

## Obituaries for December 2020, January, February, & March 2021 Spring Newsletter

*Written by Tom Kashatus* The Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) 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 this 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, [www.newporttownship.com](http://www.newporttownship.com), (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 or that of the funeral home. As usual, your comments are always welcome; and, if someone is missed, please notify this writer at [tomkashatus@gmail.com](mailto:tomkashatus@gmail.com) or call (570) 736-6981.

(01)



**BAVITZ, Pearl** (nee Sudick), 92, of Old Newport Street, Sheatown, passed away December 7, 2020, at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Plains Township. Pearl was born in Alden on October 1, 1928, and she was the daughter of the late Stephen and Anna (Waranka) Sudick. She attended Newport Township schools. She was a member of Saint Mary's Chestakowa Church of Nanticoke. She was formerly employed by General Cigar Company and Old River Road Bakery. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her husband of 71 years, Gerald BavitZ; brothers, Michael, John, and Nicholas Sudick; sisters, Martha Platko and Mary Sudick. Pearl is survived by her sons, Gerald BavitZ of Sheatown and Neil (wife, Joan) BavitZ of Wanamie. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke; and interment was in Saint Mary's Cemetery of Hanover Township.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Sunday, December 13, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=pearl-bavitZ&pid=197281233&fhid=28275>

(02)



**PAUL, Raymond John**, 91, of Hanover Section of Nanticoke, Rhome, passed away Monday, December 7, 2020, at Birchwood Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center where he resided for four years. Raymond was born in Alden on August 30, 1929, raised in Alden; and he was the son of the late Peter and Matilda Polnasek. He attended Newport Township schools. Ray was a US Air Force veteran serving in the Korean War. He was a member of the VFW and the Jeffries Slapikas American Legion Post 971 of Wanamie. Ray had been employed as a milkman, mechanic for Superior Motors in Kingston, an insurance adjuster for Allstate, an employee of Nanticoke City Building and retired from the Wilkes Barre YMCA. Besides his parents, Ray was predeceased by his wife of 49 years, Jean Paul; son, Raymond; and siblings, Danny, Chet, and Marcella. He is survived by his daughter, Lynn Dempsey (husband, Ed) of Danville; daughter-in-law, Suzanne Paul of Dorrance Township; and siblings, Edward of North Dakota and Alberta of New Jersey. Arrangements were made with Kearney Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens voice on Sunday, December 13, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=raymond-john-paul&pid=197281179&fhid=7214>

(03)



**ARMSTRONG, Leona J.** (nee Raineri), 86, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Newport Township, passed away Monday, December 14, 2020, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township. Leona was born in Glen Lyon on May 28, 1934, raised in Glen Lyon; and she was the daughter of the late Vito and Stacia (Swiensi) Raineri. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School class of “51.” She retired as a CNA from White Haven Center and was a member of Nebo Baptist Church of Nanticoke. Besides her

parents, “Onie” was predeceased by her grandson, Jeremy Doknovitch; brothers, Joseph, Edward, William, and Gene; and sister, Evelyn Roke. She is survived by her daughters, Carole and Gail; sons, Mark (wife, Gale), Joseph, and Stephen; and sisters, Verna Krieger and Eleanor Ternowski. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Monday, December 21, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=leona-j-armstrong&pid=197334883>

(04)

**McKenzie, Diane E.**, 77, of Newport Center, Sheatown, passed away on Friday, December 18, 2020 at her home. Diane is survived by her husband, John L. McKenzie. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Inc. Funeral Home of Glen Lyon.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Saturday, December 29, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=diane-e-mckenzie&pid=197386990>

[https://www.citizensvoice.com/news/crime-emergencies/woman-dog-die-in-newport-twp-fire/article\\_b4515ddb-8755-5030-a2fa-445db00ff584.html](https://www.citizensvoice.com/news/crime-emergencies/woman-dog-die-in-newport-twp-fire/article_b4515ddb-8755-5030-a2fa-445db00ff584.html)

(05)

**SKLANEY, Lawrence J.** “Larry,” 79, of White Haven, formerly of Alden, passed away Wednesday, December 23, 2020, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Larry was born in Newport Township, raised in Alden, and was the son of the late Joseph and Helen (Vinarski) Sklaney and stepmother, Blanche Konieczny. He graduated from Newport Township High School class of “59,” King’s College and Marywood University where he earned his Master’s Degree. He had been employed at the Youth forestry Camp at Hickory run and retired as a Social Worker from SCI-Frackville. He had been a member of the Newport Township Community Organization. Larry is survived by his wife Kathy (Tyburski) Sklaney; children, Lawrence Sklaney Jr. (wife, Minjie) of St. Paul, MN and Susan Sklaney of Bloomsburg; and sister, Laverne Gzemski (husband, Casmier) of Milltown, NJ. Arrangements were made with Lehman Family Funeral Services of White Haven.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Friday, December 25, 2020 & Lehman Family Funeral Services of White Haven.

