

## Obituaries - September, October, November, December 2015 - Winter Newsletter

*Written by Tom Kashatus* The Newport Township Community Organization 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 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 available 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](mailto:tomkash@verizon.net) or (570)736-6981.

(1)

**CEASER, George M. Sr.**, 78, of Slocum Township passed away Tuesday, September 8, 2015, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Plains Township. George was born in Dorrance Township on July 16, 1937, and was the son of the late Herman and Helen (Knorr) Ceaser. He was a **graduate of Newport Township High School** and was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad, Foster Wheeler, and Certain Teed. George was a member of Saint Mary's Church in Dorrance and was a Knight of Columbus. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Rose (Wells Cybulski) Ceaser; sisters, Louise Keil and Rose Kutzmonich; brothers, Edmund, Herman, and Bernard; and infant brother, Carl. Arrangements were made with the George A. Strish, Inc. Funeral Home in Ashley. Interment was in the parish cemetery in Dorrance Township.

(2)

**VINIARSKI, Chester J.**, 90, formerly of Forever Yours, Nanticoke, passed away Thursday, September 10, 2015, at Birchwood Nursing Center, Nanticoke. Chester was **born in Glen Lyon** on December 26, 1924, and was the son of the late Walter and Anna (Magaleski) Winiarski. He was preceded in death by his brothers Norbert and Eugene Viniarski and is survived by his sister, Bernadine Eppoletti of Burlington, NJ. Chester was a member of Saint Mary's Church, Nanticoke. Arrangements were made with Grontkowski Funeral Home P.C. of Nanticoke and interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Nanticoke.

(3)

**BUSH, ANNA** (nee Lurowist), 96, **of Glen Lyon** passed away Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at Birchwood Nursing Center, Nanticoke. Anna was born in Berwick on November 18, 1922, and was the daughter of the late Peter and Nastimia (Riplanski) Lurowist. After marriage she and her late husband of 62 years, William Bush, made their home in Glen Lyon and she devoted her life to motherhood and being a homemaker. Besides her parents and husband, Anna was preceded in death by a son, William Jr.; brothers, Charles, Nicholas, and Donald; and sisters, Mary Lurowist and Nancy Martz. She is survived by five children; Patricia Williams of Wilkes Barre; Barbara Vasilakos and husband, James, of Nanticoke; Sandra Czapracki and husband, Stanley, of Nanticoke; Edward Bush and companion, Caroline Gorski, of Glen Lyon; and Donald Bush and wife, Leanne of Nanticoke. Anna was a member of Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church of Glen Lyon.

Arrangements were made with Davis-Dinelli Funeral Home of Nanticoke and interment was in Ss. Cyril and Methodius Cemetery in Berwick.

(4)

**STEININGER, Irene Catherine** (nee Gaydos), 83, of Wilkes Barre passed away Monday, September 21, 2015, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Irene was born June 6, 1932 and was the daughter of the late Stephen and Mary (Grochowski) Gaydos. She was a **graduate of Newport Township High School**, class of '49 and Luzerne County Community College. She was an employee of Eberhard Faber of Mountain Top. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her brothers, Stephen and Robert Gaydos. Irene is survived by her husband of 58 years, Ludwig F. Steininger; daughters, Lou Ann Colona and her husband, Anthony; Renee Wood and her husband, George; Mary Ellen Chiampi and her husband, Joseph; and her son, Robert Steininger, and his wife, Pamela. She was a member of Saint Andrew's Parish of Wilkes Barre. Arrangements were made with Nat and Gawlas Funeral Home of Wilkes Barre and interment was at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township.

(5)

**KROHLE, Jean M.**(nee Zavistoski), 74, of Carlisle, **formerly of Glen Lyon**, Wilkes Barre, and Noxen, passed away Monday, September 21, 2015, at her home. Jean was born October 22, 1940, and was the daughter of the late Eugene and Florence (Ruminski) Zavistoski. She spent her youth in Glen Lyon and **graduated from Newport Township High School**, class of '58. Besides her parents she was predeceased by her first husband, Leonard H. Kryeski, and her second husband, Frederick Krohle. She is survived by her sons; Leonard D. Kryeski of Gilbertsville and Kevin Kryeski of Mechanicsburg; and sisters, Elaine Maryn and her husband, Michael, and Connie Tallon and her husband, Scott, of Wharton, NJ. Jean was a member of Saint Patrick Church of Carlisle. Arrangements were with Jendrzewski Funeral Home of Wilkes Barre and interment was in Saint Mary's Cemetery of Hanover Township.

