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U.S. Navy Commander Michael Flatley, flanked by his family and Cub Scouts from East Hampton's Pack 8, pledged allegiance to the flag at the Yellow Ribbon ceremony held in the Village Center to welcome him back from his fourth overseas deployment.

Belltown Celebrates Naval Officer's Return

by Elizabeth Regan

According to Navy Commander Michael Flatley's conservative calculations, he's spent 1,400 days apart from his wife and 1,250 days away from his children in the twenty years the couple has been married.

The shared sacrifice was recognized Sunday by roughly 80 supporters who gathered in the Village Center to watch Flatley take down the yellow ribbon that was tied around the tree in January to mark his fourth overseas deployment.

"I always say my wife and I have been married for 20 years, and we've been together for 15," he told the crowd from a podium set up on the traffic triangle in front of the Congregational Church of East Hampton. His wife, Emily, and children Sean, Kailey and Riley stood by his side.

The efforts of the Yellow Ribbon Committee – which began in 2011 when founder Ann McLaughlin set out to honor service members like her Purple Heart-decorated grandson, Connecticut National Guard Staff Sgt. Aaron McLaughlin – came full circle with this weekend's celebration. That's because Flatley was the first recipient of the Yellow Ribbon

Committee's inaugural welcoming ceremony six years ago.

A member of the United States Naval Academy class of 1993, Flatley has served in Kosovo, Iran, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq. He was treated to a Yellow Ribbon Committee parade in his Chatham Fields Road neighborhood in July 2011 upon his return from an 11-month deployment in Iraq.

This time around, he spent just under a year in Afghanistan. He returned in October.

Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman was on hand Sunday to recognize Flatley and his family for their service to the country. She told the commander that citizens would not have the freedom they enjoy today if it weren't for him; she told his family that he couldn't do his job if it weren't for them.

Surrounded by members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5085 Color Guard, the VFW Auxiliary Color Guard and the Connecticut Patriot Guard, Wyman noted the blustery conditions.

"That big wind that just came by: You realize that wasn't what makes the flags fly, right?"

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School Board Wins Lawsuit Against Town

by Julianna Roche

Nearly two years and \$67,917 in taxpayer dollars later, the lawsuit between the East Hampton Board of Education and Town Council was finally put to bed last Thursday after Middlesex Superior Court Judge Edward Domnarski ruled that the school board has the "exclusive authority" to make appointments to any vacancies on its board.

According to the judge's Nov. 16 memorandum of decision, the town council is only able to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education should the school board fail to do so within 30 days.

Domnarski's 11-page decision explained that while local laws regarding appointment authority supersede state statute, East Hampton's town charter is too ambiguous to trump the state law giving school boards the power to fill their own vacancies.

In the time between the filing of the lawsuit in 2015 and Domnarski's final word, voters last year rejected a charter revision proposal that would have explicitly given the town council the authority to fill vacancies on boards and commissions.

School business manager Karen Asetta said this week that the Board of Education has spent \$39,394 over the last two fiscal years in litigation fees regarding this lawsuit; while the town has expended \$28,523 in legal fees, according

to figures provided by Town Manager Mike Maniscalco.

When asked her thoughts on the ruling, Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said Tuesday she was "over it" and that she also felt it important to note the school board filed the lawsuit in the first place, not the town.

"We [Town Council] couldn't do anything about it except try to defend ourselves," she said, adding that there are "bigger fish to fry" than fighting with the Board of Education.

Board of Education Chairman Chris Goff said this week he was "mostly happy" that a decision had finally been reached, but was also "just very pleased" with the ruling overall.

The decision marked the latest in the drawn-out battle between the school board and council that began in November 2015, when the outgoing school board – under the leadership of former Board of Education Chairman Kenneth Barber – filled a post-election vacancy instead of waiting for its newly-elected members to be sworn in so they could interview candidates for the position.

Goff explained that when former board member Josh Piteo, a Republican, was elected to the Town Council during the 2015 general election, the Board of Education met in a special session soon after to ask interim Superintendent Mark Winzler to post the vacancy pub-

licly so that interviews could be held and a new member subsequently appointed by the school board. No vote was taken however, with Barber at the time explaining it was an administrative action that did not require one.