<https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/pa/white-haven/lawrence-sklaney-11984586>

(06)



**MUROSKE, Chester B.**, 81, Former Luzerne County Judge and District Attorney, of Bear Creek Village, passed away Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at Paoli Hospital of Paoli, PA. Judge Muroski was predeceased by his first wife, Loretta (Shutta) Muroski, who was raised in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of Newport Township High School class of “58.” Judge Muroski is survived by his two daughters with Loretta, Lisa Ruzzi of West Chester, PA and

Joy Reap of Richmond, VT; and grandson, Thatcher Reap.

Published in Times Leader from Dec. 24 to Dec. 25, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesleader/obituary.aspx?n=chester-b-muroski&pid=197359969>

(07)

**McHUGH, Celia Ann** (nee Janora), of Rochester, NY, formerly of Alden, passed away Friday, December 4, 2020. Celia was born in Alden on November 18, 1930, and she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Sophia Janora. She had been employed and retired from the Rochester, NY City School District after 35 years. Celia is survived by her husband of 70 years, Thomas McHugh, Ret. US Navy MCPO; and children, Tom McHugh (wife, Lori), Karen Lasch (husband, Bob), Susan Ronco (husband, Gary), and Linda Schiffhauer (husband, Dave); and brother Edward Janora. Arrangements were made with New Comer Cremations and Funerals of Rochester, NY; and interment was in Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Romulus, NY.

[https://www.citizensvoice.com/zz-dnp/celia-ann-mchugh/article\\_f056df16-2316-55ea-b284-274636f0007e.html](https://www.citizensvoice.com/zz-dnp/celia-ann-mchugh/article_f056df16-2316-55ea-b284-274636f0007e.html)

(08)

**BOLINSKI, David F.**, 62, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Glen Lyon and Ridgeview, passed away Saturday, December 26, 2020, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. David was born in Florida on May 17, 1958; and he was the son of Alberta (Kush) Bolinski and the late Chief Master Sergeant Frank S. Bolinski. He was raised in Glen Lyon, attended Newport Township schools, and graduated from John S. Fine High School class of “76.” David was employed and retired from American Water Company. He is survived by his mother, Alberta Bolinski; son, Daniel Bolinski; daughter, Alexandra Bolinski; sisters, Sharon Vest, Donna Layne, and Debbie Bolinski; and fiancée, Sandra Pardini. Arrangements were made with Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Saturday, January 1, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=david-f-bolinski&pid=197405220&fhid=28275>

(09)



**SCHRAEDER, John W. III**, 64, of Orangeville, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away Friday, December 11, 2020. John was born on March 15, 1956, raised in Glen Lyon early in years; and he was the son of the late John W. and Thelma (Burke) Schraeder. He was a graduate of Northwest Area High School class of “75” and had been employed by AC&F, Berwick Forge & Fabricating, and Strick.

Besides his parents, John was predeceased by his sister, Dorothy Jean (Wytovich) Eckhart. He

is survived by his wife of 43 years, Glenda (Nevel) Schraeder of Orangeville; children, Jeremy Schraeder (wife, Amy [Hilly] of Shickhinny) Valley and Kayla Schraeder (boyfriend, Tad Sitkoski) of Orangeville; siblings, Pat Steeber (husband, Mike) of Shickshinny; Linda Kile (husband, Richard) of Bloomsburg; and James Schraeder (wife, Tracey) of Hunlock Creek; and brother-in-law, Charlie Eckhart of Sweet Valley. Arrangements were made with Kelchner, McMichael & Readler Funeral Home Inc. of Berwick.

Published in the Daily Item of the Danville News.

<https://www.kelchnerfuneralhome.com/obituary/John-SchraederIII>

(10)



**LEIBY, Robert R.**, 83, of Sheatown, passed away Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at his home. Robert was born April 17, 1937, in Wilkes Barre, and he was the son of the late John and Virginia (George) Leiby. He worked as a self-employed contractor and was a member of Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish of Nanticoke. Besides his parents, Robert was predeceased by his wife of 49 years, Patricia (Pepel). He is survived by his children, Robert Leiby (wife, Cynthia), David Leiby (wife, Janice), Lisa Radziak husband, Leonard), and Nicole Reese (husband, George); sister, Mary Elmy (husband, Robert); and brothers, Thomas and Guy Leiby. Arrangements were made with David-Dinelli Funeral Home of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Friday, January 8, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=robert-r-leiby&pid=197454155&fhid=28274>

(11)

**ELCZYNA, Frances Mary** (nee Olshefski), 89, of Sheatown, formerly of Glen Lyon & Hunlock Creek, passed away Saturday, January 2, 2021, at Birchwood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Nanticoke. Frances was born May 12, 1931, in Glen Lyon; and she was the daughter of the late Francis and Jessie (Olenginski) Olshefski. She was raised in Glen Lyon and attended Newport Township High School. Later she completed her GED and business school. Frances had been employed at Retreat State Hospital and retired from the PA State Department of Health in Kingston. She was a member of Saint Adalbert's Church Holy Spirit Parish of Glen Lyon and the Newport Township Community Organization. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, Edmund "Chinna" ElcZYNA; daughter, Diana Yudisky; and brother, Clem Olshefski. Frances is survived by her daughter, Susan ElcZYNA (husband, Raymond Irvin); grand-daughter, Captain Holly Yudisky (husband, Bryan Slutman); sister, Jessie Olshefski; and son-in-law, Dennis Yudisky. Arrangements were made with Stanley S. Stegura Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke. Published in the Citizens Voice on Friday, January 15, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=frances-mary-elcZYNA&pid=197497406>