(6)

**LEGINS, Sally** (nee Baran), 95, of Nanticoke, and **formerly of Alden in Newport Township**, passed away Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at her home. Sally was born in February 1920 and was the daughter of Michael and Mary (Skopek) Baran. During her youth she **attended** Saint Mary of Czestochowa Parochial School and **Newport Township schools**. She was employed by General Cigar of Nanticoke, Luzerne County Community College, and Greater Nanticoke Area School District. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Walter Legins and two brothers. She is survived by her daughters; Dolores Kazmerski and her husband, Gerald; Phyllis Rudy and her husband, Bruce; Sally Kaszowicz and her husband, James; and sister, Helen Robacheski. She was a member of Saint Faustina Parish. Arrangements were made with Grontkowski Funeral Home, PC of Nanticoke and entombment was in Saint Mary's Mausoleum, Hanover Township.

(7)

**GRIFFITH, Janet M. (nee Roberts)**, 54, *of Wanamie*, passed away Sunday, September 27, 2015, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township. Janet was born in Kingston on January 16, 1961, and she was the daughter of the late Jack and Alberta (Hartman) Roberts. Janet attended Calvary United Methodist Church in West Nanticoke and was employed at Old Country Buffet. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, James Griffith Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Victoria Griffith; sister, Gay Stahley of Catawissa; stepdaughters, Kimberly Griffith and Annette Mercadante. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home, Inc.

(8)

**REH, Helen V.** (nee Jakubowski), 92, of Hanover Township passed away Saturday, September 25, 2015, at Kingston Health Care Center. Helen was *born July 20, 1923, in Glen Lyon* and was the daughter of the late Stanley and Jennie (Obidzinski) Jakubowski. She devoted her life to her family as a homemaker. Besides her parents, Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Carl; brother, Sylvester Jakubowski; and sister, Irene Sowdon. She is survived by her sons; Gerald and his wife, Martha, in Manasses, VA, Richard and his wife, Ann, in Mechanicsburg, Donald and his wife, Emily, in Co, and Vince and his wife, Sue, in NJ; and daughter, Janice Vassello, in Courtdale. Helen was a member of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish of Wilkes Barre. Arrangements were entrusted to Charles V. Sherba Funeral Home in Hanover Township, and interment was in Saint Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township.

(9)

**STAUFFER, Barbara M.** (nee Kotsull), 76, of Williamstown, NJ, and *formerly of Alden*, passed away on Friday, July 11, 2015. Barbara was the daughter of the late Jacob and Adele Kotsull and a *graduate of Newport Township High School Class "57."* She was a teacher at Williamstown High School for 28 years. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Clyde Stauffer. She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Sherrod, and her husband, John; and brother, Robert Kotsull. Arrangements were made with Bell-Hennessey Funeral Home of Williamstown and interment was in Saint Mary's Cemetery of Williamstown.

(10)

**MAZUKA, Doris** (nee May), 73, *of Wanamie* passed away Saturday, October 17, 2015, In Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Doris was born on September 9, 1942, in Wilkes Barre and was the daughter of the late Harry May Sr. and Dorothy (Coyle) May. She graduated as valedictorian from Wilkes Barre Township High School Class of "60" and was employed by Bell Telephone for a time. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph J. Mazuka Sr.; sister, Marion Brachulis; and brother, Harry May Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Karen Hartman, and her husband, Erik; and her son, Joseph Mazuka. Doris was a member of Saint Faustina Parish and was buried in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Hanover Township. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Funeral Home of Ashley.

