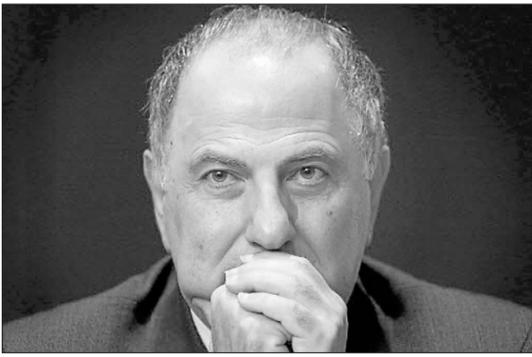


# OBITUARIES



PETER MACDIARMID | REUTERS FILE

Ahmed Chalabi, de-facto leader of the Iraqi National Congress, attends the opening of the Iraqi Opposition Conference in London in 2002. Chalabi, the smooth-talking Iraqi politician who played a role in persuading the United States to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003, died Wednesday of a heart attack, state television and two parliamentarians said.

## Iraqi leader, former exile Chalabi dies

Politician's false information helped push Bush to invade Iraq

BY CAROL J. WILLIAMS  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ahmad Chalabi, the cunning Iraqi exile whose false claims that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and ties to al-Qaida helped persuade the George W. Bush administration to invade Iraq to execute regime change, was found dead at his Baghdad home Tuesday of an apparent heart attack. He was 71.

A controversial but indisputably influential political force in Washington and London as well as his homeland, Chalabi never achieved his ambition to lead postwar Iraq and left a legacy replete with missteps.

The U.S.-educated mathematician-turned-political-lobbyist founded the Iraqi National Congress with other exiles in 1992 and six years later persuaded Congress to pass the Iraqi Liberation Act that declared the Bill Clinton administration's aim of toppling Saddam.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Chalabi and his London-based political exile faction funneled intelligence from Iraqi exiles and opposition figures to Bush administration neoconservatives eager to oust Saddam. The reports — some emanating from a confidential informant code-named Curveball — alleged that the Iraqi leader had hidden stores of chemical weapons and nerve gases that al-Qaida-linked forces were ready to deploy against Western adversaries.

It was that intelligence — later discredited — that prompted the March 2003 invasion of Iraq by U.S.-led forces and the occupation of the volatile country that was soon consumed by sectarian violence and chaos.

Chalabi was remembered by Iraqi leaders Tuesday as an ardent advocate of democracy and brave mediator in his homeland's internal conflicts, as well as a tainted political figure dogged through his lifetime by accusations of corruption and self-dealing.

"The deceased had a large role in fighting the dictatorship and initiating the building of a democratic Iraq," said Iraqi parliament head Salim Jabouri, describing Chalabi as someone "who dedicated his life to the service of the country."

Iraqi President Fuad Masoum echoed the sentiment, proclaiming in a statement that Chalabi's death was "a great loss" for Iraq.

But Chalabi was a divisive figure, and critics took to social media to accuse him of having steered Iraq into disaster.

"The traitor has died, the one who sold his country twice," a Twitter user named Ali Al-Dafiri posted. "Once to the American who spit him out, and then to the Iraqis who ignored him."

He was the target of an assassination attempt by a suicide bomber in 2008 that killed six of his bodyguards and intensified the heavy security cordon that surrounded him for the rest of his life.

Although Chalabi never attained the high office he sought after Saddam was driven from Baghdad in April 2003 and eventually captured, tried and executed, he remained active in Iraqi politics to the end. He served in the inaugural U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council in 2003 and was later tasked with heading the De-Baathification Committee charged with rooting out Saddam loyalists. The latter role stirred resentment among Iraq's Sunni minority that helped feed the sectarian strife still consuming the country.

Chalabi played the role of political bon vivant, hosting scholarly and artistic salons at his lavish Baghdad home, incongruously constructed in the style of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. At the time of his death, he was serving as head of the parliamentary finance committee, an ironic role in view of the corruption allegations that stained his business reputation.

In 1992, Chalabi was sentenced in absentia by a Jordanian military court to 22 years in jail on 31 charges of embezzlement, theft, misuse of depositor funds and currency speculation after a two-year investigation into the workings of Petra Bank, which Chalabi had founded in 1977. He fled Jordan before the court ruling and never served the sentence or paid the millions in restitution ordered by the court. Jordan's King Abdullah II eventually pardoned Chalabi when he was serving as a deputy prime minister of Iraq.

Chalabi was also the target of a U.S.-led corruption probe only a year after American forces airlifted him into Baghdad, anticipating a role for him in the post-Saddam leadership. The investigation and brief detention of Chalabi in 2004 was spurred by suspicion that he was providing U.S. intelligence to Iran.

No such evidence was uncovered, and what Chalabi viewed as betrayal by Washington led him to join forces with radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and his Iranian-allied Mahdi Army, which remains a powerful and at times disruptive force in Iraq. Chalabi also supported the 2011 Arab Spring uprising in Bahrain against the Sunni monarchy that continues to roil the Gulf kingdom.

Ahmed Abdul Hadi Chalabi was born in the Iraqi capital on Oct. 30, 1944, and attended an elite Jesuit high school where he met other privileged youths who would later play roles in the country's governance. His fellow students included former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and Oil Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi.

Chalabi fled Iraq with his family for exile in Britain at 14, after a military coup deposed the monarchy in 1958. He moved to the United States for his studies, earning a bachelor's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1965 and a doctorate in mathematics at the University of Chicago four years later.