(12)



**KRASULSKI, The Rev. Andrew**, 91, of Cape Coral, FL, formerly of Alden, passed away Friday, January 15, 2021, at his home. Rev. Krasulski was born on October 23, 1929; and he was the son of the late John and Anna (Rudowski) Krasulski. He was raised on the Polander Hill section of Alden, attended KM Smith



Elementary School, and graduated from Newport Township High School class of “48.” He matriculated at Wilkes College, earned a B.A. Degree in Philosophy at Saint Basil’s Ukrainian Catholic College and attended the Saint Josephat Seminary at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He was a US Army veteran with service in Seoul, Korea during the Korean War. He was a teacher and coach and ordained to the Catholic priesthood in Parma, OH. He retired from the priesthood where he served as pastor in two churches in Cambria County, PA. Father Krasulski is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jeanette (Rowland) Krasulski; children, the Honorable Mary Evans; Dr. Anna Metroka; twin sons, Master Sergeant Peter Krasulski, and Paul Krasulski; and sister, Emily Weisberg of Waterbury, CN. Arrangements were made with Stegura Funeral Home of Nanticoke; and interment was in Saint Vladimir’s Cemetery of Alden. Published in the Citizens Voice on January 21, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=andrew-krasulski&pid=197550644&fhid=28277>

(13)

**KUTZ, Theresa**, 93, of Lebanon, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away Sunday, January 24, 2021, at the Wellspan Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon. Theresa was born in Glen Lyon on August 4, 1928, and she was the daughter of the late Louis “Squire” and Mary (Benko) Kutz. She was raised in Glen Lyon, and she was a graduate of Newport Township High School class of “46” and Wilkes Barre General Hospital School of Nursing. She was a member of Saint Mary’s Church in Lebanon and retired as a Registered Nurse from Lebanon VA Hospital. Arrangements were made with Thompson Funeral Home of Lebanon. Father John Boyle, cousin of Theresa, presided over mass in Saint Adalbert’s Church and burial in Saint Michael’s Cemetery of Glen Lyon.

<https://www.thompsonfuneralhomelebanon.com/obituary/theresa-kutz>

(14)



**ANDREK, Anna Mae** (nee Ruduski), 84, of Jacksonville, FL; formerly of Alden; Huntington, PA; and East Meadows, Long Island, NY; passed away on Wednesday, November 25, 2020. Anna Mae was born on September 25, 1936 in Nanticoke, and she was the daughter of the late John and Helen (Danchak) Ruduski. She was raised in Alden and graduated from Newport Township High School class of “56.” She had worked in the newspaper media at one time and supported her Russian Orthodox faith. Anna Mae is survived by her husband, George Andrek; and daughters with her first husband, Ronald Pawlowski, Dianne Kolodziejcki (husband, John) of Transfer, PA, and Helene Hanlin of Hermitage, PA. Arrangements were made with Quinn-Shalz Funeral Services and interment was in Pinelawn Cemetery of Long Island, NY.

<https://www.quinn-shalz.com/obituary/AnnaMae-Andrek>

(15)



**ANDREK, George**, 87, of Jacksonville, FL; formerly of Glen Lyon and East Meadow, Long Island, NY; passed away Monday, January 4, 2021, at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. George was born in Glen Lyon on March 4, 1933; and he was the son of the late Michael and Mary (Choray) Andrek. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School class of “51.” After high school he completed a tour of duty as

a Merchant Marine. George graduated from Duke University, worked for Dupont, and later retired as a planner for New York City. He and his wife, Anna Mae, enjoyed traveling and supporting their Russian Orthodox faith. Besides his parents, George was predeceased by his wife, Anna Mae (Ruduski) Andrek; and all siblings. He is survived by his step-daughters, Dianne Kolodziejski (husband, John) of Transfer, PA, and Helene Hanlin of Hermitage, PA; and their children, Ryan Ruzkiewicz, Jena Ruzkiewicz, and Jeffrey Hanlin. A private family service was held in St. Justin of the Martyr Orthodox church. He was laid to rest with his wife, Anna Mae, in Pinelawn Cemetery, Long Island, NY.

(16)



**EDWARDS, Vera Jean** (nee O'Hern), 90, of Ocala, FL; formerly of Sheatown, Bloomsburg, and Albany, GA; passed away April 21, 2020. Vera was born in Newport Township on December 21, 1929; and she was the daughter of the late William O'Hern and Hester Marie Poore. She was raised in Sheatown and graduated from Newport Township High School class of "47." Throughout life, Vera was a homemaker and was always active as a volunteer and various employments prior to retiring to Florida. Besides her parents, Vera was predeceased by her husband, Jack; brothers, Floyd and Bruce; and sister, Betty. She is survived by her son, Jack (wife, Peggy) of Conroe, TX; and daughters, Jill of NYC and Jody (husband, Ted Price) of Windermere, FL. Arrangements were made with Winter Oak Funeral Home and Cremations of Winter Garden, FL.

