

Obituaries for June, July, August, and September 2016 Fall Newsletter

Written by Tom Kashatus The Newport Township Community Organization has added an obituary page to its quarterly newsletter as of the 2014 winter issue. These obituaries are in reference to individuals who have ties to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. This page has been receiving favorable news reviews from our readers and we hope that it continues into the future. The obituaries in the newsletter are published in abbreviated form due to limited space; thusly, it has been decided to run a more complete obituary on our web site (to include employment, survivors, predeceased family, church membership, funeral director, place of interment, etc.) as space available is not a relative issue. There is also a link leading to the original newspaper obit. As usual, your comments are always welcome; and, if someone is missed, please notify this writer at tomkash@verizon.net or call (570) 736-6981.

(1)

CRAGLE, Marion H. (nee Rule), 87, of Wapwallopen, passed away Sunday, June 5, 2016, at the Timber ridge Nursing Center in Wilkes Barre. Marion was born in Nanticoke and was the daughter of the late Lester and Marguerite (Quell) Rule. She was **a graduate of Newport Township High School class of "46."** In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Franklin Cragle, and brother, Lester Rule Jr. She is survived by her son, Frank Cragle, and daughter, Sally Lazarowicz, both of Wapwallopen. Funeral arrangements were with the McCune Funeral Home of Mountain Top and burial was in the Slocum Cemetery.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=marion-h-cragle&pid=180241577&fhid=18020>

(2)

FEDORCHAK, Sandra Lee (nee Martin), 72, **of Prince Street, Sheatown**, passed away Thursday evening, June 9, 2016, at the home of her daughter, Dawn Mazonis. Sandra Lee was born in Wilkes Barre on March 12, 1944, and was the daughter of the late Raymond and Florence Martin. She worked in various sewing factories throughout the Valley. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Joseph; and sisters, Joan Rittenhouse and Barbara Miller. Sandra Lee is survived by daughters, Dawn Mazonis, and her husband, James; Irene Barry; sons, Andy Krasnavage, Greg Latsko; and brothers, Billy and Bobby. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman funeral Home, Inc. of Nanticoke.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=sandra-lee-fedorchak&pid=180303324&fhid=28275>

(3)

IOANNA, Ruth (nee Drum), 82, of Nanticoke, passed into the hands of the lord on Friday, June 17, 2016, at her home. Ruth was born November 13, 1933, in Mountain Top and was the daughter of the late Albert and Mary (Hill) Drum. She was **a graduate of Newport Township High School** and a member of Saint Leo's Church, Ashley. Prior to retirement she worked in food service for Hanover Area School District. Ruth was also preceded in death by her husband, Vincent, in 1997; and siblings, Dorothy Kania; Calvin Fornwald; Richard Drum, and Raymond Drum Sr. She is survived by her sons, Vincent Joanna, and his wife, Tammy, and Phillip Joanna. Arrangements were made with S. J. Grontkowski Funeral Home, Nanticoke; and burial was in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Hanover Township.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=ruth-ioanna&pid=180385991&fhid=22973>

(4)

YACUBOSKI, Eugene B., 76, of Canadensis, died Sunday, May 22, 2016, at Celtic Hospice in Wilkes Barre. Gene was born in Nanticoke and was the son of the late Eugene and Catherine (Fiorani) Yacuboski. Gene **was raised in Glen Lyon, attended Newport Township schools and graduated from Newport Township High School class of "57."** He was a veteran serving with the US Navy and worked for Skytop Lodge for 41 years. He is survived by his wife, Marianne (Sheroshek) Yacuboski, sharing 52 years of marriage; sons, Michael Yacuboski and wife, Melinda of

Cresco; Steven Yacoboski and wife, Tina, of LaVale, MD; daughter, Cheryl Yacoboski, of Tannersville; and sister, Annette Miskiewicz, of Sheatown. Gene was a member of Most Holy Trinity Parish. Arrangements were made with Bolock Funeral Home of Cresco. A **mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. John Boyle, formerly of Glen Lyon**, at the Villa of the Lady, Mount Pocono.