Later that same day, the Town Council also met. That's when they appointed Republican Michael Rose to the vacant Board of Education seat, citing their authority granted in the town charter. The move would have resulted in a Republican majority; however, Rose declined the seat.

Four days after Rose declined the appointment, the outgoing school board met in a rare Saturday special meeting, ultimately appointing Democrat Jeffrey Carlson to the seat and tipping the majority to the Democrats with a 6-1 vote. The nay vote belonged to Republican Debra Devin.

In December, the school board filed a lawsuit against the town to determine who had the authority to make appointments to the school board should a vacancy arise.

"We [as a board] 100 percent believed we were the appointing authority," Goff said.

In 2016, the school board and council agreed to put the case on hold however, until voters could weigh in on the issue during a charter revision referendum. Last November, residents and taxpayers rejected proposed charter lan-

guage that would have given the town council the authority to fill vacancies on boards and commissions, and to require them to appoint a member of the same party as the one who left the seat.

That specific question on the November general election ballot failed by a 559-vote margin. The other four proposed charter revisions passed, including a provision that all elected officials be sworn in the day after election.

As the litigation dragged on, tension between the Board of Education and Town Council continued when the school board appointed Lois Villa to fill the vacancy for Barber this May – spurring the town to file for a restraining order to prevent Villa from fulfilling her duties, which was ultimately denied by a judge.

In his final ruling, Domnarski cited that historically speaking, since 1990, there have been at least seven midterm vacancies on the school board, each of which had been filled by the Board of Education.

With the litigation behind them, Goff said that on Saturday he and Engel shared a "very cordial, good" conversation regarding the final ruling and he was "looking forward" to "starting a fresh, clean slate."

"Now we need to stop fighting and work together to accomplish things," he said.

Belltown Celebrates cont. from Front Page

she asked the audience. "It is the freedom that everybody fought for that allows us to have this flag flying."

Other dignitaries included state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, Board of Education Chairman and Yellow Ribbon Committee member Christopher Goff and Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel.

"We were sad to see you off; we're extraordinarily happy to see you back," Engel told Flatley.

With Flatley at the podium, the focus of the ceremony changed. What began as the community's celebration of a sailor turned into his celebration of the community.

He credited a diverse array of individuals and organizations with producing the "collective strength" that makes the United States great.

He bestowed several framed flags, which were flown over Afghanistan during his deployment, on people representing different facets of the community: small businesses, medical professionals, emergency responders and teachers. He saved the last flag for Ann McLaughlin, whom he said exemplifies the American spirit of individuality, generosity, loyalty and thoughtfulness.

"It really is a collective effort that makes our country great," Flatley said after the ceremony. "So while I might answer my calling in the military, others have chosen to answer their callings as teachers, as firefighters, as police, and by running small businesses. It's the contributions of all those people that I think continues to build our country and make it the best place to live."

The Flatley children: Sean, 18; Kailey, 15; and Riley, 11, said it is always nice to know they are supported throughout their father's

deployments.

While Sean and Kailey said the most difficult part of his military career is not having him around during milestone events and holidays, Riley said she misses the smaller, everyday interactions.

"I think the hardest part with my dad being away is not being able to hold him or hug him or even physically touch him," she said. "You can only really say hi on a computer screen and that's hard, because you can't reach out and touch him."

Still, Emily Flatley pointed to technology like FaceTime, a videophone application, as an integral part of life for the military family. She said the kids are able to watch football games or movies with their father while he's away, or open birthday or Christmas presents as he watches through his smart phone.

But this year was toughest for the family when he couldn't be there for Sean's 18th birthday or to celebrate the couple's 20th wedding anniversary, she said.

She credited community support with helping them get through Flatley's deployments. The support ranges from neighbors who pitch in whenever the family needs help to the Yellow Ribbon Committee's efforts to bring together the wider community in recognition of military service.

Michael Flatley said seeing that community come together at the ceremony is what made it so special to him.

"It means everything," he said. "It's seeing in person what I feel in my heart, that Americans are still true to the ideals we were founded on. People still believe in service, not just service to yourself, but service to something bigger than yourself."