Published in the directory of Winter Oak Funeral Home and Cremations of Wintermere, FL.

<https://winteroakfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/4192750/Edwards-Vera/>

(17)



**LOCKE, Marie Theresa** (nee Stankevicz), 91, of Odenton, MD, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away at her home in Charleston Retirement Community on November 15, 2020. Marie was born in Glen Lyon and she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Celia Stankevicz. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School class of "47." She was also a graduate of Mansfield State Teacher's College and Penn State University. She had been a nutritionist for Hot Shoppes in VA; a kindergarten teacher at Fort Meade, MD; and retired as the school's principal. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Leonard J. Locke. Marie is survived by her children, Gary Hughes (wife, Kathryn Harrington-Hughes), Mary Hughes (husband, Gary Rowe), Joanne "Jody" Herman, and Jennifer Smart (husband, Tom Balfour). Interment was alongside her husband at Meadowridge Cemetery, Elkridge, MD.

Published in the Baltimore Sun on November 20, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/baltimoresun/obituary.aspx?n=marie-s-locke&pid=197132685>

(18)



**SMITH, Lois M.** (nee Kresge), 66, of Pond Hill, passed away on Friday, December 4, 2020, at Berwick Hospital Center. Lois was born in Berwick on March 22, 1954; and she was the daughter of the late Walter I. and Mary I. (Koons) Kresge. She attended Newport Township High School and graduated from John S. Fine High School class of "72." She had been employed by Mr. Z's in Nanticoke for many years and later Nelly Travel Plaza in Nuangola. She was a member of Saint Mark's

Lutheran Church of Pond Hill. Lois is survived by her husband of 47 years, Clarence E. Smith; sons, Neil C. Smith of Mocanaqua and Derek S. Smith (wife, Kimberly) of Shickshinny; and sister, Bonnie Balliet of Middletown, PA. Arrangements were made with Heller Funeral Home of Nescopeck and interment was in Elan Memorial Park, Bloomsburg.

Published by Heller Funeral Home of Nescopeck.

<http://hellerfuneral.com/Obituaries.html>

(19)



**HARTER. David James**, 92, of Lime Ridge, Columbia County; and formerly of Newport Township; passed away December 9, 2020. He was born October 1, 1928, in Newport Township; and he was the son of the late Barbara McAfee Peters Harter. David was a US Navy veteran and member of Shiloh Bible Church in Almedia. He had been employed with Magee Carpet, Bloomsburg University, Milco, and retired from Bloomsburg Carpet Company. Besides his mother, David was predeceased by his siblings, Verna Hontz, Mary Drumheller, and George Harter. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Betty (Snyder) Harter; children, Debbie Johnson of Bellefonte, PA; David J. Harter II (wife, Debbie) of Mountain Top; and Deenan Gibb (husband, Bill) of Kansas City, MO. Arrangements were made with Heller Funeral Home of Nescopeck.

Published by Heller Funeral Home of Nescopeck.

<http://hellerfuneral.com/Obituaries.html>

(20)



**HELLER, Dorothy E.**, (nee Huttenstine), 93, of Dorrance Township, passed away Friday, January 22, 2021. Dorothy was born in Dorrance Township on January 22, 1928; raised in Dorrance; and was the daughter of the late William and Edith (Heller) Huttenstine. She attended Dorrance and Newport Township schools. She was a member of Emmanuel United Church of Christ. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother Clyde Huttenstine; and sisters, Alma Hoch and Esther Heller. Dorothy is survived by her sister, Martha Grosz; and children, Robert Heller (wife, Helen), Michael Heller (wife, Susan), Lorrie Slusser (partner, Joe Lisk), Connie Myers (husband, Brian), Lisa Caffrey (husband, Lee), and Cheryl Heller. Arrangements were made with Heller Funeral Home LLC of Nescopeck and interment was in Emmanuel Cemetery of Dorrance Township.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Saturday, January 23, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=dorothy-e-heller&pid=197581643&fhid=28278>

(21)



**RANIERI, Robert**, 64, of Wanamie, passed away Sunday, January 31, 2021, at home. Bob was born June 24, 1956, in Nanticoke; and he was the son of the late Edward and Matilda (Vishnefski) Raineri. He was a 1974 graduate of John S. Fine High School and LCCC earning a degree in Architectural Drafting. He was the owner and operator of Bob's Auto Center and a member of Saint Faustina Parish in Nanticoke. He was a School Director of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District, Sons of the American Legion, and Fraternal Order of Eagles. Bob is survived by his

wife of 41 years, Eileen (Omolecki) Raineri; children, Dr. Gina Hudson (husband, Kevin) of Evans, GA and Robert Raineri (wife, Renee) of Lancaster, NY; sisters, Diane Raineri, Karen Elisio (husband, Lou), and Maria Pascoe; and brother, Edward Raineri (wife, Lisa). Arrangements were made with Davis-Dinelli Funeral Home of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=robert-raineri&pid=197651621>