(11)

**GRABOWSKI, John J., 73, of Glen Lyon** passed away Thursday, November 5, 2014, at the Celtic Health Care Unit, Geisinger South, Wilkes Barre. John was born in Nanticoke on March 27, 1942, and was the son of the late John and Annette (Rupinski) Grabowski. He attended Harter High School and worked as a foreman for Certainteed Corp., in Mountain top and was a truck driver for Wicks Lumber, Wilkes Barre. John served his country in the US Navy aboard the USS Blandy. Besides his parents John was preceded in death by his sister, Tessie Alberola. "Grabber" is survived by his wife of 51 years, Dolores (nee Yacuboski); son, John Grabowski, and wife, Brenda; daughter, Debbie Ward, and her husband, Jack; sisters, Helen Beeunas and Christine Cherr; and brother, Anthony, and his wife, Sherry. John was a member of Holy Spirit Parish, Glen Lyon. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish funeral Home, Inc., Glen Lyon and interment was in Saint Adalbert's Cemetery, Glen Lyon.

(12)

**REAKES, James R., 71, of Wanamie** passed away Monday, November 9, 2015, at Wilkes Barre General Hospital after a brief illness. Jim was born on April 11, 1944, and was the son of the late Donald and Dorothy (Blackburn) Reakes. He was a **lifelong resident of Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School** class of "62." Jim received his certification in Auto Mechanics from Williamsport College of Technology and worked as a mechanic for his father, later owned his father's business, and retired as a mechanic from Luzerne County Road and Bridge. Besides his parents Jim was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth (Yarmolowicz) Reakes in 1998. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; son, James Reakes, and his wife, Christine, Wanamie; daughter, Lee Ann Phillips, and her husband, Robert, Wapwallopen; daughter, Loreene Sedorchuk, and her husband, Raymond, Coudersport; daughter, Marcy Huber, and her husband, Jon, Mountain Top; daughter, Lynette Beretsky, and her husband, Francis, Auburn; step daughter, Lynette Paczkowski, MA; sister, Marjorie Rinehimer, and her husband, Elwood, Dorrance; and sister-in-law, Theresa Doran, and husband, James, Ashley. Arrangements were made with Davis-Dinelli Funeral Home, Nanticoke, and interment was made in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Wanamie.

(13)

**KAMON, Betty A.,** of Nanticoke passed away Tuesday, September 29, 2015, in Texas. Betty was **born in Glen Lyon** and was the daughter of the late Joseph Riefski and Anna Shershen. She was a **graduate of Newport Township High School** and Luzerne County Community College. Betty was employed by the PA Unemployment Office in Wilkes Barre. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Stanley Kamon Jr. She is survived by her son, Joseph, and wife, Joann, of Allentown; son, Mark, and his wife, Christine, of Kennedyville, MD; and daughter, Janet, and her husband, Roger Hutley, of Lewisville, TX. She was a longtime member of Holy Trinity Church. Arrangements were made with Grontkowski Funeral Home PC, Nanticoke.

(14)

**RAINERI, Edward C.**, 87, of Nanticoke and **formerly of Glen Lyon** passed away Friday, November 13, 2015, at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Plains Township. Edward was **born on October 18, 1928, in Newport Township** and was the son of the late Vito and Stasia (Swiensi) Raineri. He **attended Newport Township schools** and served in the US Army in combat during the Korean War with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, 72<sup>nd</sup> Tank Battalion. He was in the produce business in Glen Lyon and Nanticoke with his brothers for many years and retired from Tobyhanna Army Depot. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Matilda; sister, Evelyn Roke; and brothers, Bill, Gene, and Joe Raineri. He is survived by his children; daughter, Diane Raineri of Pittston; son, Robert, and his wife, Eileen, of Wanamie; daughter, Karen, and her husband, Lou Elisio, of Conshohocken; daughter, Maria Pascoe of Virginia Beach; and son, Edward, and his wife, Lisa, of Shickshinny. Edward was a member of Saint Faustina Parish and member of the former Saint Joseph's Slovak Catholic Church. Arrangements were made with Davis-Dinelli Funeral Home of Nanticoke and interment was Saint John the Baptist Cemetery, Glen Lyon.