Marlborough School Enrollment Expected to Drop

by Julianna Roche

Keeping with a pattern that has been consistent for nearly 10 years, the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) has once again projected Marlborough Elementary School will have a lower student enrollment in the coming school year.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz presented board members with NESDEC's projections at the Nov. 16 Board of Education meeting. Numbers show the the total student enrollment is expected to decrease by approximately 7.74 percent, from 491 students in the 2017-18 year to 453 in 2018-19 among prekindergarten through sixth grade.

According to Sklarz, the projections "tell a story" of declining enrollment at MES, which has been decreasing steadily since 2009, when the school had a total of 668 enrolled students.

Per NESDEC projections, MES enrollment is expected to stay approximately the same size for the next decade, with enrollment expected to range between 436 and 467 students between now and 2027.

The superintendent furthered that the decreasing enrollment is likely due to smaller entering kindergarten enrollments, with the 2018-19 year projected to have three kindergarten classes based on NESDEC's numbers and the fact that there were 41 births in 2013 and 55 students in kindergarten.

"The fact is that as enrollment goes down,

it requires us to make some necessary adjustments," Sklarz said, which could include reducing staff and decreasing the number of classes.

"I just think it's part of the responsible decision making process of the board," he continued, adding that per class size guidelines, a lower student enrollment means the total number of kindergarten classes must also decrease.

"It's not always pleasant," Sklarz said. "Nobody wants larger class sizes, [but] the board has been very true to the idea of making sure we have that balance between fiscal responsibility and a commitment to maintaining the integrity of [the school]."

During the school board meeting last week, resident Dave Porteous spoke out during public comments to question the reliability of NESDEC projections, noting that there have been instances where the actual enrollment number has been higher than what was projected.

However Sklarz explained Tuesday that the projections in recent years have been "pretty much on target" and quite "reliable."

Sklarz furthered that the school also keeps a better record today than in years past of its own projections regarding which children are in daycare or preschool, and those children that have siblings.

Colchester Community Mourns Two Longtime Educators

by Julianna Roche

The Colchester community was faced with two tragic losses last week with the passing of longtime local educators Joe Rukus and Bob Warren, who served in the public school system as a 36-year elementary school teacher and Bacon Academy principal for 22 years, respectively.

Warren died at age 77 on Monday, Nov. 13. He began his career in education as an English teacher at Nathan-Hale Ray High School in East Haddam, before teaching in Glastonbury and Hartford, and finally Colchester. He was hired as principal of the former central middle school in 1974.

According to Warren's daughter Ruth, her father "always loved books [and] poetry" with Mark Twain and Robert Frost being among his favorite writers.

In 1976, Warren became principal of Bacon Academy, a position he ultimately held for 22 years – the longest tenure of any principal since the school's founding in 1803.

According to his daughter Ruth, Warren was a dedicated educator – even spending time during his summer vacations at Bacon, often taking her with him to help the secretaries staple documents and prepare for the start of the new school year.

"He was really involved [and] very hands on," Ruth said, adding her father also "took pride in knowing everyone's name and everyone's schedule by heart, no matter how many kids were in the building."

She said her father was also instrumental in the planning and construction of the "newest" Bacon Academy, which was considered to be a state-of-the-art building when it reopened its doors in 1993.

The school's academic wing was then dedicated to Warren, recognizing his influence and many contributions to the school system.

According to Ruth, her father studied English literature at St. Michael's College, where he was active in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He joined the U.S. Air Force after his

graduation in 1962, serving until his honorable discharge in 1965.

"He definitely instilled in me a work ethic," Ruth said, adding that both she and her brother Dan were taught to "work really hard [and] play really hard."

Ruth said both she and Dan were also inspired by their father to become educators themselves, with her working as a special education teacher in Lawrence, Mass. and her brother as a paraeducator in Deep River.

Ruth also recalled her father's active involvement in the athletic department.

"As kids, he would always bring us to [Bacon] basketball games and I remember sitting way up in the bleachers," Ruth said, explaining that even then, her father would be either working the games or supervising.

