

Obituaries for March, April, May, 2016 - Summer newsletter.

Written by Tom Kashatus The Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) has added an obituary page to its quarterly newsletter as of the winter issue of 2014. This page has been receiving favorable 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 space available; 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 is not a relative issue. As usual, your comments are always welcome, and, if someone is missed, please notify this writer at tomkash@verizon.net or (570) 736-6981.

(1)

SKURSKI, Eleanor M., (nee Cobosko), 89, of Nanticoke passed away Wednesday, March 2, 2016, in Lehigh Valley Hospital, Bethlehem. Eleanor was **born January 1, 1927, in Newport Township** and was the daughter of the late Michael and Mary (Linktus) Cobosko. Besides her parents, Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, John; infant son, Mark; and son, Ronald. She is survived by her children; Brian and his wife, Melissa Skurski, of Coplay; Christine Bellezza and her husband, James, of Dallas; Richard and his wife, LaDonna Skurski, of Las Vegas; Michael and his wife, Bonnie Skurski, of Forty Fort; Bernice Kravitz and her husband, John, of Mountain Top; and Walter and his wife, Diane Skurski, of Nanticoke. Eleanor was a member of Saint Faustina Parish of Nanticoke. Arrangements were with Earl Lohman Funeral Home of Nanticoke and interment was in Chapel Lawn Memorial Park of Dallas.

(2)

NEYHARD, Erica Dawn, 31, **of Glen Lyon** passed away suddenly Sunday, February 28, 2016, at her home. Erica was born in Bloomsburg, and was the daughter of Richard Neyhard of Nanticoke and Nancy (Konderchek) Neyhard of Berwick. She was a graduate of Greater Nanticoke Area High School. Besides her parents she is also survived by her children, Caleb and Cora Marr; and brother, Richard Neyhard III. Arrangements were entrusted to H. Merritt Hughes Funeral Home Inc. of Wilkes Barre.

(3) **LACK, Stella M.**, (nee Gawarecki) 87, **of Glen Lyon** passed away Friday, March 4, 2016, at Birchwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Nanticoke. Stella was **born in Glen Lyon on** November 11, 1928, and was the daughter of the late Paul and Mary (Zglinicki) Gawarecki. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her sister, Dorothy Guigar; and brothers, Anthony and Stanley Gawarecki. Stella is survived by her husband of 67 years, Frank Lack; and daughter, Debbie Williams. She was buried from Holy Spirit Parish - Saint Adalbert's church - in Glen Lyon and interred in Saint Adalbert's Cemetery in Glen Lyon. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Inc. Funeral Home of Glen Lyon.

(4)

CWIKLIK, Walter E., 93, **of Center Street, Wanamie**, died Saturday, March 5, 2016, at home. Walter was **born in Glen Lyon** on June 4, 1922, and was the son of the late Stanley and Anna (Sitarczyk) Cwiklik. He was **a graduate of Newport Township High School** and Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and was employed as a pharmacist for Rea & Derrick in Nanticoke. Walter was an enlisted veteran of the US Army in WW II from 1942-46 and served in the Pacific Theater. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by brothers, Michael, Frank, John, and Stephen. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, the former Florence (Sopko) Cwiklik. He was a member of Holy Spirit Parish (Saint Adalbert's Church) of Glen Lyon.

Arrangements were made with George A. Strish, Inc., Funeral Home and burial was in Saint Adalbert's Cemetery of Glen Lyon.

(5)

MISKIEWICZ, Gregory P., 67, of Sheatown passed away unexpectedly Saturday, March 5, 2016, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Gregory was born May 18, 1948, and was the son of Stanley and Helen Miskiewicz. Greg was a US Air Force and Vietnam veteran. He worked in construction, at Schott Optical, Topps Chewing Gum, and retired from Tobyhanna Army Depot. He is **survived by his wife Annette (Yacoboski) Miskiewicz, formerly of Glen Lyon**; brother Stanley Miskiewicz and his wife, Elizabeth; sister, Judy Hall; and brother, Mark Miskiewicz. A mass of Christian burial will be held at Saint Faustina Parish. Arrangements were made with Stanley S. Stegura Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke and interment was at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township.

