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HONOR LOVED ONES WITH MEMORIAL CENOTAPHS

Sometimes a person is buried apart from their loved ones, or their remains are not available for burial. A cenotaph is a memorial gravesite erected in a location where a deceased person's remains are not kept. The Greek word cenotaph translates to “empty tomb.” National war memorials are considered cenotaphs, and many individual cenotaphs have been used as stand-in gravesites. Some of the most well-known cenotaphs honor Dante, Machiavelli, and Galileo at Santa Croce in Florence, Italy. JFK's memorial in Dallas is also considered a cenotaph. To grieving families not able to bury their loved ones nearby, a cenotaph provides a memorial tomb and offers a physical place of peace to visit, honor, and remember them.

Planning a funeral can be overwhelming, but you are not alone in this. The professionals at North Haven Funeral Home are here to support you throughout this journey and make this process one of love, healing, and life celebration. If you would like to learn more about the services we offer, please call 203-239-1179. We are located at 36 Washington Avenue.

Quote: “I silently laugh at my own cenotaph, and out of the caverns of rain, like a child from the womb, like a ghost from the tomb, I arise and unbuild it again.” Percy Shelley

North Haven Funeral Home, Inc.



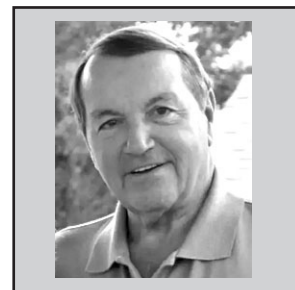
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OBITUARIES



John Pello, 86, of Wallingford, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2026. He was born on March 12, 1939, in Bennington, Vermont.

In his early years of marriage, John shared life's adventures with his beloved wife, Linda, living in Alaska while serving in the United States Navy. After his service, they settled in Wallingford and raised their family.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Linda (McLenithan) Pello; his son, William Pello and wife Dawn of Wallingford; his daughter, Kathleen Pello Ott and husband Conrad of Webb City, Missouri; and his five cherished grandchildren: Benjamin Pello, Greta Pello, Ethan Ott, Jacob Ott, and Lucas Ott. He also leaves behind many extended family members and friends who will miss him dearly.

Should friends desire, donations may be made in John's memory to Masonic Home Health and Hospice, 97 Barnes Rd., Suite 4, Wallingford, CT 06492.



Wallingford-Yalesville Funeral Homes

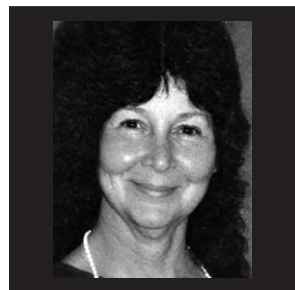


Laura Spiess Valenti, 72, of Yalesville, beloved wife of the late Joseph Valenti Jr., died after a 40-year courageous journey with Multiple Sclerosis on Saturday, January 17, 2026 in her home. She was born in Bristol on May 8, 1953, a daughter of the late Ernest and Irene (Summer-son) Spiess.

She is survived by her brother-in-law, David Blasco; her sister-in-law, Phyllis Valenti Elengo; her nephew, Daniel (Kim) Blasco; her nieces, Melissa Walden, Christina (Eric) Fournier, and Andrea Elengo; several great nephews and great nieces; her neighbors who turned into family, Keeley and Brian Dunleavy; her devoted caretaker, Charmaine Ratray; as well as many extended family members and friends. She also left behind her faithful 4-legged companion, her cat Mike, who has since passed away to join Laura in the afterlife. In addition to her parents and her husband, Laura was predeceased by her sister, Linda Blasco and her brother-in-law, John Elengo.



Wallingford-Yalesville Funeral Homes



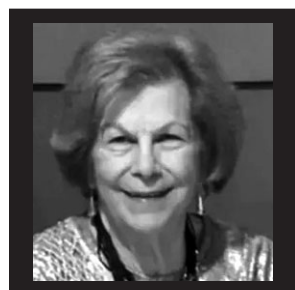
Rita A Rapuano, at 95 years young, passed peacefully on January 9, 2026 after a life defined by independence, quiet strength and an enduring love for horses. Rita, a resident of Wallingford, was born in New Haven CT. The daughter of the late Joseph and Antonette Bontatibus.

Rita is survived by children, Karen Leonetti (Peter), Lisa Richau, David Rapuano (Gayle) and daughter-in-law, Veronica Rapuano, her grandchildren, Nicholas “Nicky”, Peter, Kaitlyn and Alicia, her great-grandchildren, Alessia, Olivia, Bailey and Jordan, brother John Bontatibus (Lynn) and many nieces & nephews.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her husband Benjamin, children Benjamin and Gina, grandchildren Amy and Daniel and brother Joseph.



Wallingford-Yalesville Funeral Homes



Elvira “Vera” Vellaccio DeLucia, 95, of North Haven, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at her home with her loving family by her side. She was the beloved wife of 72 years to the late Joseph F. DeLucia. Vera was born in New Haven on January 23, 1930, and was the daughter of the late Dominic and Josephine DeChello Vellaccio. She is survived by her loving children Diane Forlano (Albert), Josephine Bicknell (Robert), Joseph M. DeLucia (Sandra), and Charlene Dahlstrom (Jack). Vera was a cherished Nonnie Jennifer Cooper (Russell), Justin Forlano, Carisa Bicknell, Renee Bicknell, David Bicknell, Cherie Bicknell (Billy), Joseph M. DeLucia Jr. (Samantha), Ashley DeLucia (Mark), Daniel Dahlstrom (Rebecca), and Jonathan Dahlstrom (Karolyn). Also survived by her brother Dominic Vellaccio, 16 great grandchildren, 4 great great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her daughter in law Theresa DeLucia, sisters Mary Paggiuca, Theresa Santomasso, Anna Rienzo, Josephine Savo, Annette Cirillo, Agelina Gagliardi and her brother Frank Vellaccio.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital by visiting www.stjude.org.