"He was very involved [at the school], and very involved in the town of Colchester," she said. "I remember him being very hands on."

Rukus died a day after Warren, on Nov. 14 – also at the age of 77. He had served as a fourth and fifth grade teacher and spent time mentoring countless youths through the Boy Scouts, having been an Eagle Scout himself. He retired in 2003.

According to his son, Joe Rukus Jr., his father was a gentle man who "brought that gentleness into the classroom with him and that's what made him a very special teacher."

"He was able to look at students as more than a number in a gradebook," he furthered, adding that Rukus actually preferred working with children who were struggling in the classroom rather than high-level enrichment kids.

"He had the patience to do that; it's what he truly enjoyed," Joe Jr. said, adding that his father had a knack for understanding the different learning styles of his students and then tailoring his teaching approach to fit each student's specific needs.

According to Joe Jr., Rukus also had an uncanny ability to strike up friendships with strangers and "to communicate with folks regardless of their age or what condition they were



Bob Warren



Joe Rukus, Sr.

in."

"It's something I actually thought was very annoying when I was a younger kid, but I have come to respect it tremendously as I've grown older," he said. "Obviously when you're saying goodbye to someone, you catch all these things that you never caught when they were alive... but it was his ability to always strike up conversation that endeared him to so many people."

Joe Jr., who also has a sister, Lisa Heller, and step sister, Lilly Jacqueline, explained that it was ultimately his father's "love of the classroom" that led him to decide later in life to become a college professor. He currently teaches criminology at Arkansas State University, a position he has held since 2014.

Having served in the local school system across multiple decades, both Rukus and War-

ren were "multi-generational," according to both their children.

Recounting her father's 50-year class reunion for Nathan Hale-Ray High School in East Haddam (where he once taught), Ruth said some of the classmates he reconnected with had grandchildren who had also been his students.

Joe Jr. shared similar sentiments about his father.

"He [Rukus] taught thousands of students in Colchester... he had students of parents and grandparents who had [also] been his students," he explained, adding that while his father was forced into retirement due to an eye injury, the moment he recovered, school administrators tried to recruit him into substitute teaching.

"He was an absolutely awesome teacher," he added. "It was really his compassion and his ability to communicate [that made him] so beloved."

Obituaries

East Hampton

Rev. Msgr. Robert L. Brown

The Reverend Monsignor Robert L. Brown, beloved chancellor of the Diocese of Norwich, was called to eternal rest with the Lord, Saturday, Nov. 4. Monsignor Brown, formerly of East Hampton, had faithfully served the Diocese of Norwich first as assistant chancellor and then chancellor for 41 years.



Ordained May 3, 1969 by the Most Reverend Vincent J. Hines, Bishop of Norwich, at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich, he would be appointed a Prelate of Honor by Pope Saint John Paul II with the title of monsignor in March 1992.

Monsignor Brown was born in Middletown Feb. 12, 1943, the son of the late Mrs. Elsie (Ferrigno) Brown and the late James Marshall Brown. A graduate of East Hampton High School, he studied for the priesthood at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield and St. Bernard Seminary in Rochester, N.Y., where he earned a Master of Divinity degree.

Monsignor will be remembered fondly for his tireless dedication to ministering hope and God's love to all who were fortunate to know him. To know him was to appreciate his deep faith often expressed in his favorite expression "We live in hope." It was this belief that helped him lift so many lives. He radiated hope. He lived and shared the patient belief that hope gives us the confidence in God's ultimate triumph and love which can never be shaken. Monsignor Brown was a gifted priest who has left a remarkable legacy of caring, especially for the most vulnerable.

Among Monsignor's first assignments as a priest, prior to his service in the chancellor's office, was as associate pastor at St. John Church, Old Saybrook, Sacred Heart Church in Norwichtown and St. John in Fitchville. He also served at St. Joseph Church in New London. Over his years of service as chancellor, he was appointed to numerous boards in service to the diocese and the community at large. Among these leadership positions were a seat on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Catholic Conference, the Board for State Academic Awards, St. Bernard School Board of Trustees, Director for Pro-Life Activities, Knights of Columbus Chaplaincy, Chair of the Campaign for Human Development, Director of Catholic Relief Services and oversight of 12 diocesan ministry directors.

