Lake Anna, Va., and winters in Venice, Fla.

Donald is survived by his wife, Carol Bailey Werth; sons Michael and Steven Werth (Christine); step-daughters Pamela Bailey Murphy (Charles) and Kristen Bailey; grandson Dylan Werth; and step-granddaughters Alyssa, Megan and Kelly. He is also survived by his brother, Robert Werth (Anne), and their two sons and daughter.

Friends are invited to gather between the hours of 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Tiffany-Juliet House, 82 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury, CT 06033 to share memories.

Kays-Ponger Uselton Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Venice, Fla., handled arrangements. A video of his life is at their website. To share thoughts and memories, visit [Kays-Ponger.com](http://Kays-Ponger.com).

Suggested memorial donations in his honor can be made to [info@baconacademy.com](mailto:info@baconacademy.com) or [pages.teamtraining.org/epa/yourway16/noelsarahTNT](http://pages.teamtraining.org/epa/yourway16/noelsarahTNT). The latter is a personal "Running for a Cure" specifically to help in the treatment of blood cancer under the National Leukemia Society.

## Colchester

### Maryan Pent

Maryan (Caffrey) Pent, 80, of Colchester, widow of the late Charles H. Pent Jr., passed away Tuesday, May 24, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice after a lengthy illness. Born Feb. 4, 1936, she was the daughter of the late William and Elizabeth (Hofmann) Caffrey.

Maryan retired several years ago, after having worked as an LPN for the VA Hospital in Rocky Hill for 20 years and later for Apple Rehab in Colchester for another 10 years.

She leaves three children, Charles H. Pent III of Lewistown, Pa., Christine Luna of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., and Carol Ann Pent of Cromwell; 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; a brother, Donald Caffrey of Ansonia; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband, who passed April 16, 2016, she was predeceased by a son, Gerald Pent, in 2009; as well as two grandchildren.

At her request, there will be no services and she will be laid to rest privately in the Higganum-Burr Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care at Middlesex Hospital, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Marlborough

### Murvyle Fleming

Murvyle Fleming, 87, formerly of Marlborough, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 6.

"Durfy" is survived by his wife of 65 years, Crystle Bowers Fleming; his daughter, Cheryl and son-in-law, Mark Mathiau; brother, Clifford and Alma Fleming; and a sister, Noreen McPhee.

He served in the Army for two years in Germany. He was a Mason for 50 years. He worked for Pratt & Whitney for 37 years as a tool and die maker. He had a hobby business of making square dance badges that took him all over the country for 25 years.

He will be laid to rest in Marlborough, where he lived for 60 years with winters in Zephyrhills, Fla., for about 25 years. A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 25, at 11 a.m., at Marlboro Cemetery.

## Cobalt

### Katherine Williams Celebration of Life

A "Celebration of Life" for Katherine J. Williams will be held Saturday, June 11, at 11 a.m., at Lakeview Cemetery, followed by a reception at the FFW Hall on 20 North Maple St. at noon.

Friends and family are all invited.

## Colchester

### Gerald Stanley Barnes

Gerald Stanley Barnes, 83, of Colchester, formerly of Moodus and Windsor, passed away peacefully with his family by his bedside Sunday, May 29. He was the son of the late Paul and Nellie May (Hughes) Barnes.

Jerry was born June 4, 1932, in New Hartford, N.Y. He was a member of the Clinton High School Class of 1951. He attended the University of Rochester for Mechanical Engineering, where he was a member of the U.S. Navy ROTC. He later transferred to the U.S. Army and served as a telecommunications specialist in Paris, France.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Army, he started his career in Information Technology with General Electric and married his high school sweetheart June 28, 1956. He later worked for Saunders, United Shoe and United Technology Pratt and Whitney until his retirement in 1988. Upon his retirement, he volunteered at the Rocky Hill Veterans' Home with his daughter Judy.

Jerry was a master chess player. He enjoyed fixing things around the house, helping others, photography, movies, family card games and dogs. Jerry loved telling stories and jokes. He loved the time he had with his family and was so proud of his grandsons.

Jerry was predeceased by his brother Leroy and sister June Dougherty of Clinton, N.Y. He leaves behind his loving wife of 60 years, Johanna (Morgan) Barnes; his daughters, and their husbands, Judith Barnes and her husband Alexander C. Oliphant IV of Colchester, and Jennifer and Hermann Keilich of Windsor and their two sons Spencer and Stefan. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Judy and Alex for granting Jerry's wish to spend his final days at home. Thanks for the care of the Hartford Healthcare at Home nurses and phlebotomists. Special thanks for the outstanding care of Mark Tuttle M.D. and his nurses, and his favorite aide, Laurie B.