(6)

BURKE, Eliza Jane (nee Dempsey), 69, **of Ridgeview, Newport Township**, passed away Tuesday, March 8, 2016, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Eliza was born in Plymouth on April 29, 1946, and was the daughter of the late Joseph and Anna (Oshirak) Dempsey. She graduated from Plymouth High School and received an Associate Business degree from LCCC. She was employed by the Commonwealth of PA Bureau of Disability. Besides her parents she was predeceased by her brother, Frank Dempsey. Eliza is survived by her husband of 53 years, Joseph Burke; daughter, Jane Marko, and her husband, John; son, Joseph Burke III, and his wife, Michele; sisters, Irene Frisbie, and her husband, Leonard; Anna Magill; Barbara Powell and her husband, Richard; brother, Joseph Dempsey, and his wife, Martha; and sister-in-law, Sonya Dempsey. Arrangements were made with Curtis L. Swanson Funeral Home Inc. of Pikes Creek.

(7)

SMOLINSKI, William J. Jr., 42, of Rock Street, Glen Lyon, passed away Wednesday, March 9, 2016, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Billy was born in Wilkes Barre on May 26, 1973, and he was the son of William J. Smolinski Sr. and the late Judith (Yaksima) Smolinski. Billy **grew up in Newport Township** and was a graduate of Greater Nanticoke Area High School. In addition to his mother he was preceded in death by his grandmothers, Emily Smolinski, Irene Yaksima, and Lottie Katra. He is survived by his father, William Smolinski Sr., and step mother, Charlotte Smolinski; brother, John Smolinski; and sister, Kristen Spencer, and her husband, David. Arrangements were made with the Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke.

(8)

SCHULTZ, Minerva Y. (nee Yurek), 85, of Cleveland, Ohio, and **formerly of W. Enterprise Street, Glen Lyon**, passed away Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Minerva was **born in Glen Lyon** on November 28, 1930, and was the daughter of the late Stanley and Frances (Sekulski) Yurek. She was **a graduate of Newport Township High School class of "48."** Besides her parents she is preceded in death by her husband, Walter Schultz; brothers; Edward, Adam, Joseph, Stanley, Roman, and Eugene; and sisters, Helen Witusek, Elizabeth Salanitri, Celia Huffman, and Josephine Rice. She is survived by her children, Wendy Petrovic and her husband, Richard; Bret M. Schultz Sr.; Vicki McCafferty and her husband, Owen; and

Debbie Dawley and her husband, Dale. She was employed by Leader Electric of Cleveland. Arrangements were with Chambers Funeral Home of North Olmstead and interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery.

(9)

SKLADZIEN, Joseph L., 66, of Hanover Township, and **formerly of Sheatown**, lost his battle with lung cancer on Thursday, March 17, 2016, in the care of hospice at the VA Medical Center in Plains Township. Joseph was born at Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton in 1949 and was the adopted son of Louis and Sophia (Piasecki) Skladzien of Sheatown. **He was raised in Sheatown** and was **a member of the Newport Township graduating class of "67."** He was owner and operator of Lee Park Motors of Hanover Township. Joseph was a combat veteran of the Vietnam War and served his country in the US Army as an Airborne Ranger in the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Besides his parents he was predeceased by his mother-in-law, Miriam Evans. Joseph is survived by his wife of 24 years, the former Terry Evans; his son, Joseph Skladzien; and granddaughter, Jessica Skladzien. Arrangements were made with the George A. Strish Funeral Home Inc. of Ashley and burial was at Saint Michael's Cemetery in Glen Lyon.

(10)

SIMCHICK, Rose Marie (nee Weiler), 76, of Hanover Township passed away Friday, March 18, 2016. Rose Marie is **survived by her husband of 54 years, Charles Robert Simchick formerly of Wanamie and who attended Newport Township High School**, and six children. Rose Marie worked as an RN for forty years in the former Mercy Hospital of Wilkes Barre.

(11)

WOJCIECHOWSKI, Camille, 76, of Nanticoke, and **formerly of Sheatown**, passed away March 19, 2016 in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township. Camille is survived by her husband Raymond Wojciechowski. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke.