While assigned to St. Joseph Church in New London, Monsignor Brown helped found the Interfaith Hospital Chaplaincy at L & M Hospital and was active in the American Cancer Society. In April 1988, Colonel Lester J. Forst, commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police, appointed Monsignor Brown a Connecticut State Police chaplain. In addition, Monsignor Brown was chaplain for the Law Enforcement Council, which serves 22 police departments across Connecticut.

His many appointments, participation in vital ministries and annual tribute events honoring those who serve as firefighters, EMS first responders, law enforcement at all levels, military servicemen and women, medical personnel, educators, the disabled and the growing Hispanic ministry speak to his remarkable dedication and capacity to serve others of all faiths. His breadth of service and outreach is beyond exceptional. He will be deeply and widely missed across the diocese and the communities it serves.

In prayerful remembrance, Bishop Michael R. Cote shared, "We pray for Monsignor's swift journey into the peace and light of God the Father. We are extremely grateful for the time we spent together on the earthly leg of his journey."

Monsignor Brown is survived by a sister, Mrs. Maryann Olzacki; a niece and three nephews; numerous cousins, especially Mrs. Johann Pardi, Mrs. Lenora Bear, Mrs. Kathleen Ancalone, Mrs. Frances Samuelson, Mr. Richard Lanzi, Mrs. Marilyn Lanzi, Mrs. Barbara Kiley; extended family and friends; Bishop Michael R. Cote; and his brother priests.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, Nov. 11, in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, 213 Broadway, Norwich. The Vigil for the Deceased with Reception at the Church took place Friday, Nov. 10, in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, 213 Broadway, Norwich, followed by a wake that evening in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, c/o The Chancery, 201 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360.

Portland

Rev. Fred William Hodge

Reverend Fred William (Bill) Hodge, 66, of Portland passed away on November 16 following a long battle with melanoma, with his family by his side.

He is survived by his wife of forty-three years, Ann, and daughter Sharon Schmidt and her husband Bud of Hatboro, PA. He is also survived by his brothers John (Jack) and his wife Jo of Kennesaw, GA, and Stephen and his wife Jeannette of Portland, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Harrison and Doris (Lane) Hodge and his brother Robert (Bob) and his wife Joan of Portland.

He graduated from Portland High School in 1969, West Virginia Wesleyan College with a BA in Elementary Education in 1974, Fairmont State College with an Associate Degree in Respiratory Therapy in 1980 and The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia with a Masters of Divinity in 2000.

He taught elementary school in Sterling Park, VA, for three years. He worked as a respiratory therapist at Ruby Hospital in Morgantown, WV and New Britain General Hospital for a total of 18 years. In 2000, he followed his calling and became the pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton, where he served as the pastor for seven years. He finished his career as a Hospice Spiritual Coordinator.

He was Master Councilor of the Mattabasset Chapter of DeMolay in Middletown and earned the Degree of Chevalier. He was also president of the Alpha Gamma chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon service fraternity at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Bill was especially proud of his role as Chaplain to the Portland Police and Fire Departments, East Hampton Police Department, Connecticut State Police Colchester barracks and the Connecticut Critical Incident Stress Management team. He was forever changed by the experiences he had with them.

Bill loved sharing his singing and guitar playing, as well as putting his woodworking skills to use creating beautiful items for family and friends. Bill discovered the joy of riding scooters, and he and Ann shared rides exploring the back roads of Connecticut. Toward the end of his life, he made it a mission to share the story of his struggle with melanoma, and encouraged everyone to get evaluated by a dermatologist.

His family would like to thank the family and friends who came together to support Bill through the long and difficult treatment journey.

Friends and relatives paid their respects to the Hodge family on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 2-5 p.m. at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church Street, Middletown, CT. The funeral was held Monday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1055 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT. Burial followed at the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory may be made to the Portland Fire Department, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480. To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Rose Marie Pietsch

Rose Marie (Fuchs) Pietsch, 91, of Silver Spring, MD, and formerly of Colchester, widow of the late Wm. Hiram Pietsch, Jr. (COL, US Army), passed away Nov. 8.