<http://bolockfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/1375/Eugene-Yacoboski/obituary.html#tribute-start>

(5)

ZAK, Eugene J., 82, of Edwardsville, and formerly of Ocala, FL, passed away Monday, June 27, 2016, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Eugene **was born in Wanamie** and was the son of the late Eugene and Louise (Schneikart) Zakrzewski. He graduated from Marymount H. S. in Wilkes Barre and received an associate degree from, Wilkes Barre Business College. Gene was a veteran of the Korean War and worked as a regional sales manager for Reddi Food Inc. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sylvia (Gdovin); his first wife, Elizabeth (Jarolim); sister, Mary Lou DeCesaris; and brother, Joseph Zakrzewski. He is survived by his sons, Joseph; Robert and his wife, Mary; Anthony and his wife, Ruth Ann; daughters, Cynthia Oliver and her husband, Joseph; and Theresa Bagby and her husband, Peter. A memorial mass will be held at Saint Faustina Parish, Nanticoke, Arrangements were made with Stanley Stegura Funeral Home, Nanticoke; and **interment was in Saint Adalbert's Cemetery, Glen Lyon.**

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=eugene-j-zak&pid=180503342&fhid=28277>

(6)

WOJCIECHOWSKI, Carl P., 79, of Nanticoke, and **formerly of Alden**, passed away Monday, May 2, 2016, at Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Carl was born in Nanticoke on July 14, 1936, and was the son of the late Joseph and Amelia (Zabritski) Wojciechowski. Carl was a US Army veteran serving in the Korean War. He worked for Carter Footwear. Besides his parents, Carl **was predeceased by his wife Felicia (Dydo) Wojciechowski**. He is survived by his sons, Carl Jr. of Alden; Ken of Hunlock Creek; John of Wapwallopen; brother, Henry of Michigan; and sisters, Lorraine Stawasz of Nanticoke; Theresa Thomas of Forty Fort; and Diane Hearst of South Carolina. Arrangements were made with Grontkowski Funeral Home, P.C. of Nanticoke and **burial was in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Wanamie.**

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=carl-p-wojciechowski&pid=179880653&fhid=28276>

(7)

PHILLIPS, Jean M. (nee Goliash), **of Miner Avenue, Wanamie**, passed away Wednesday, July 6, 2016, at home. Jean was **born in Glen Lyon** and was the daughter of the late George and Marcella (Siepietowski) Goliash. She was **a graduate of Newport Township High School class of "57."** Jean was owner of the Tal Phillips Insurance Agency and spent much time volunteering for charitable organizations. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Talcott A. Phillips; and brother, Bernard Goliash. Jean is survived by her son, Talcott K. Phillips, and wife, Cynthia Phillips; and daughter-in-law and caregiver, Pamela Phillips. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Inc. Funeral H Christian burial was celebrated in Saint Adalbert's Church of Holy Spirit Parish of Glen Lyon. **Burial was in Saint John the Baptist's Cemetery of Glen Lyon.**

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=jean-m-phillips&pid=180620000&fhid=28295>

(8)

SHIPTOSKI, Phyllis M. (nee Chrzan), RN, 89, **of Sheatown** passed away Friday, July 8, 2016, at Birchwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Phyllis was born September 18, 1926, in Nanticoke; and she was the daughter of the late Edward and Helen (Grzymski) Chrzan. She worked in Nanticoke State Hospital as a pediatric delivery nurse and was an advocate for the Special Olympics. Besides her parents she was predeceased by her sisters, Sylvia Barzoloski and Theresa Karwoski. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Joseph Shiptoski; daughter,

Maryann Shiptoski of Nanticoke; sons, Richard Shiptoski of Huntington Township; Brian Shiptoski of Weatherly; and Paul Shiptoski and his wife, Susan, of the Lee Section of Glen Lyon. Arrangements were made with Davis-Dinelli Funeral Home of Nanticoke and interment was in Saint Mary's Cemetery of Hanover Township.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=phyllis-m-shiptoski&pid=180620003&fhid=28274>

(9)