(12)

GEORGE, James, 77, of Wapwallopen passed away Sunday, April 3, 2016, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center of Plains Township. James was born in Slocum Township and was the son of the late James Sr. and Myrtle (Lutz) George. He was **a graduate of Newport Township High School class of "57."** He was employed by Luzerne Optical of Wilkes Barre and served as a Township Supervisor at one time. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Nina, and a son, Roger. He is survived by his children; Susan Lowe and her husband, Wayne, of Slocum; Keith George and his wife, Sandy, of Mountain Top; and sisters, Jane Wolfe and her husband, Jerry, and Jeanne Martin, both of Slocum. Arrangements were made with McCune funeral Service Inc of Mountain Top.

(13)

WAZOWICZ, Lucy A., 92, **of Alden**, entered into eternal life on Sunday, April 3, 2016, at Guardian Elder Care Center in Sheatown. Lucy **was born on July 3, 1923, in the family homestead in Alden** and was the daughter of the late Martin J. and Mary (Smatko) Wazovicz. She **graduated from Newport Township High School, class of "41,"** as class valedictorian. After high school she worked for the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., and in 1953 worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

in Plains Township in 1953 until her retirement. Besides her parents she was preceded in a by her brothers, John, Martin, and Henry. There was a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at Saint Faustina Parish, and arrangements were made with Frank Regan Funeral Home of Scranton.

(14)

NETHERCOTT, Fred J. III, 73, of Glen Lyon passed away Thursday, April 7, 2016, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Plains Township. Fred was born in Brooklyn, NY, on July 9, 1942, and was the son of the late Fred J. Jr. and Eleanor (Lashinski) Nethercott. Fred **was raised in Glen Lyon** and was **a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of "60."** Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, the former Barbara (Noss) Nethercott; sister, Jackie Bertrand; and brother, Richard "Brady" Nethercott. He is survived by daughter, Shelley Spencer and husband, Sam; sons, Alan Nethercott and wife, Susan; Rodney Nethercott; and Leon Nethercott and companion, Joy. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Inc. Funeral Home of Glen Lyon.

(15)

WINTERGRASS, Ann Mary (nee Butka), 72, of Palm Coast, FL, and **formerly of Glen Lyon**, passed away Friday, April 8, 2016. Ann Mary was born November 29, 1943 and was the daughter of the late Joseph and Stephania (Rasmus) Butka. She was a **graduate of Newport Township High School class of "62,"** and worked as a medical secretary for many years in Sayerville, NJ. She is survived by her son, Stephen in Meshoppen; daughter, Stephanie in Las Vegas; and daughter, Sheryl, and her husband, Darren, of Palm Coast, FL. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Funeral Home Inc. of Glen Lyon.

(16)

REPOTSKI, Richard, 70, of San Antonio, TX, and **formerly of Glen Lyon**, passed away April 12, 2106 at VA Medical Center in Kerrville, TX. Richard was born March 9, 1946, in Glen Lyon, and was the son of the later John L. and Stasia D. Repotski. He **attended Newport Township** schools and graduated from the University of Texas with a Masters' Degree in Business. Richard was a US Army veteran for four years and a US Air Force veteran for eight years and later employed by the U.S. Civil Service. Richard is survived by his wife, Patricia Repotski; daughters, Laura Ann Bello, Catherine Leigh Rose, and Tracy Lynn Repotski; step-daughter, Kimberly Giraldo; sister, Gloria Eget; and brother, John Repotski.

(17)

ZIEMBA, Eugene P., 79, of Upper Gwynedd Township and Harvey's Lake, and **formerly of Wanamie**, passed away April 13, 2016. Gene was born in Nanticoke on December 21, 1936, and was the son of the late John and Cecelia (Banko) Ziemba. He **graduated from Newport Township High School, class of "54"** and thereafter served in the US Army in Zweibrucken and Karlsruhe, Germany. Gene received a B.S. Degree from King's College and later formed and became CEO/President of Physicians Insurance Program Exchange (PIPE). He was a public servant by serving as an Upper Gwynedd Township commissioner until his passing. Gene is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sylvia (Sulewski) Ziemba; son, Eugene P. Ziemba Jr. and his wife, Jennifer, of Dallas; daughter, Meredith Ziemba, of Lower Gwynedd, PA; and sister, Phyllis Angelini, of Fairfax, VA. Arrangements were made with Huf and Lakjer funeral Home of Lansdale with mass of Christian burial from Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church of Lansdale.