(22)



**ROSZKOWSKI, Marilyn Jane** (nee Rushin), 80, of Lake Silkworth, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away at home on January 31, 2021. Marilyn was born in Wilkes Barre on December 25, 1940; and she was the daughter of the late William E. and Genevieve (Terkoski) Rushin. She was raised in Glen Lyon, was a graduate of Newport Township High School class of “58,” and received a BSN degree from Villanova University School of Nursing. Known as “Nurse,” she had been employed by Greater Nanticoke Area School District and retired after 20 years as the school nurse. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, Ronald W. Rushin. Marilyn is survived by her husband of 59 years, Carl Roszkowski; and daughter, Deborah Roszkowski (partner, Edward J. Maslowski). Arrangements were made with Curtis L. Swanson Funeral Home, Inc. of Pikes Creek.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Friday, February 5, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=marilyn-jane-rozkowski&pid=197658830&fhid=7943>

(23)

**SEWARD, Harriet M.** (nee Rinehamer), 84, of Hobbie, formerly of Slocum Township, passed away Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at home. Harriet was born in Hobbie on May 12, 1936; and she was the daughter of the late Clark and Ruth Rinehimer. She was raised in Slocum Township and graduated from Newport township High School class of “54.” She had been employed as a switchboard operator in Philadelphia and retired from Wise Potato Chips in 1978. She was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, Ray L. Seward; and son, Dean Ray Seward. Harriet is survived by her daughter, Rhonda Keller (husband, James) of Shavertown; and sisters, Shirley Leitner (husband, Robert); Marilyn Lehew (husband, Calvin); and Bonnie Silvetti. Arrangements were made with Heller Funeral Home of Nescopeck.

Published in the Times Leader on Friday, February 5, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesleader/obituary.aspx?n=harriet-m-seward&pid=197658797&fhid=28278>

<http://hellerfuneral.com/Obituaries.html>

(24)



**RADFORD, Joseph F.** (nee Raduta), 86, of Gilbertville, formerly of Wanamie, passed away Sunday, January 3, 2021. Joseph was born in Wanamie on April 21, 1934; and he was the son of the late Joseph and Anna (Bartuska) Raduta. He was raised in Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School class of “51.” He was a US Army veteran stationed at Fort Knox, KY and worked in the Xray Department. He had been employed by DANA Corporation retiring after 37 years. He was



also owner and operator of Joe Radford Photography in Pottstown. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brothers, Frank, William, and Leonard Raduta. Joseph is survived by his wife of 29 years, Carole J. (Fillman) Radford; daughters, Sharon Desper, Elizabeth Polinski (husband, Justin), Cathryn Loveland; and son, Frank Raduta. Arrangements were made with Catagnus Funeral Homes of Gilbertville.

Published in Echovita on Monday, January 11, 2021.

<https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/pa/pottstown/joseph-f-radford-12090751>

<https://catagnusfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/joseph-f-radford-86-of-gilbertville-2/>

(25) (26)

**SOROCHINSKI, Joseph M.**, 92, formerly of Newport Township and Bear Creek Township, passed away Monday, February 1, 2021, at Allied Services Center City Skilled Nursing. Joseph was a graduate of Newport Township High School class of "47." On February 9, 2021, his wife Marie Grace (Lettini) Sorochinski, 83, passed away at Allied Services Center City Skilled Nursing. Arrangements were made with George A. Strish Funeral Home, Inc of Ashley.

Published in the Citizens Voice and Times Leader.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=197651625>

[https://www.citizensvoice.com/zz-dnp/marie-grace-sorochinski/article\\_bed7571e-4b2c-5a95-b740-f067a1f288e8.html](https://www.citizensvoice.com/zz-dnp/marie-grace-sorochinski/article_bed7571e-4b2c-5a95-b740-f067a1f288e8.html)

(27)



**CAPECE, Patrick** of Nanticoke, and long time resident of Glen Lyon, passed away Monday, February 1, 2021. He was the son of the late Rocco and Millie Capece of Mocanaqua. He was employed by Carter Footwear, retired as a Certified Nursing Assistant from Valley Crest Nursing Home, and later worked part time for Birchwood Nursing Center. Besides his parents, Patrick was predeceased by his brothers, John and Nick Capece; sister, Josephine Soletski; and daughter-in-law, Joanne (Norczyk) Capece. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Bernadine (Majcher) Capece; son, Tom Capece (wife, Marianne) of Glen Lyon, brother, James Capece of Pompano Beach, FL; and sisters, Mary Caruso of Hallandale, FL, and Jean Humes of Winterville, NC. Arrangements were entrusted to George A. Strish Funeral Home, Inc, of Glen Lyon.