HUNTER, Larry R., 64, of Brown Row, Wanamie, Newport Township, passed away July 9, 2016, at his home. Larry was born in Nanticoke on June 29, 1952, and was the son of the late Arthur and Ethel (Smith) Hunter. He was employed by Kasey Kasa and was an over the road truck driver for 30 years. Besides his parents he was predeceased by his brothers Robert Hunter and Leroy Winslow. Larry is survived by his wife, Bertha; brothers, Kenneth Hunter Jr. of Nanticoke and Richard Winslow of Chase; sisters, Jean Gushock of Glen Lyon, Betty Gushock of Wanamie, Gladys Yeskiewicz of Wanamie, and Mae Hoover of Nanticoke. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home, Inc, of Nanticoke.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=larry-r-hunter&pid=180626194&fhid=28275>

(10)

CROUSE, George W., 78, of Robert Street, Sheatown, passed away Monday, July 11, 2016, at Wilkes Barre General Hospital. George was born in Dorrance Township on February 27, 1938, and was the son of the late George M. and Thelma (Eckrote) Crouse. He was formerly employed by the Chamberlain Corporation as a maintenance supervisor. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by an infant sister, Ida Mae. He is survived by his wife, the former Carol Brudnicki; and daughter, Thelma Moyer, and her husband, Kevin. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke and burial was in Slocum Cemetery.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=george-w-crouse&pid=180651267&fhid=28275>

(11)

SHARP, Clem, 89, of Lewes DEL, and formerly of Wanamie, passed away recently. He was born August 1926, and was the son of the late Edward and Victoria (Levulis) Sharp. He was **a graduate of Newport Township High School class of "44."** He was a US Navy veteran serving from after graduation to 1946. He would have been a 70 year member of American Legion Post 971 in 2017. Besides his parents he was predeceased by his sister, Leona sharp; and brothers, Gerald Sharp, Leonard Sharp, and infant brother, Edward. He is survived by his wife, Amethyst "Amy" (Linton) Sharp; daughters, Patricia Martin, and her husband, William, and Brenda Hodges and her husband, Donald. Arrangements were made with Short Funeral Services of Georgetown, DE; and memorial service and inurnment, with military honors, was in Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Millsboro. Christian burial was celebrated in Saint Adalbert's Church of Holy Spirit Parish of Glen Lyon. **Burial was in Saint John the Baptist's Cemetery of Glen Lyon.**

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=jean-m-phillips&pid=180620000&fhid=28295>

(12)

WOMELSDORF, Wayne, 72, of Slocum Township passed away on July 12, 2016. He was the son of the late William and Irene (Stein) Womelsdorf. Besides his parents he was predeceased by a son, Ryan Womelsdorf. He is **survived by his wife of more than 40 years, Lorraine (nee Sklaney, formerly of Alden) Womelsdorf**; children, Renee Ridzon, Ronald Ridzon, Rochelle (Ridzon) Scholl, Randy Womelsdorf, Billy Womelsdorf, and Robin (Womelsdorf) Swartwood; and sister, Dona (Womelsdorf) Slotterback. He owned and operated his own business as a truck driver and heavy equipment operator. Arrangements were made with Stanley S. Stegura Funeral Home, Inc. of Nanticoke and interment was in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dorrance Township.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=wayne-womelsdorf&pid=180674796&fhid=28277>

(13)

PRICE, Ruth N. RN, (nee Crouse), 86, **a resident of Sheatown, Newport Township**, passed into eternal life at Birchwood Nursing & Rehabilitation Center on Thursday, July 14, 2016. Ruth was **born in Wanamie** on October 29, 1929, and was the daughter of the late Thomas and Clara (Mills) Crouse. She was **a graduate of Newport Township High School, class of "47,"** and the Wilkes Barre General Hospital School of Nursing, class of "51." She was employed as an industrial nurse at General Cigar of Nanticoke. Ruth was a member of the United Methodist Church of Alden. Besides her parents she was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, John Price, and her brother, Tom. She is survived by her daughters, Tamrus Price of Nanticoke, and Nancy Giampetro and her husband, Joseph of San Antonio, TX; and son, Blake Price, and his wife, Kathy of Mountain Top. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home, Inc of Nanticoke and interment was at Hanover Green Cemetery in Hanover Township.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=ruth-n-price&pid=180692384&fhid=28275>

(14)