(18)

KIRSCHNER, David R., 42, of Sugar Notch, and **formerly of Glen Lyon**, passed away Saturday, April 16, 2016, at his residence. David was born in Nanticoke on May 19, 1973, and was the son of David and Beth (Swanberry) Kirschner. Besides his parents he is survived by his daughters, Breanna Griffin, Kayla Kirschner, and Sieanna Maciejczak; sister, Rita; and brother, Francis Kirschner. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke.

(19)

ROKE, John, 46, **of Glen Lyon**, passed away Sunday, April 17, 2016, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. John was born August 21, 1969, in Wilkes Barre and was the son of Genevieve (Good) Roke and the late Joseph Roke. **John was raised in Glen Lyon** and graduated from John S. Fine High School class of "87." In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his sister, Joyce Anne Roke. Arrangements were made with Stanley S. Stegura funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke.

(20)

ANDREAS, Caroline (nee Struck), 89, of Conyngham Township, passed away Saturday, April 16, 2016, at her home. Raised in Slocum Township, she was the daughter of the late Thomas and Laura (Smith) Strunk. Caroline **graduated from Newport Township High School** and later from Misericordia College. She retired as an English teacher from Greater Nanticoke Area. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Carl E. Andreas; and half-sister, Mrs. Harry (Althea) Moyer. She is survived by her daughters, Susan Posey, and her husband, Ivan, and Kay Long; and son, Thomas Andreas. Arrangements were made with Heller Funeral Home, LLC in Nescopeck; and interment was in Pose Lawn Cemetery in Berwick.

(21)

BALBERCHAK, Andrew J., 96, **of Sheatown** and formerly of Ashley, passed away Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at Guardian Elder Care Center in Newport Township. Andrew was born in Kingston on September 21, 1919, and was the son of the late Andrew and Helen (Basista) Balberchak. He was a US Army veteran of WW II. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his sisters, Emily Walko, Catherine Eget, Helen Balberchak, Mary Paternoster, Elizabeth Hawronsky; and brother, Albert Balberchak. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Loretta A. (Kucewicz) Balberchak; sisters, Dorothy Wolinsky, Constance Zacharkiw, Rita Lemonowski, and Regina Dannert. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish funeral Home Inc. of Ashley and interments was in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kingston Township.

(22)

ARNOLD, Shirley, (nee Ogin), 83, of Slocum Township, passed away Thursday, April 14, 2016, at the University Hospital of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Shirley was born November 21, 1932, and was the daughter of the late William and Alice (Harter) Ogin. She was employed as a registered nurse for the Mercy Hospital of Wilkes Barre. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Harry "Fagan" Arnold; and son, Darryl. She is survived by her children, Duane Arnold of Dorrance; Darlene Arnold of Hanover Township; and Denise Webby of Slocum Township; **sister, Miriam Calabro of Glen**

Lyon: and brother, Ira Ogin of Nanticoke. Arrangements were made with the McCune Funeral Service of Mountain Top and Burial was at the Stairville Cemetery.

(23)

BRUNI, Peter, 84, of Pittston, and **formerly of Newport Township**, passed away Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at Celtic Hospice, Geisinger South, Wilkes Barre. Peter was born April 6, 1932, and was the son of the late Luigi and Edith Bruni. He was a **graduate of the Newport Township High School** and was a US Army serving during the Korean War. He was owner and proprietor of Bruni Auto Sales in West Nanticoke. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his brother, Daniel. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Rose Marie Bruni; son, Ronald Bruni of Pittston; and his daughter, Brenda Murphy, and her husband, James Murphy. Arrangements were made with Graziano Funeral Home of Pittston Township and interment was in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wyoming.

(24)

OSTROWSKI, Eugene, 69, of Berwick, and **formerly of Wanamie**, passed away Wednesday, April 20, 2016, in Berwick Hospital Center. Gene was born in Nanticoke on September 17, 1946, and was the son of the late Leo and Theodosia (Gorczyca) Ostrowski. He **grew up in Wanamie** and was a **graduate of Newport Township High School class of "64"** and attended King's College. Gene was a carpenter by trade and was employed in the Nanticoke area. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Valerie (Vasaukas) Ostrowski; daughter, Denise Zeiber, and her husband, Troy, of Bloomsburg; son, Eugene Ostrowski III, and his wife, Jeralyn, of Berwick; and sisters, Donna Ostrowski of Mountain Top and Anita Ogin of Wapwallopen. Arrangements were made with Heller Funeral Home of Nescopeck.