Published in the Citizens Voice on February 8, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=197672553>

(28)



**BROMACK, Tiffany**, 33, of Swoyersville, passed away on Friday, February 5, 2021. She was born October 9, 1987, was the daughter of John Bromack and the late Deborah (Rakaczewski) Bromack, and graduated from WVV High School class of "06" and attended LCCC. She is survived by her two sons, Jayden and Landen and she had been employed by The R Bar & Grill of Alden.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=tiffany-bromack&pid=197682933&fhid=22973>

(29)



**ECKROTE, Michael** John Sr., 39, of Alden, passed away Sunday, February 7, 2021, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. Michael was born on November 14, 1981, in Kingston; and he was the son of John and Michele (Romanowski) Eckrote. He was raised in Alden and was a graduate of Greater Nanticoke Area School district class of 2000. He had been employed by True Value. In addition to his parents, Michael is survived by his son, Michael John Eckrote, Jr.; and sisters, Amy Brennan (husband, Josh) of Larksville and Elizabeth Pohlig (husband, Stephen) of Old Forge. Arrangements were made with Lehman family funeral Services, Inc. of Wilkes Barre.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

[https://www.lehmanfuneralhome.com/obituary/MICHAEL-ECKROTESR?fbclid=IwAR15DSDYR-fVscCwopncifExkAo9F\\_eyJCUXmhcAOM0TNbaTf\\_tHvBPhw1uI](https://www.lehmanfuneralhome.com/obituary/MICHAEL-ECKROTESR?fbclid=IwAR15DSDYR-fVscCwopncifExkAo9F_eyJCUXmhcAOM0TNbaTf_tHvBPhw1uI)

(30)



**DUPRAS, James "Jim-e,"** 44, of Glen Lyon, formerly of Tunkhannock, passed away Saturday, January 30, 2021, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township, from injuries sustained in an ATV accident. James was born in Kingston on March 21, 1976; and he was the son of James Dupras of Pittston and the late Phyllis Redmond Simko. He was an employee of the Newport Township Public Works Department. Besides his mother, he was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Taylor. Besides his father, he is survived by his daughter, Kayla Dupras; son, James Jr.; step parents, Ronald Simko and Joan Dupras; brother, Eric Dupras, sister, Amy Corby (husband, Ryan); and half-sister, Tina Slatcoff. Arrangements were entrusted to Bednarski Funeral Home of Wyoming. Published in the Times Leader on February 1 and 2, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesleader/obituary.aspx?n=james-dupras-jim-e&pid=197635701&fhid=22971>

(31)

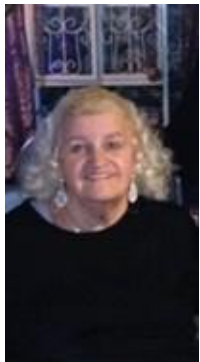


**OREKINTO, Katherine** (nee Lushefski), 94, of Newport Township, passed away Monday, February 8, 2021. Katherine was born on September 5, 1926, in Nanticoke; and she was the daughter of the late John and Katherine Lushefski. She had been employed with General Electric in 1943 working for the "war effort," receiving an "Award of Excellence" in Bridgeport, CN. She also worked in the local garment industry thereafter in the ILGWU shops. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by four brothers and a sister. Katherine is survived by her husband of 73 years, Alfred Orekinto. Arrangements were made with Kearney Funeral Home Inc, of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=katherine-irene-orekinto&pid=197723716&fhid=7214>

(32)



**TERKOWSKI, Irene Ann** (nee Kozar), 74, of West Nanticoke, formerly of Newport Township, passed away Tuesday, February 9, 2021, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Irene was born on May 1, 1946, raised in Glen Lyon, and was the daughter of the late Metro and Anna Kozar. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School class of "64." She retired as an employee of Eastside Apartments of Nanticoke. Besides her parents, Irene was predeceased by her brothers, George Kozar, Daniel Kozar, and Metro Kozar; and sisters Ann Hasinas and Mary Rose Boyd. Irene is survived by her children, Ulysses Terkowski, Ivane Terkowski, and Michael Terkowski. Arrangements were made with Stanley S. Stegura Funeral Home, Inc. of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Saturday, February 13, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=irene-ann-terkowski&pid=197758551&fhid=28277>

(33)

**DAVIS, Judith Ann**, 75, of Sheatown, passed away Thursday, Sep. 17, 2020, at the Gardens at East Mountain, Wilkes Barre. Judy was born in Wilkes Barre on September 1, 1945; and she was the daughter of the late John and Mary (Culp) Davis. She had been employed as a machine operator in the local garment industry and was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Judy is survived by her brother, John Davis. Arrangements were made with Earl Lohman Funeral Home, Inc. of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens Voice September 2020 and Legacy of Lohman Funeral Home of Nanticoke. .