SIMCHICK, Charles Robert, 79, of Hanover Township and of **formerly Newport Township** passed away Friday, July 15, 2016. Charles was **born and raised in Wanamie** and was the son of the late John and Helen (Sadowski) Simchick Sr. He was a **graduate of Newport Township High School, class of "57"** and was a **veteran of the US Air Force from 1957 until 1963**. He was self-employed with the sewing machine and vacuum cleaner business. Besides his parents he was predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Rose, and brother, John. He is survived by six children; Dawn Eckert, Jacqueline Dennis, Charles Simchick, William Simchick, Melanie Kowalski, and Alan Simchick; sisters, Geraldine Simchick and Simone Baldwin. Arrangements were made with Harold C. Snowdon Funeral Home Inc.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=charles-robert-simchick&pid=180701719&fhid=28298>

(15)

KNORR, Wilbur S., 87, of West Wyoming, and **formerly of Wanamie**, died Friday evening, July 22, 2016, at Celtic Health Care Unit, Wilkes Barre. Wilbur was **born and raised in Wanamie** and was the son of the late Stanley and Leona (Caley) Knorr. He, **graduated from Newport Township High School class of "46."** He was **a veteran and served in the US Air Force during the Korean War**. Wilbur was a meat cutter and worked for Acme Markets and Bevco Food Services. He collected aluminum cans and donated all monies to the Shriners Hospital for children. Wilbur is survived by his wife of 61 years, Judith (Rasi) Knorr; and daughter, Pamela, and her husband, John Jugus. Arrangements were made with Hugh B. Hughes & Son, Inc. Funeral Home of Forty Fort. Interment was Mount Olivet Cemetery, Carverton.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=wilbur-s-knorr&pid=180766212&fhid=22979>

(16)

SOLETSKI, Josephine (nee Capece), 86, of Nanticoke, raised in Mocanaqua and **formerly of Glen Lyon and Sheatown**, passed away Monday, August 1, 2016, at Timber Ridge Health Care Center in Plains Township. Josephine was born in Mocanaqua and was the daughter of the late Rocco and Carmella (Cerbese) Capece. Josephine was employed by RCA of Mountain Top and Christy Fashions of Glen Lyon. She was a member of Nebo Baptist Church. Besides her parents she was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Edward, and brothers, Nicholas and John Capece. Josephine is survived by her daughter, Janine Moss, and her husband, David, of Thornhurst; son, Anthony, of Lee section of Glen Lyon, and brothers, Patrick, and wife, Bernadine, of Nanticoke and James of Glen Lyon; sisters, Mary Caruso of FL and Jean Humes of MD. Arrangements were made with Davis-Dinelli Funeral Home of Nanticoke.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=josephine-soletski&pid=180929853&fhid=28274>

(17)

KALAFUT, Lottie (nee Krashefski), 100, of New Jersey, **born in Glen Lyon** and raised in Plymouth, passed away Sunday, July 31, 2016. Lottie was born May 25, 2016, and was the daughter of the late Anthony and Rose Krashefski. She was employed throughout the years in the Wyoming Valley garment industry as a seamstress. In addition to her parents she was predeceased by her husband, Michael J. Kalafut, in October, 1975; brothers and sisters, Joseph, Anthony, Jean, and Sophie. Lottie is survived by her daughter, Elaine Davis, and her husband, Art; and son, Joseph, and his wife, Elaine. Arrangements were made with S. J. Grontkowski funeral Home of Plymouth, and **burial was in Saint Adalbert's Cemetery of Glen Lyon.**

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=lottie-kalafut&pid=180929848&fhid=22973>

(18)

BODEK, Albina (nee Sosinski), 92, of Nanticoke, **formerly of Newport Township**, passed away August 6, 2016, at the Bonham Nursing Home in Stillwater. Albina was born in Nanticoke on February 28, 1924, and was the daughter of the late Michael and Agnes (Perry) Sosinski. She graduated from Nanticoke High School and was a member of Saint Faustina Parish. She was also predeceased by her husband, Michael; brother, Stanley; and sister, Marcella Prushinski. She is survived by sons, Michael T., and his wife, Mary, in Shickshinny; Mark and his wife, Darlene, in Mountain Top; Martin and his wife, Lisa, in Nuangola; and brother, Sylvester. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home, Inc., and interment was in Holy Trinity Cemetery in Newport Township.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=albina-bodek&pid=181008761&fhid=28275>