Born in the Bronx, NY, she was the daughter of George and Margaret (Reiter) Fuchs, late of Colchester. Mrs. Pietsch had served with the U.S. Army (and Reserve) for many years before her honorable discharge at the rank of Colonel. She was also a Registered Nurse and taught nursing at the college level before her retirement.

She leaves her stepchildren, Bill Pietsch, III, James Pietsch, Aloysia Hamalainen and Alexandra Flecher; six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Graveside Services with military honors with be observed Monday, Nov. 27 at 11 a.m. at the Linwood Cemetery, Route 16, Colchester. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. at Pumphery's Colonial, 300 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD.

Care of local arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Amston

Michael L. Risley

Michael L. Risley, 62, passed away at Hartford Hospital on November 15 surrounded by his loving family.

Michael was the beloved husband of Karen Sarcia Risley. Mike was born on May 8, 1955 and was a son of the late Meltire Bebe Risley and Marie (Rich) Risley. He graduated with honors from Wethersfield High and attended Berklee College of Music, where he pursued his love of drumming.

After marrying his soul mate, he resided in Amston, where he spent many happy times with his wife and son Colin, enjoying numerous golf games and walks with his precious dogs at Grayville Park. At the time of his death, Michael was employed as a Mortgage Banking Officer with Webster Bank.

"Riz," as many affectionately called him, was the original drummer for Street Temperature and played in numerous other bands over the years. He will be remembered not only as an incredibly talented and gifted drummer, but as a kind, intelligent, and humorous friend, work colleague, and devoted husband and father.

In addition to Karen, he leaves his beloved son Colin Michael Risley at home; his mother, Marie Risley of Wethersfield; brother, Richard Risley and wife Phillie, of Wethersfield; sisters, Gail Risley of Wethersfield, Lori Kolakowski and husband Steve and their children of Rocky Hill, Linda Pare and husband Matt and daughter, of Wethersfield. He also leaves in-laws Bebe and Fred Dudley of Amston and Helina and Joseph Sarcia of Tolland, and Grandma Clara Saglio of Glastonbury, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and colleagues.

Karen and Colin invite family and friends to join them for a Memorial Service on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 11 a.m. to honor Mike's life at Buckingham Congregational Church, 16 Cricket Lane, Glastonbury, followed by a life celebration at The Adam's Mill Restaurant, 165 Adams Street, Manchester, CT.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Berklee College of Music, Attn.: Jo Craig, Gifts Processor, MS-161-AS, 1140 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02215 or online at berklee.edu/make-gift. For online condolences, please visit mulryanfh.com.

Colchester

Joseph Anthony Rukus, Sr.

Joseph Anthony Rukus, Sr., of East Hartford and formerly of Colchester, went home to the Lord peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Born March 22, 1940 in Hartford, he was the son of the late Charles and Anna (Tamoitis) Rukus. Before his retirement in 2003, Mr. Rukus had taught both 4th and 5th grade students for the Colchester Public School system for 36 years. Additionally, an Eagle Scout himself, he helped mentor countless other youth through Boy Scouting.

A man of great faith, Joe was a communicant of St. Andrew Parish in Colchester, where he was a Charter Member of the Spellman Council #6107 Knights of Columbus and an active member of the choir. He enjoyed participating on many of the pilgrimages as well as with the parish's retreat league. He also loved spending time near the water - be it fishing, boating or whale watching.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia (St. Pierre) Jacqueline Rukus; two children, Lisa Heller of Hartford and Joseph Rukus, Jr. of Jonesboro, AR; his stepdaughter, Lilly Jacqueline of East Hartford; three grandchildren, Michael and Victoria Rukus and Marisa Heller; his sister, Anne Tracy of Hartford; and numerous extended family and friends.

The Funeral Liturgy was celebrated Monday, Nov. 20 at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Avenue, Colchester. There were no calling hours. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016 (kidney.com). Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.