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=judith-ann-davis&pid=196823751&fhid=28275>

(34)



**HIGGINS, Carolyn J.** (nee Boltz), 84, of Alden passed away on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. She was born on December 15, 1936, raised in Nanticoke, and was the daughter of the late Frederick and Verna (Snyder) Boltz. She was a graduate of Nanticoke High School, but lived most of her life in Alden; and she continued her education at Wilkes Barre Area Career and Technical Center. Carolyn had been employed as an LPN at Birchwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and retired from East Mountain

Manor, Wilkes Barre. She was a member of Newport United Methodist Church. Besides her parents Carolyn was predeceased by her husband of 35 years, Frank Higgins; and brother, Henry Boltz. She is survived by her children, Karen Oltra (husband, Bob), Charmaine Zwiebel (husband, Jack), and Michael Higgins (wife Patrice), all of Alden; Robert Higgins (wife, Karen) of Sheatown; Tammy Higgins of Mountain Top; Lonee Kreitzer (husband, Steve) and Aaron Higgins (wife, Kim) both of Nanticoke; Donna Hauer (husband, Fred) of Pond Hill; and Beth Maney of Newport Center. Arrangements were made with Davis-Dinelli Funeral Home of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens Voice on Sunday, February 21, 2021.

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/20033180/Carolyn-J-Higgins>

(35)

**BACKLEY, James M.**, 67, of Nanticoke, formerly of Wanamie, died Thursday, February 18, 2021. He was the son of the late Geraldine Smith and James Backley Sr. He was predeceased by his sister, Shirley Backley; brother, Robert Backley; sister-in-law, Sylvia Backley; and brother-in-law, Larry Bloom. James is survived by his children; James, Brian, and Kayla Backley; ex-wife, Anna Mae; and brother, Dave Backley. Arrangements were made with Kielty-Moran Funeral Home, Inc. of Plymouth.

Published in the Citizens' Voice on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=james-m-backley&pid=197830661&fhid=22972>

(36)



**KIVLER, Sharon A.** (nee Mikolay), 73, of Sheatown, passed away Sunday, February 14, 2021, at Guardian Healthcare, Sheatown, following an illness. Sharon was born and raised in Plymouth; and she was the daughter of the late George and Leona (Gunderman) Mikolay. She graduated from Plymouth High School class of "65." She was a member of Holy Child Church until it closed. She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas Kivler; son, Mark Kivler, and sister, Henrietta Schultz. Sharon is survived by her sons, Thomas Kivler Jr. of

Wilkes Barre, and Joseph Kivler, of Askam. Arrangements were in the care of Davis-Dinelli Funeral Home of Nanticoke and interment was in Shawnee Cemetery, Plymouth.

Published in the Citizens' Voice on February 23, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=james-m-backley&pid=197830661&fhid=22972>

(37)



**STICHAK, Jack "Stich,"** "69," of Lake Silkworth, formerly of Alden, passed away Saturday, February 20, 2021, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital due to complications with COVID-19. "Jack" was born in Nanticoke on September 8, 1951; raised in Alden; attended Newport Township schools; and graduated from John S. Fine High School class of "70." He was the son of the late John and Elizabeth (Dean) Stichak. "Jack" was a plumber and retired while a member of the Pipe Fitters and Plumbers Union, Local 524. He played football and baseball in high school and was avidly involved with a number of championship softball teams throughout his life. He is survived by his fiancée, Joan Matusek; and sister, Mary McCrorey (husband, Jack). Arrangements were made with Curtis L. Swanson Funeral Home, Inc. of Pikes Creek.

Published in the Citizens' Voice on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=jack-stichak-stich&pid=197830656>

(38)

**KUTZ, John E.**, 85, of Monroe Township, NJ, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away Sunday, February 21, 2021, at Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank, NJ. John was born in Glen Lyon on November 1, 1935; raised in Glen Lyon; and he was the son of the late Joseph and Irene (Adamovich) Kutz. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School class of



“53” and Millersville University. He spent his career teaching in the Monroe Township school system and retired while teaching science at Applegarth Middle School. John also ran the sports program for the New Jersey State Home for Boys Juvenile Detention Center I Monroe. Besides his parents, John was predeceased by his wife of 51 years, Jean (Prebish) Kutz; and his brother, Donald Kutz. He is survived by his son, Darren Kutz of Monroe Township and daughter, Jeannie Kutz of Holmdel. Arrangements were made with Demarco Funeral Home of Monroe Township; and interment was in Maple Grove Cemetery of Pikes Creek.

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/20047522/John-E-Kutz>

<https://demarcofuneralhome.com/tribute/details/4519/John-Kutz/obituary.html#tribute-start>

(39)



**MECK, Gladys Olwen** (nee Griffiths), 93, of Alden, passed away Monday, February 15, 2021. She was born in Alden on September 10, 1927, and was the daughter of the late William and Gladys Griffiths. She was raised in Newport Township and educated in the Township school system. She had been employed by General Cigar of Nanticoke and RCA of Mountain Top and was an active member of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church of Alden. Besides her parents, Olwen was predeceased by her husband of 51 years, Joseph Edward Meck; and sisters, Grace, Irene, and Mary. She is survived by her children, Charmayne Floryan of Forty Fort; Peg Armory of Hanover Township; Stephen Meck (wife,

Donna) of Owings Mills, MD; John Meck of Pittston; and Heather Meck of Forty Fort.