(15)

**WASKIEWICZ, Stasia** (nee Warenko), 92, of Livonia, MI, and **formerly of Glen Lyon**, passed away October 24, 2015. Stasia was the daughter of the late Stanley & Josephine (Zitterman) Warenko and a **graduate of Newport Township High School** Class of "41." Stasia is survived by her son, Joel of Livonia, and her brother, Joseph, of Livonia. She was predeceased by her brothers, Henry and Norbert; and sisters, Gertrude Adamovich, and Elizabeth Wisinski. Stasia worked in Livonia hospitals in administration. Arrangements were made with Harry J. Will Funeral Home. Burial was from Saint Colette Catholic Church and interment was at Holy Sepulchre in Livonia.

(16)

**LASHINSKI, Joseph Jr.**, 95, **of Glen Lyon** passed away Sunday, November 15, 2015, at Guardian Elder Care Center in Sheatown. Joseph was **born in Glen Lyon** on May 6, 1920, and was the son of the late Joseph Sr. and Mary (Formulak) Lashinski. He was a **graduate of Newport Township High School** and a veteran of the US Air Force. Joe was employed by the St. Moritz on the Park Hotel of New York City until his retirement. He was a member of Holy Spirit Parish (Saint Adalbert's Church), Glen Lyon. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Inc. funeral Home and interment was in Saint Adalbert's Cemetery in Glen Lyon.

(17)

**BIGUS, Linda Jean.** **of Glen Lyon** died in Wilkes Barre General Hospital on Thursday, November 19, 2015. "Gamma" was predeceased by her mother, Theresa Morris; sister, Paula Harding; and brother, Thomas Lucas. She is survived by her daughters; Christine Bigus DiSabatino and her husband, David; Trish Bigus and husband, Corey Shafer; Karen Bigus, Laura Bigus; Kathleen Wincek and Brianna Wincek; siblings; sister, Cecilia Rose Ackerman, and her husband, Mark; sister, Mickie Rushinock, and her husband, John; sister, Mary Antonishak; sister, Renie Lucent; and brother, Joey Morris.

(18)

**SHEDLOCK, Denise R.**, 35, of Nanticoke, *formerly of Glen Lyon*, passed away unexpectedly, Friday, November 20, 2015, at her home. Denise was born June 9, 1980, in Berwick and was the daughter of Joseph Shedlock and Karen (Gensel) Shedlock. She attended Greater Nanticoke Area and Berwick schools and was employed as a receptionist for InterMountain Medical Group. Besides her parents she is survived by her daughters: Mikayla Hill and Abigail Lachenmayer; brother, David Carey of Pittston; and stepbrothers, David O'Donnell of Ashley and Michael O'Donnell of Shavertown. Arrangements were made with Davis-Dinelli Funeral Home of Nanticoke.

(19)

**TESTAGUZZA, Louis**, 97, of California and formerly of Nanticoke and *with Newport Township ties*, passed away Friday, September 18, 2015, in the Veterans Administration Hospital of Palo Alto, California. "Lou" was born in Nanticoke on August 30, 1928, and was the son of Italian immigrants, the late Dominic and Mary Testaguzza. He graduated from Nanticoke High School, enlisted in the US Marine Corps, graduated flight school, joined the Air Force Reserve, and retired with the rank of Major. He also was a commercial airline pilot of American Airlines. "Lou" received a BSA from Northrop Aeronautical Institute, worked in the aerospace industry, and also received a law degree for the University of San Francisco. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his sisters, Ellen Letizi and Louise Skrip. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marlene (Sylva) Testaguzza; daughters, Darlene Manning, Deborah Testaguzza, and Denise Storm; son, Brett Testaguzza; and sister, Julie Golanoski.

(20)

**MILLER, John D.**, 70, *of Glen Lyon* passed away Wednesday, November 25, 2015, at his home after an illness. John was born in Nanticoke on September 30, 1945, and was the son of the late John A. and Gertrude Miller. He was a *graduate of Newport Township High School* class of "63" and was a veteran of the US Air force. He worked for the Department of Corrections at SCI-Dallas and SCI-Retreat. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Portia (Crane) Miller; daughter, Autumn Adams; sons, Dean Miller; Chris Miller and his wife, Jamie; and Lincoln Miller; and sister, Barbara Piestrak. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Inc. Funeral Home and interment was in the Italian Independent Cemetery of Glen Lyon.

