OBITUARIES

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GRIEVING AT WORK

Grief often hits the hardest after the burial of a loved one, once there are no longer distractions from funeral planning, family, and visitors. This is usually around the time we are expected to return to work after experiencing a death. While work may be a welcome distraction, be prepared for experiences at work that will trigger your grief. You may need to take more frequent breaks or leave for a walk during the workday. Consider modifying your schedule to a shortened day or working from home parttime until you're feeling more social. Make sure your boss and immediate team members know what you're going through and how you're doing, even if you ask a trusted coworker to communicate it.

When a loved one dies, grieving family members and friends often are confronted with dozens of decisions about the funeral -- all of which must be made quickly and often under great emotional duress. We value our reputation for providing the highest quality of professional services with the personal attention and understanding needed to help you and your family through a difficult time. To learn more, please call 203-239-1179. We are located at 36 Washington Avenue.

Quote: "Grief is not a disorder, a disease, or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical, and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure to grief is to grieve." --Earl Grollman

North Haven Funeral Home, Inc.


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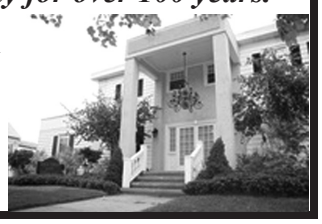




Robert Van Marter, age 83, of Wallingford, Connecticut passed away at home peacefully with his loving family by his side, on May 17, 2025. Robert was born in New London, Connecticut, the son of the late Merle D. and Mary (McGuire) Van Marter. Robert served his country proudly as a member of the US Air Force, with his canine partner Nero.

He was the devoted husband of Rosalee (Lucas) Van Marter for 56 years. In addition to his wife, he is also survived by his three daughters, Nadine Van Marter (Richard Knight), Amanda Carrah (James), and Saunie Dougan (Andy), his grandchildren Sierra & Morgan Manning, Reese & Brooke Dougan, Evan, Ava, Mikayla & Madison Carrah, his brother Merle Van Marter (Diane), his sister Cheryl Bucchi, the Lucas clan, many nieces and nephews, and his dog Scootch.

Robert was predeceased by his cherished daughter Hope Van Marter, nephews Michael King and Jeffrey Lucas, brother in-law Tony Campanaro, and his dogs Ginger, Tabby, and Sassy.

Should friends desire, the Van Marter family requests donations in honor of Bob be made via check to: VFW, Post 591, 23 Prince Street, Wallingford, CT 06492, (203) 269-7114.

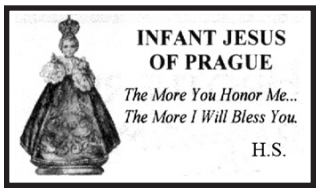
Wallingford•Yalesville Funeral Homes



Gail Marguerite Sicignano Esposito Hagobian, 74, of North Haven, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 19, 2025, at the Connecticut Hospice, Branford after battling a longtime illness. She was the beloved wife of Ronald Hagobian and the late Anthony Esposito. Gail was born in New Haven on March 4, 1951, and was the daughter of the late Joseph and Ruth Lates Sicignano Sr.

Mother of Mark Esposito and his girlfriend Krista Colavito and Lori Arens and her husband Matthew. Beloved grandmother of two beautiful granddaughters Evelyn Mae and Harper Gail Arens, who loved their Grammie very much. Sister of Linda Bradanini and her husband James and Joseph aka Jay Sicignano and his wife Nancy. Aunt of Jeffrey and Brett Bradanini, who were also Gail's godsons, Joseph Sicignano III, Michael Esposito, Alex (Sherri) Esposito, and the late Alexander Esposito Jr. Also survived by her brother-in-law, Alexander Esposito.

Services were held at the North Haven Funeral Home
www.northhavenfuneral.com.





Henry Brajkovic, 100, of Hamden passed away on Memorial Day, May 26, 2025. Henry was the beloved husband of 54 years to Rosanna DiBenedetto Brajkovic, and the father of John Anthony Brajkovic. He was the son of the late Ante and Milka Banic Brajkovic. Henry was born in the Bronx in New York City on January 3, 1925. He lived under German occupation in Yugoslavia during the Second World War. Henry was predeceased by his sister Mary and his infant brother Ludwig.

Should friends desire, contributions may be made to Croatian Relief Services, Inc., 225 Anderson Ave., Fairview, New Jersey

Services were held at the
Peter H. Torello & Son
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
www.TorelloFH.com



Mark Clark, 76, of Hamden, passed away on Sunday, May 25, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Mark is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Joyce, and his children Mark Jr. (Cheryl), Nick (May), Annie (Mike), and Zac. He was a cherished grandfather to Joy, Autumn, Oliver, Allison, and Zachary, jr, and leaves behind numerous great-grandnieces, great-grandnephews, and extended family. Born in New Haven, Mark was the 13th child of Cleatta Lavone Pitzer and Charles William Clark.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to the Columbus House, Inc., 586 Ella T. Grasso Blvd., New Haven, CT 06519.