We will always hold you in our hearts. We will miss your smile and in your words... "Did I tell you the story about...?"

Per Jerry's request, services will be private. Memorial donations may be made to: Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Auxiliary 5095, Attn: Kathy Barber, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

All donated monies will be used for the Rocky Hill Veterans Home.

## Marlborough

### Joan Orzech

Joan (Malecky) Orzech, 100, of Glastonbury, wife of the late Joseph J. Orzech, died Friday, May 27, at the Marlborough Health Care Center. Born Sept. 17, 1915, in Glastonbury, daughter of the late Stanley and Balbina (Leach) Malecky, she was a lifelong resident.

Joan retired from Aetna, but also enjoyed a long career as a seamstress – including working in the fine dresses department of the original G. Fox and Company. Always active, Joan was a life member of the League of the Sacred Heart, a member of AARP and the Glastonbury Senior Center. Joan always enjoyed a good game of setback, following the stock market, talking politics, and lunch with friends.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and John Cinciva of South Glastonbury; a sister Shirley Masterson and her husband Edward of Somers; her three granddaughters and their husbands, Anne and Jay Santos of Mansfield, Mass., Lori and Matthew Hackethal of New York, N.Y., and Lynn and William Warner of Glastonbury; three great-grandchildren, Rebecca and Ailinn Santos, and Mallory Warner; and two cousins, Lillian Johnson and William Leach.

She was predeceased by four brothers and four sisters, John Malecky, Frederick Malecky, Edmund Malecky, Stanley Malecky Jr., Florence Malecky, Elizabeth Marone, Irene LeRoy and Bernice Malecky.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, June 1, in St. Augustine Church, 55 Hopewell Rd., South Glastonbury. Burial followed in St. Augustine Cemetery. Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, Tuesday, May 31.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Recreation Department at Marlborough Health Care Center, 85 Stage Harbor Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447.

For online condolences, visit [mulryanfh.com](http://mulryanfh.com).

## Colchester

### Roxanna Starbuck Yarrow

Roxanna Starbuck Yarrow, 81, of Colchester, formerly of Middletown, passed away suddenly Monday, May 30, surrounded by loved ones.

Born in Burlington, Vt., March 28, 1935, and raised in New Bedford, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Dr. George William and Rachel Haskell (Closson) Starbuck II.

Roxanna had worked as an inventory clerk for Dictaphone and later Pitney Bowes for many years before her retirement.

She loved spending time outdoors tending in her beautiful gardens and watching the birds, as well as watching any type of sporting event and NASCAR. In addition to countless treasured memories that she leaves behind are her award winning counted cross stitch works as well as her cherished thimble and spoon collections.

Her greatest joy was found in her family whom she leaves behind: son, Robert Yarrow and his wife, Jeanne of Lambertville, N.J.; daughter (and best friend), Debra Yarrow of Manchester; daughter, Heather Parlee and her husband Robert; grandchildren, Katherine Yarrow and Joshua and Rachael Parlee; her sister, Mary Payne of West Haven; her sister-in-law, Pammella Starbuck of Grand Isle, Vt.; her three "handsome" nephews and their families; special friends, Noella Daigle and Winter Ducki; as well as all those who affectionately knew her as "Grammie."

In addition to her parents, she now rejoins her stepmother, Virginia Starbuck; daughter, Kimberlee Sanborn; brother, George Wm. Starbuck III; and her nephew, E. Palmer Payne.

The family will receive guests from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Celebration of her Life will be observed at 3 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be private in the Springdale Cemetery, Montague, Mass.

In addition to floral tributes, those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 or to the charity of their choice.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Amston

### Jason David Noble

Jason David Noble, 32, of Amston, found peace Monday, May 30, at his home in Hebron. He was born July 28, 1983, in Rockville.

Jason had many passions, including boating, camping, water sports, snowboarding and especially fishing. He also loved to cook, play pool and watch the Patriots. More than anything, he loved his children and his dog, Honey Bear, a.k.a. Bad News. Jason was the proud owner of Noble Exteriors. He will be remembered as a hard-working man and a loving father.

He leaves behind his father, John Noble and his fiancée, Lorrie Wyman, his mother, Brenda Tromza and William Tromza; his children, Benjamin Noble and Khloe Noble; former wife, Tammy Noble; a sister, Corri Cummings, her husband David, and their children; a brother, Derek Tromza, his wife Chelsea, and their children.