(21)

**HAINES, Joy R.** (nee Smith), 91, of Nanticoke and *formerly of Alden* passed away Wednesday, December 2, 2015, at Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Joy was born February 23, 1925, and was the daughter of the late Abram and Fae (Smith) Smith. She was a *graduate of Newport Township High School* and was a veteran of the US Navy prior to working for and retiring from Bell Telephone. She had her name memorialized on the Women's War Memorial in Washington, D.C. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Sheldon, and brother Earl Smith. She is survived by her daughter Bonnie Kowalski and her husband, Edward; and sister, Camilla, and her husband, Ron Meyer. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home, Inc. and interment was in Albert Cemetery, Albert.

(22)

**PIERSON, Jeanine** (nee Banucha), 76, *of Wanamie* passed away Thursday, December 3, 2015, at Celtic Hospice, Geisinger South, Wilkes Barre. Jeanine was born in Brugnac, France, on February 20, 1939, and was the daughter of the late Jean and Helene (Waz) Banucha. Jeanine was educated in France, came to America, and became a naturalized citizen. She was employed as a cashier for Woolworth. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Robert Pierson; and brothers, Edouard Banucha and Michel Banucha, Jeanine is survived by her children; son, Richard Pierson; daughter, Crystal Bogdan and husband, Leon; son, Paul Pierson and wife, Beverly; and daughter, Nicole Pierson and husband, John; and brother, Jean-Pierre Banucha. Jeanine was a member of Holy Spirit Parish, Glen Lyon. Arrangements were made with Stanley S. Stegura Funeral Home, Inc. and interment will in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Wanamie.

(23)

**BOJANOWSKI, Anthony M.**, 64, of Portland, OR, and *formerly of Glen Lyon*, passed away on August 10, 2015, at Oregon Health and Sciences University Hospital, Portland, OR. "Tony" was the son of the late Anthony and Leona (Olenginski) Bojanowski, attended Newport Township schools, and graduated from John S. Fine High School of Greater Nanticoke Area class of "69." He graduated from LCCC and attended Mansfield State College. He was a veteran of the US Air Force from 1973 to 1976. He was employed by the State of Oregon's Vital Records Department in the area of foreign adoptions. Tony is survived by his sister, Leona Gildersleeve, and her husband, George; and brother, Paul Bojanowski, and his wife, Pamela.

(24)

**BROWN, Janet M.**, 79, of Slocum Township passed away Friday, December 4, 2015, at Celtic Hospice, Wilkes Barre. Janet was born in Slocum Township on October 7, 1936, and was the daughter of the late Marvin F. and Eva (Ungermach) Brown. She *attended Newport Township High School* and was employed with the Crestwood School district and as a seamstress in the garment industry. Besides her parents Janet was preceded in death by her brother, Elsworth Brown, and sister, Nancy Houseknecht. She is survived by her son, Jeffrey Brown, and his companion, Joanne Roberts; brothers, Ralph Brown of Slocum, and his wife, Doris, and Earl Brown of Slocum and his wife, Judy; and sister, Shirley Dismarais, of San Antonio, TX. Janet was a member of Slocum Methodist Church. Funeral arrangements were made with Heller funeral Home of Nescopeck.

(25)

**WAITER, Emily (nee Roman)**, 94, *of Sheatown* passed away December 3, 2015, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township. Emily was born April 14, 1921, and was the daughter of the late Stanley and Tillie (Godek) Roman. She *attended* Holy Trinity School and *Newport Township High School*. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Waiter; sisters, Frances Granitzki, Stella Yashinski, Lee Belles, and Lottie Roman; brothers, Stanley, Adam, and John (Jack) Roman. She is survived by her sisters, Theresa

Kerbaugh and Charlotte Turowski of Sheatown and Ann Zigmund of New Jersey. Funeral arrangements were made with Stanley Stegura Funeral Home of Nanticoke.