(19)

MACKIEWICZ, Mildred (nee Laychush), 98, of West Grand Street, Nanticoke, passed away Monday, August 8, 2016, at Birchwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Nanticoke. Mildred was born (April 2, 1918) and **raised in Glen Lyon** and was the daughter of the late Theodore and Anna Laychush. She was **a graduate of Newport Township High School class of "35."** She was a bookkeeper for Peterfreund Furniture Store and in the garment industry for Engle Manufacturing of Glen Lyon. She was a member of Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Church of Glen Lyon. Mildred was preceded in death by her husband, Chester; sisters, Eva, Esther, Mary, Catherine, and Anne; and brothers, John, Joseph, and Mike. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Gavin, and her husband, Gerald. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish, Inc., Funeral Home and interment was in Oak Lawn Cemetery, Hanover Township.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=mildred-mackiewicz&pid=181018215&fhid=22966>

(20)

PAINTER, Terry, 74, of Thomas Street, Sheatown, passed away recently. Terry was born in Nanticoke on December 11, 1941 and was the son of the late William and Lydia (Sadowski) Painter. He was employed in the construction industry, the coal industry, and most recently, was owner operator of the Painter Van Lines with his sister-in-law, Delphine Painter. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his twin brother, Thomas Painter, and sister, June Lorah. He is survived by his sister, Claudia; niece and caregiver, Debra Kocher; and best friend, Stanley Squarok. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home, Nanticoke.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=terry-painter&pid=181063221&fhid=28275>

(21)

ZMIEWSKI, Henry J., 95, of Mahoning Township in Columbia County, **formerly of Glen Lyon**, passed away July 10, 2016, at the Bloomsburg Rehabilitation and Wellness Center in Bloomsburg. Henry was **born February 8, 1921, in Glen Lyon** and was the son of the late Alexander and Genevieve (Machcinski) Zmiewski. **He was a graduate of Newport Township High School, class of "39."** and was a decorated veteran of WW II while serving in the US Army in the Pacific Theater of Operations and receiving three Bronze stars. He was also a graduate of Bucknell University and received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He worked for Cabinet Industries, Web Rib Steel,

and Shell Oil Company as an engineer in New York City. Henry was a member of the Knights of Columbus and American Legion Post 40 among a number of other volunteer organizations. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Josephine (Riley) Zmiewski; an infant daughter; six sisters, Frances Killian, Bertha Fox, Mamie Forgach, Julia Szajnecki, Cecelia Zmijewski, and Alberta Lewis; two brothers, Ted and Edward Zmijewski. He is survived by his son, Mark, and wife, Barbara; and brother, Narcey, and wife, Shirley. He was a member of Saint Joseph's church in Danville. Arrangements were made with Brady Funeral Home and interment was in the parish cemetery.

<http://obituaries.danvillenews.dailyitem.com/story/henry-zmiewski-1921-2016-803743971>

(22)

KARPINSKI, Joseph, (aka James Bekker) 88, *of Sheatown*, passed away Tuesday, August 9, 2016, at the Guardian Elder Care Center in Sheatown. Joseph was born in Scranton on November 18, 1928, and was the son of the late William and Mary (Kearney) Karpinski. He was *an alumnus of Saint Stanislaus Institute* and graduated from Scranton High School. Joseph was a decorated US Army veteran and served during the Korean War for when he received a presidential citation for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism at Tokohol-Li, Korea, on September 6, 1951 while serving as a corporal with the 70th Tank Battalion, 1st Calvary Division. After the war, Joe worked at Saint Stans and later at Arcata Graphics of Buffalo, NY. ***Over the years his special project was attending to the graveyard to the rear of Saint Stanislaus Orphanage which was overtaken by high grass and brush. He researched the names and locations of the graves of the children that were buried there and was implemental in having a monument erected there in their memory.*** Besides his parents, Joseph was predeceased by his brother, William John Bekker. He is survived by nephews, James, Robert, and Billy Bekker. Arrangements were made with Grontkowski Funeral Home, P.C. of Nanticoke; and burial was in Saint Adalbert's Cemetery, Glen Lyon.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesleader/obituary.aspx?n=joseph-karpinski&pid=181039820&fhid=28276>