As a last loving gift, Jason gave the gift of life through organ donation.

The family will receive guests from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, June 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester. A Celebration of his Life will be observed at 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to a dog rescue or shelter of one's choice.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



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## Obituaries continued

### East Hampton



#### Pete Kemp

Pete Kemp, 67, died in Tampa, Fla., on Monday, May 16. He was the son of the late Willard Henry and Eleanor Frances Kemp, who both predeceased him. His father died in East Hampton last year and his mother died in 2013.

He grew up in Stamford, where his family has lived for generations. He joined the Navy when he was 17 and was a nationally recognized industrial arts teacher at Bethel Middle School – where he taught for over 30 years. In the Navy he was assigned to the U. S. Naval Security Group Command (NAVSECGRU) and was tasked with “intelligence gathering and denial of intelligence to adversaries.” This special group has now been decommissioned.

He started in emergency communications working in Stamford’s Civil Defense Office in 1964. When he moved to Bethel he joined the Bethel Office of Civil Defense, now known as the Office of Emergency Management, which works with the Department of Homeland Security. When he retired in 2001 he was the Assistant Director of Emergency Management for Bethel.

Active in ham radio and emergency communications, his call sign was KZ1Z. Kemp was a leader in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) serving as the Past Connecticut ARRL Section Communications Manager (SCM – now SM), veteran Field Organization volunteer. An ARRL Life Member, Kemp served as Connecticut SCM for 6 years in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Over the years he also had filled several other ARRL Field Organization roles in Connecticut and in West Central Florida, including Assistant SM (1992 to 2004 and 2008 to 2015); Public Information Coordinator, District Emergency Coordinator, Emergency Coordinator, and Official Observer.

He was a member of numerous professional associations in the fields of ham radio, education, the American Legion, NRA and the US Naval

Cryptologic Veterans Association.

For many years, he was an Assistant Director for New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI. “He was a superb teacher in the Bethel Middle School, a wonderful mentor, licensed over 700 hams, an active member of Candlewood Amateur Radio Association, and one who really understood what it meant to actualize his potential,” said ARRL Connecticut SM Betsey Doane, K1EIC.

Peter Kemp, KZ1Z, is an Extra Class radio amateur with over 45 years of experience. He began his radio adventures in the 1950s, making crystal radios in elementary school, and has been involved ever since. He is the author of *A Teacher’s Guide to Amateur Radio Instruction*, published in 2014 by the ARRL. He also authored numerous articles and was a co-author of the ARRL’s popular series of Emergency Communications courses and of the Public Service Communications Manual.

Kemp was retired from the Bethel Public Schools, where he was an industrial arts teacher for over 30 years. He had also served as an adjunct faculty member at Central Connecticut State University.

Professionally, Mr. Kemp received his Bachelor of Science degree in Technology Education, a Master of Science degree in Educational Media, and a Professional Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Administration and Curriculum Development.

He was named Herb S. Brier Volunteer Instructor of the Year and Professional Teacher of the Year – the only person to receive both ARRL honors. He also was a recipient of the Marconi Award, presented to him by Senator Barry Goldwater, from the Veteran Wireless Operators of America, and he was named Connecticut’s Technology Teacher of the Year. Kemp was the League’s first Educational Advisor.

He was proud of his family heritage in Connecticut where the family has lived since the 1600s. In addition to his military service his niece, father, brothers, uncles, and grandfathers all served in the military. Sixteen of his ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War and a dozen came over on the Mayflower. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society.

He is survived by his brothers, Thomas (and Vi) Kemp of East Hampton, Robert Kemp of Stamford, and Bill (and Luisa) Kemp of Stamford; as well as his nieces and nephews, Andrew, Sarah, Chris, Laura, Billy, Kelly and Dennis Kemp; and numerous cousins.

He will be buried with his parents at the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 2.

### From the Editor’s Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Well, Memorial Day 2016 has come and gone – and I feel badly for the many of you out there who didn’t get a chance to march the way you’d hoped.

Memorial Day is of course about much more than parades, but still, I couldn’t help but feel for the participants in various parades around the state as, one by one, they got canceled Sunday, in advance of what was forecast to be showers and thunderstorms nearly the whole day Monday.

As folks in East Hampton, Hebron and Marlborough know, those towns’ parades got canceled. Ditto for my town of Manchester, as well as a whole bunch of others. I mean, what can you do, weather happens – although the day wound up not being nearly as rainy as the forecasters had predicted – but I still felt bad for the people who didn’t get to march, particularly kids, who were probably really looking forward to it. There’s always next year.