(25)

WINTERS, Alice M., (nee Delaney), 97, formerly of Kingston, passed away Friday, April 22, 2016, at the Mercy Center, Dallas. Alice was **born April 27, 1918, in Sheatown**, and was the daughter of the late William and Mae (Grimes) Delaney. She graduated from the former Kingston High School and Wyoming Seminary Dean School of business. She was an employee of Bergman's clothing store and a secretary to Percy A. Brown. Besides her parents Alice was preceded in death by her husband, Harold; son, Robert; brothers, William and Robert Delaney. She is survived by her daughter, Mary Alice Chorba of CA; and son, Ralph Winters of Harrisburg. Arrangements were made with Hugh P. Boyle & Son Funeral Home Inc. of Kingston and interment was in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Carverton.

(26)

PETRINI, Frederick A., 79, **formerly of Nanticoke and Glen Lyon**, passed away Sunday, April 24, 2016, at his home in Phoenixville. Fred was the son of the late Frederick and Armeda (Brunozzi) Petrini. He **graduated from Newport Township High School class of "55"** and Wilkes University and was a US Army veteran. He was owner and general manager of Brunozzi Chevrolet of Hanover Township. He is survived by his wife of 52 years Patricia Ann (Minetola) Petrini; daughters, Diane Petrini of Philadelphia; Debbie Briggs and her husband, Michael, of Collegeville; and Caroline Petrini. Arrangements were made with Mamary-Durkin funeral Service of Wilkes Barre and interment was in Saint Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township.

(27)

GELSLEICHTER, Ronald P., 65, *of Glen Lyon*, passed away Thursday, April 18, 2016. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Inc. Funeral Home of Glen and interment was in Saint Nicholas Cemetery in Kingston Township.

(28)

ECKROTE, Calvin "Cappy" 70, of Shickshinny Valley, and *formerly of Alden*, passed away Monday, April 25, 2016, at his residence. "Cappy" was born in Nanticoke on December 15, 1945, and was the son of the late Calvin and Elizabeth (Evans) Eckrote. He was *raised in Alden and attended Newport Township schools*. He was a heavy equipment operator and worked for Franchelli Construction and CGI. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his daughter, Ann Marie; and brothers, William and Paul. He is survived by his son, Dustin Yokavonis. Arrangements were made with Lohman Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke and interment was in Slocum Cemetery.

(29)

BADMAN, James H. Jr., (84), of Mountain Top, passed away Saturday, May 14, 2016, at his home. James was born in Slocum Township and was the son of the late James H. Sr. and Edith (Smith) Badman. James was *a graduate of Newport Township High School* and then served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. He worked as a carpenter and farmed for himself. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his sisters, Ellen Meyers and Miriam Dotzel. He is survived by his wife, Florence (Kamowski) Badman; sons, James E., and his wife, Catherine, of Hobbie; William H., of Slocum; Kenneth L. and his wife, Naomi, of Parkesburg; daughter, Karen Toneson, and her husband, Wayne, of Tuckerton, NJ; brother, John Badman of NY; and sister, Nancy Gill. Arrangements were made with McCune Funeral Home of Mountain Top; and interment was in Stairville Cemetery.

(30)

SHUTTA, Leonard J. Sr. "Rusty," 91, of Nanticoke passed away Sunday, May 29, 2016, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Leonard was *born in Glen Lyon* on October 27, 1924, and was the son of Michael and Susan (Harakal) Shutta. He was the last surviving member of fourteen siblings. He *graduated from Newport Township High School*. Leonard was always proud to serve his country during WWII as gunner with the US Air Force. He worked as a miner after the service and retired from the US Postal Service as a mail carrier. Leonard was preceded in death by his wife, Henrietta (Wojtash) Shutta; and siblings - brothers, Adam, Steve, Joseph, John, Albert "Happy," Bernard, Carl, Michael "Irish," Andrew, and Anthony; and sisters, Eleanor, Mary, and Victoria. He is survived by his daughter, Gertrude Landmesser, and her husband, Frank; and son, Leonard Shutta, Jr. Arrangements were made with Stanley S. Stegura Funeral Home, Inc.; and burial was in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Newport Township, after Christian Burial Mass in Saint Faustina Parish, Nanticoke.