Published in the Citizens' Voice on Sunday, February 28, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=olwen-meck&pid=197896194&>

(40)



**SPURGA, Elizabeth** (nee Kirschner), (nee Swanberry), 70, of Glen Lyon, passed away Wednesday, February 24, 2021, in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Elizabeth was born on January 25, 1951, and she was the daughter of the late James and Mary (McGrath) Swanberry. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her son, David. She is survived by her husband, Charles; daughter, Rita; and son, Francis. Arrangements were made with

Earl Lohman Funeral Home Inc. of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens' Voice on February 28, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=elizabeth-kirschner-spurga&pid=197897166>

(41)



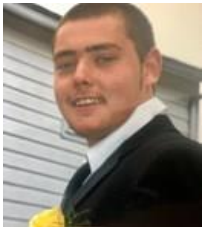
**SAMONEK, Daniel J.**, 73, of Mocanaqua, died Friday, February 26, 2021, at home. Daniel was born on April 27, 1947, in Nanticoke, raised in Mocanaqua; and he was the son of the late Zigmund J. and Alberta (Sherkus) Samonek. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School class of “64.” He was a US Marine Corps veteran and retired as an employee of Coca Cola Bottling Company. He was a member of Holy Spirit Parish (Saint Mary's Church of Mocanaqua); Teamsters Union Local 401; Glen Lyon Italian American Sporting Club; Eagles Club of Nanticoke; American Legion

Post 350; and Twin Cities Lions Club. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Maryann (Canarini) Samonek; daughter, Kristin Samonek Aufiero (husband, Matthew) of Nanticoke; and sister, Beanie Humphrey of Omaha, Nebraska. Arrangements were made with Mayo Funeral Home of Shickshinny and burial was in Saint Mary's Cemetery of Mocanaqua.

Published in the Citizens' Voice on Monday, March 1, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=daniel-j-samonek&pid=197902257>

(42)



**PAINTER, Thomas Worthy**, 26, of Glen Lyon, passed away Thursday, February 18, 2021, in Geisinger south, Wilkes Barre. Thomas was born in Wilkes Barre on February 20, 1994; and he was the son of Thomas T. Painter and Ruth Tolodziewski – “AKA Mama Duke.” He attended Greater Nanticoke Area schools and was employed as a property manager. Besides his parents, he is survived by his great-grandmother, Amelia Cholewa; grandmother, Delphine

Painter; brothers, Arnold Balz and Brian Hirthler. Funeral arrangements were made with Stanley S. Stegura Funeral Home of Nanticoke.

Published in the Citizens' Voice on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=thomas-worthy-painter&pid=197907518&fhid=28277>

(43)



**CURWOOD, Darlene** (nee Prince), 76, departed this life suddenly on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. She was born November 20, 1944, in Northeastern PA and was the daughter of the late Michael and Adelia Prince. Darlene went through her childhood in the town of Mocanaqua and graduated from Newport Township High School class of “62.” A childhood friend recalled Darlene as one of the kindest, smartest, and loving friend as anyone could have. As an adult after high school, Darlene worked in the Luzerne County Courthouse for the County Treasurer. At that time she had the privilege to personally meet a

youthful Senator Joe Biden. She became so proud of Joe Biden and became forever eager to see him elected as President of the United States of America. Upon moving to Reston, VA in 2001, she began a very successful career in real estate. She was always willing to reach out and give anyone a helping hand. Darlene is survived by her loving children, Amanda Curwood of Reston, VA; Melissa Armstrong of Cedar Hill, TN; and William Curwood Jr. of Denver, NC; and her sisters, Connie, Helen and Michele (Mimi) all of Texas.

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**BARTKOWIAK, Robert A.**, 80, of Allentown, formerly of Wanamie, passed away on Monday, February 15, 2021, at home. Robert was born on June 13, 1940; raised early on in Wanamie; and he was the son of the late Steve and Mary (Klus) Bartkowiak. He attended Columbus Elementary School; and graduated from Berwick High School; Penn State University with a BS in Electrical Engineering (EE); Drexel University with a MS in (EE); and doctoral

work at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He had been employed by RCA Astroelectronics Division in Princeton, NJ, and taught Engineering at PSU for over 40 years where he received numerous teaching awards. He was a registered Professional Engineer (PE), and member of (IEEE), (ASEE), and a member of the PA Earth Science Ass. He was a member of Saint Paul's Catholic Church. Robert is survived by his wife of 56 years, Michalene (Mikanowicz) Bartkowiak; sons, David (wife, Kery) of Palatine, IL and James (wife, Patricia) of York; and brothers, Alfred (wife, Phyllis) of Nanticoke and Steve of Berwick. Arrangements were entrusted to K. V. Knopp Funeral Home, Inc. of Allentown and interment was at Resurrection Cemetery in Wescosville.

Published in the Morning Call on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/mcall/obituary.aspx?n=robert-a-bartkowiak&pid=197779889&fhid=9583>