But, like I said, Memorial Day is of course not about parades but, rather, about remembering those who gave the greatest sacrifice for this country. And in reading *Time* magazine recently, I came across some interesting history about the holiday that I didn’t know.

*Time* says that Yale University historian David Blight traces the first Memorial Day back to April 1865, when a group of former slaves gathered at a Charleston, S.C., horse track that had been turned into a Confederate prison, where more than 250 Union soldiers had died. The former slaves dug up the soldiers’ mass grave, interred the bodies in individual graves, built a 100-yard fence around them and erected an archway over the entrance that featured the words “Martyrs of the Race Course.”

On May 1, 1865, 10,000 black Charleston residents, white missionaries, teachers, schoolchildren and Union troops marched around the Planters’ Race Course, singing and carrying armfuls of roses. Five black preachers recited scripture and a children’s choir sang spirituals and “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Over the next couple of years, the holiday would be celebrated in a few cities here and there. But *Time* said there wouldn’t be a widespread marking of what was to be known as Memorial Day until 1868, when General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic – an organization of former soldiers and sailors – proclaimed May 30 “Decoration Day,” which was “designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion.” On Decoration Day that year, General James Garfield gave a speech at Arlington National Cemetery. Afterward, 5,000 observers adorned the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers entombed at the cemetery.

As you may have guessed, Memorial Day very much has its origins in the Civil War. In

fact, it was so closely linked with the war that, according to *Time*, many Southern states refused to celebrate it. They gave in only after World War I, when the holiday was expanded to include Americans who died fighting in all wars. It was also renamed Memorial Day. But this shift in focus actually caused some controversy, *Time* reported, with some critics saying that by making the holiday more inclusive, the original focus – on, to quote Frederick Douglass, the moral clash between “slavery and freedom, barbarism and civilization” – was lost.

Red poppies are a big part of Memorial Day celebrations these days – and *Time* shared that this tradition started with a woman named Moina Michael, in 1918. Michael, an overseas war secretary at the time, came across, in an issue of *Ladies’ Home Journal*, a copy of the World War I poem “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae. The poem begins, “In Flanders fields the poppies blow/ Between the crosses, row on row” – and Michael was particularly moved by the closing stanza:

“Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.”

Michael, *Time* reported, vowed always to wear a silk poppy in honor of the American soldiers who gave their lives for their country. She started selling them to friends and co-workers, and campaigned for the red flowers to become an official memorial emblem. The American Legion adopted the symbol in 1921 – and in the ensuing decades the tradition spread to more than 50 other countries, including England, France and Australia.

As we all know, Memorial Day, much like Thanksgiving, doesn’t have a set date; rather, it’s celebrated on the last Monday of May. It’s been this way for the past 45 years, when, with the National Holiday Act of 1971, Congress moved Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May. This wasn’t a popular move with everyone, with critics arguing that, by guaranteeing the holiday would be part of a three-day weekend, it promotes relaxation instead of the holiday’s true meaning. Indeed, in 1989, Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii introduced a bill to move the holiday back to the fixed date of May 30, and reintroduced it (to little success) in nearly every Congress thereafter, up until his death in 2012.

Lastly, in 2000, Congress passed an act designed to emphasize the true meaning of the day. The National Moment of Remembrance Act asks all Americans to, at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, “voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to ‘Taps.’”

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See you next week.

## Colchester Police News

5/22: State police said Gerald Cassella, 29, of 72 Russell Ave., Apt. B, Plainville, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, traveling at an unreasonable speed, DUI and failing to drive in the proper lane.

5/25: Colchester police said Thomas Bailey, 26, of 1 Carolyn Dr., Hebron, was arrested and charged with criminal violation of a restraining order.

5/27: Colchester police said Lorraine Fleury, 49, of 116 Chestnut Dr., Colchester, was arrested and charged with DUI and a stop sign violation.

5/30: Colchester police said Sarah L. Jolly, 29, of 149 Pautipaug Hill Rd., Sprague, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny.

## Marlborough Police News

5/22: State police said Jack Nelson Janssen, 19, of 10 Overshot Dr., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief and second-degree forgery.

5/25: State police said Carlos Cruz, 39, of 267 Main St., Apt. 7, Bristol, was arrested and charged with failing to carry certificate of insurance, reckless driving and interfering with a police officer.