Amston

Anne Ives

Anne (Tarnowski) Ives, 85, of Amston, widow of the late G. Richard Ives, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Born Jan. 24, 1932, in Brooklyn, NY, she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Elsy (Connors) Tarnowski. A 1949 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester, Mrs. Ives was a charter member of the Hebron American Legion Post 95 Auxiliary as well as a longtime member of the Hebron Historical Society and a 28-year chairwoman of the Antique Doll Show.

Most importantly, she was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who will be greatly missed. She leaves four children, Richard and wife, Barbara, of Lebanon, Jeffrey of Amston, Wesley of Lebanon and Margaret Palmer of Colchester; six grandchildren, Jonathan, Heather, Eddie, Jenifer, David and Courtney; six great grandchildren; and her brother, Casimir Tarnowski, of Arizona.

The family received guests starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester before a Chapel Service at 11 a.m. Burial followed in the New Hebron Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Hebron Historical Society, P. O. Box 43, Hebron 06248 or to American Legion Post 95, PO Box 95, Hebron 06248. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

Andover

Mark A. Dunnack

Mark A. Dunnack, 68, passed away at Wellstar North Fulton Hospital in Roswell, Ga. on October 21 after evacuating Florida from Hurricane Irma the month prior.

Mark was born in Willimantic, Windham, Connecticut on May 26, 1949, the youngest son of William Dunnack and Doris (O'Grady).

He grew up in Andover, Connecticut and lived there most of his life. Mark graduated Windham Technical School in 1967 and later with an associate degree from Palm Beach Community College. Mark served his country in the Army during Vietnam, where he was stationed in South Korea.

Mark met the love of his life, Christine Downes, 52 years ago, and married her in Columbia, Connecticut on a perfect fall day in 1968 that no one will ever forget due to the sustained injuries of the groomsmen.

Mark was an avid fisherman, preferring salt to fresh water fishing but preferring fishing in general to not fishing at all. He worked for 30 years as a Project Manager for Macclain Construction Company, LLC in Glastonbury. Mark was happiest surrounded by people and had a wonderful non-judgmental demeanor that warmed all who had the pleasure of knowing him. An avid animal lover, he loved his greatly misunderstood cat Willie and his boss' dog Digger.

The Dunnack clan is vast in New England, so Mark is survived first by his wife Christine Dunnack of Holiday, Fla. and daughter Kerry Dunnack of Roswell, Ga.; siblings Bill Dunnack of Vermont and his wife Lyn; Alan Dunnack of Andover, four nieces and nephews and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Not to leave out the extended family that also loved him fiercely.

A celebration of life is being held Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. at the Colchester Fish and Game Club located on Old Amston Rd. in Colchester for family and friends.

Another celebration for Mark will be held in Holiday, Florida in the spring of 2018 for Florida neighbors, family and friends.



Portland olice News

11/13: Matthew Gut, 21, of no certain address, was arrested and charged with third-degree burglary, sixth-degree larceny and violation of a protective order, Portland Police said.

11/13: Michael Shelton, 45, of 4 Anthes Ave., Sandy Hook, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence, and driving wrong way on divided highway, police said.

11/14: Shannon White, 28, of 5A Village St., Deep River, was arrested and charged with two counts of violation of probation, possession of drug paraphernalia, and criminal impersonation, police said.

11/16: Kyle Eighmie, 26, of Rhoda Ln., Bristol, was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny, police said.

11/16: Tony Lee, 18, of 1 Brainard Dr., was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

11/16: Wayne Therrien, 18, of 116 Chestnut Dr., Colchester, was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, p

East Hampton Police News

11/11: David Godwin, 53, of 24 Brook Hill Dr., was arrested on an active warrant stemming from a Feb. 18 motor vehicle accident and charged with unsafe backing and evading responsibility, East Hampton police said.

11/13: Jordan Gregory Michnowicz, 18, of 165 Clark Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

Also, from Nov. 6-12, officers responded to six medical calls, seven motor vehicle crashes, and 14 alarms, and made 35 traffic stops.

Colchester Police News

11/17: State Police said Gabriel E. Vigil, 27, was arrested and charged with failure to respond to a payable violation.

11/21: Colchester Police said Brittany M. Villar, was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny, credit card theft, and illegal use of a credit card.