Services were held at the



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Mary R. Cricco, 99, of Wallingford, peacefully passed away in hospice at home from her battle with cancer and kidney disease on January 14, 2026. Mary was born in Hamden on November 18, 1926 the first child of the late Salvatore and Lucy (Ferrucci) Cricco.

Mary is survived by her 14 nieces and nephews, many great nieces and nephews and great great nieces who she adored.

Mary was predeceased by her brothers, Peter, Andrew, Anthony and Salvatore Jr. and her sister Rose Schede.



Wallingford-Yalesville Funeral Homes



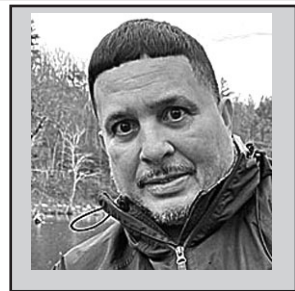
David Barry Willis, 97, husband of Brenda Howell Willis of Hamden, passed away on January 15, 2026, surrounded by family. Born in New Haven December 2, 1928, he was the son of the late David C. and Esther Doolittle Willis. David was a U.S. Air Force veteran. Loving father of Susan (David) Lizotte, Deborah Willis, and Barry Willis. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Brittany, Ashley, Maxine, and Tim; six great-grandchildren; and siblings, Joan Young, Dan Willis, and Carole Willis. He was predeceased by his brother, Robert Willis, and his former wife, Janet Dinneen Willis.

Should friends desire, donations in David's memory can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org.

Services were held at the



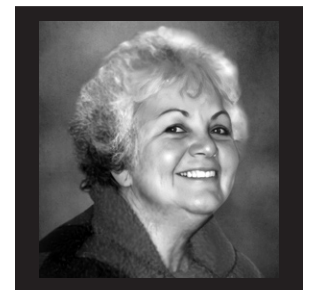
www.beecherandbennett.com.



Daniel “Danny” Vélez, 61, of Wallingford, CT passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury with his loving family by his side. Danny was born in Utuado, Puerto Rico on May 8, 1964, a son of Alicia (Cruz) Vélez and the late Luvdivio Vélez, and had resided in New Haven for most of his life before moving to Wallingford six years ago.

In addition to his mother, Danny is survived by two sons, Daniel (Neal Leigner) Vélez, Jr. of Northfield, VT and Devon (Esmeralda Garcia) Vélez of San Diego, CA, a daughter, Delilah (Victor Barajas) Rios of Vista, CA, two sisters, Carmen “Mimi” (Ray) Morales of Meriden and Virgin “Nana” (Patricia Warquist) Vélez of West Haven, four brothers, Peter (Lucy) Vélez of Texas, Wilson (Janet) Vélez of Waterbury, Orlando (Nancy) Vélez of Phoenix, AZ, and Marcelino Vélez of Wallingford, five beloved grandchildren, Devon Eiza Vélez, Emory Dia Vélez, Juan Rios, Azaliah Barajas and Layli Barajas, and many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was predeceased by two brothers, Edwin and Herito Vélez.

Services were held at the
WASHINGTON MEMORIAL Funeral Home
 North Haven.



Lillian Noemi Tanch, 82, of Wallingford, departed this life on January 16, 2026, at Masonicare Health Center. She was the beloved wife of 56 years to the late Louis S. Tanch. She was born in Lares, Puerto Rico on July 9, 1943 to the late Tito and Blanca (Vilella) Romero.

Lillian is survived by her brothers Angel Mario and Jose Miguel Romero in addition to many nephews and nieces.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Alzheimer's Association.



Wallingford-Yalesville Funeral Homes



Joan Raucchi Hucul (age 91), of Wallingford passed away January 14, 2026, born November 19, 1934, in New Haven, CT. She was the caring daughter of the late Louis & Florence Klotz Raucchi of West Haven. Joan's beloved husband of 62 years, Elias Hucul Jr., passed away on March 24, 2020, at age 86. She has two wonderful daughters, Diane Birtha (Byron), and Anna Woronick (David Sr.) of Wallingford. She has three precious grandchildren, Loren & Janette Birtha and Daniel Elias Woronick (Talya Davis-Day) and her kind step-grandson David Woronick Jr. She will miss her sister Donna Snedeker (Howard) of West Haven and her sister-in-law Addie Raucchi of Branford. Also, many nieces & nephews.

She was predeceased by her beloved son Dean Robert Hucul of 48 years in 2006, her brother Louis Raucchi, sister Constance Villano and brother-in-law Ed Villano.



Anna Guerra Farrell, 88, of Northford passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at her home with her loving family by her side. She was the beloved wife of the late John Farrell. Anna was born in Ospedaletto, D'Alpinolo (AV), Italy on April 1st, 1937, and was the daughter of the late Clemente and Maria Savignano Guerra. Mother of James (Andrea) Farrell and Roseann Thody. Beloved grandmother of Lauren Farrell, Christopher (Elizabeth) Farrell and Steven (Anna) Thody. Loving great-grandmother of Christopher James Farrell, Jr. Sister of Pina Caliendo and the late Amata, Giovanni and Antonio Guerra. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org.

Services were held at the



www.northhavenfuneral.com.