Services were held at the North Haven Funeral Home
www.northhavenfuneral.com.



Sheila Thomas, 80, of Hamden passed away peacefully on May 27, 2025. She was born in New Haven on June 16, 1944 to the late Hugo and Eleanor (Curtis) Paecht. Sheila was predeceased by her husband, William Thomas; her brothers, Karl, Theodore, John, and James Paecht; and her sister, Evelyn Jette.

Sheila will lovingly be remembered by her children, Eugene Milano and his wife Laura of West Haven, and David Milano and his wife Lisa of North Haven; and two grandchildren, David and Vanessa.

Services were held at the BEECHER & BENNETT
www.beecherandbennett.com.



Helen Louise Burns Lombardi, of North Haven passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, May 24th, 2025, at 92 years old. Helen was born on August 27th, 1932, in West Haven. She was one of eleven siblings, and daughter of the late Thomas Burns and Cecilia (McMinn) Burns.

Predeceased by her beloved son, Michael J. Lombardi, former husband Michael Lombardi, and siblings Thomas Burns, Joseph Burns, Robert Burns, Evelyn Johnson, Beatrice Barth, and Joan Payne. Survived by daughter Michele (Ray) Bissell, granddaughter Jacey (Brendon Johnson) Bissell, siblings Arthur "Butch" (Rose) Burns, David Burns, Dorothy "Dottie" Pulisciano, and Jean D'Addio, as well as many nieces and nephews. Helen's family would also like to acknowledge her dear niece, Jann (Bob) Furguson, loving friends Donna Romano & Kathy Condon, and the Tran Family. They have provided kindness, visits, and phone calls that comforted her in her later years.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to Animal Haven, 89 Mill Rd, North Haven, CT 06473.

Services were held at the North Haven Funeral Home
www.northhavenfuneral.com.



Megan Perkowski, 41, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 26th, after a courageous lifelong battle with complex medical challenges. She had an immense love for her dachshund puppies, each of whom held a special place in her heart. She leaves behind her beloved dogs, Pearl and Harriet, who were constant companions and cherished members of her family.

Megan is survived by her devoted parents, Sherry and John Perkowski; her loving siblings and their spouses, Heather and Christopher Prokup, Kelly and Michael O'Neill, and Federico and Maria Elena Andino; and her treasured nieces and nephews, Federica, Fiona, Antonio, Summer, and JT. She will also be deeply missed by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends who were touched by her warmth, humor, and unwavering spirit.

We would like to thank all of her many doctors and nurses who have taken care of her throughout her life, including her new friends at Hartford Hospital. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Megan's memory to the CT chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

B.C. Bailey
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES

Food Pantry Dishes Out Groceries for Those in Need

North Haven: The Churches of North Haven Food Pantry is located at the North Haven Congregational Church. Those in need can call (203) 239-5691 to provide information to be registered for receiving non-perishable food once per month at pre-arranged scheduled pickup times.

Anyone wanting to make a monetary or non-perishable donation can also call the North Haven Congregational Church, (203) 239-5691. Neighbor helping neighbor. There is food need year-round. Volunteers staff the Food Pantry to make food available for pre-scheduled monthly pickups.



Bhanu C. Shah, 81, of North Haven, CT passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by her husband of sixty two years, Champak Sha and their four children. Bhanu was born in Khanpur, Gujarat, India on June 9, 1943, a daughter of the late Maneklal and Shantaben Shah, and had resided in North Haven for the past thirty nine years.

Bhanu is survived by her husband Champak Shah, three daughters, Shilpa (Hardeep) Dhindsa of Reno, NV, Bina (Dohn) Guyer of Midlothia, VA and Dipti Stash of Milford, one son, Shaun (Crystal) Shah of North Redding, MA, two sisters, Vimalben Shah of Middletown, DE and Daksha Shah of Luberton, NC, two brothers, Anil M. Shah of Germantown, MD and Bhupendra M. Shah of Gainesville, VA, eleven grandchildren, Ryan, Kyle, Justin and Isabelle Dhindsa, Nicholas, Matthew and Michael Guyer, Jenna and Jake Stash, and Alexander and Serena Shah, and one great-grandson, Noah Guyer. She was predeceased by her brother Shashikut Shah.

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



Kathryn Griffin (Kathy) Coppola, 72, of North Haven, beloved wife of 40 years to Jeffrey Coppola, passed away May 22, 2025. Born in Washington, DC, on June 26, 1952, she was one of nine children to the late John Henry and Mary Louise McDonagh Griffin. Besides her husband, Jeff, Kathy is survived by her brothers, John, Peter, and Chris (Kathy) Griffin; as well as several nieces, nephews, and grandnieces. She was predeceased by her siblings, Clare Ittner, Mary Lou Sullivan, Paul, Gerry, and Jim Griffin.

Kathy became a resident of North Haven at age 12. She worked at Hamden Hall, for over 40 years, as the Administrative Assistant to the Headmaster.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or given online at www.stjude.org.

Services were held at the BEECHER & BENNETT
www.beecherandbennett.com.