### Death Notices

**BREWSTER, Shirley**, Bangor and Brewer, November 1, 2015. Brookings-Smith.

**CALVERT SR., John P.**, 67, Portland; at Togus, November 2, 2015. Direct Cremation of Maine, 182 Waldo Ave., Belfast.

**EDINGER, Jeanette**, 94, Veazie, November 3, 2015. Service 2 p.m., Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Brookings-Smith, 133 Center St., Bangor.

**EMERSON, Robert W.**, 56, Jonesport; at Jonesport, October 31, 2015. Service 1 p.m., Friday, November 6, 2015 at Greenwood Cemetery, Jonesport. Bragdon-Kelley Funeral Homes, Machias.

**HATCH, Christine**, Passadumkeag; at Passadumkeag, November 4, 2015. Clay Funeral Home, Lincoln.

**HOPKINS, Elizabeth**, 87, Walpole, November 1, 2015. Direct Cremation of Maine, 182 Waldo Ave., Belfast.

**LAYNE, Margaret "Peggy,"** 77, Brewer, October 31, 2015.

**LORD, Don Brian**, Stonington. Service 10 a.m., Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Sunshine Advent Christian Church, Deer Isle.

**LOUNSBERRY, Steven Benjamin**, Eddington, November 2, 2015. Kiley & Foley Funeral Service, 69 State St., Brewer.

**VAILLANCOURT, Norma (Pelletier)**, 73, St. Augustine, FL; at Eagle Lake, November 2, 2015. Service 11a.m., Monday, November 9, 2015 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Eagle Lake. Daigle Funeral Home, Fort Kent.



**SHIRLEY BREWSTER**  
BANGOR AND BREWER - On November 1, 2015, Shirley (Farrington) Brewster moved to her new home, heaven. While her family will dearly miss her, we praise God for calling her home.

Shirley was born on December 26, 1926, in Brewer. Daughter of Arlo B. Farrington and Carolyn (Reed) Farrington. She was predeceased by her parents, and brother Arlo (Bernie) Jr. and sister Joyce Marie, son Gary W. Brewster, and husband Charles Brewster.

Shirley leaves behind her daughter-in-law Terri (Dunbar) Brewster, her granddaughter Megan (Brewster) Cornwell, husband Nick, and great granddaughters Bella Grace and Emmy Faith, granddaughter Gretchen (Brewster) Keezer, husband Brian, and great grandson Jude Farrington and great granddaughter Lucy Mae, sister-in-law Eleanor (Smith) Farrington and nieces and nephews, Cynthia Cameron, David Farrington, Sheryl Schulz, Jayne Farrington and Brian Farrington and families and a special family friend, Lorraine Moir.

After her retirement from Baxter State Park, walking became her favorite pastime. She met old friends and made new ones as she walked down Washington St., onto Parkway North and back to Eastern Ave. She regularly visited and served residents at local nursing homes and was famous for her Parker House Rolls. Her faith was very important to her and defined who she was right up until her last breath. From being devoted to prayer, to telling others about the hope she had in Jesus, she also loved old hymns and sang them regularly. She was a longtime member of Columbia Street Baptist Church in Bangor and later went on to regularly attend Bangor Baptist Church. She passes on a rich legacy of faith to the generations that follow her.

"Thank you for your friendliness and cheerful greetings. It has meant a lot to me. And now the time has come to say good bye to family, neighbors and friends. God be with you 'til we meet again!"

A private graveside service will be held at a later date. Donations in Shirley's memory can be made to: Woodlands Assisted Living, 53 Colonial Circle, Brewer, ME 04412 \*please specify "Residents Services" Condolences to the family may be expressed at [www.BrookingsSmith.com](http://www.BrookingsSmith.com).



**ROBERT W. EMERSON**  
JONESPORT - Robert W. Emerson, 56, of Jonesport, Me. passed away peacefully at home on October 31, 2015 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Jonesport, July 12, 1979 the son of Lawrence and Rachel Emerson. He was the youngest of eleven children.

Robert spent most of his childhood growing up on Crowley Island where he would lobster fish with his father. He has been self-employed all of his life, either as a sternman on a lobster boat, clam digger or wrinkle dragger. Robert loved working and spending his time on the ocean. When he wasn't on the water you could find him working on outboard motors. Always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed help with their outboard.

Robert spent his last days with his brother Clifton and wife Loretta. Many hours spent on the porch with Loretta and his half cup of coffee.

He is survived by a sister Lucille Albee and husband Joseph, brother Maxwell Emerson, brother Clifton Emerson and wife Loretta, brother Larry Emerson Sr. and wife Nellie, sister Carla Merritt and husband Alberton Sr., sister Darlene and husband Byron Jr. all of Jonesport, also several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by three brothers George Emerson, Ernest Emerson, and Sherman also one sister Delanie Beal.

A graveside service is scheduled for 1:00 PM, Friday, November 6, 2015, at Greenwood Cemetery in Jonesport. Arrangements by Bragdon-Kelley Funeral Homes, Machias.

### Committal Services

#### DON BRIAN LORD

STONINGTON - Service to be held at Sunshine Advent Christian Church, Deer Isle at 10 am, Saturday, Nov. 7. Reception to follow. Private burial in Lubec, Me at a later date.

### Express Your Condolences

Send a personal message with our online guest book.  
[obituaries.bangordailynews.com](http://obituaries.bangordailynews.com)

### View Personal Messages From Family & Friends

with our online guest book  
[obituaries.bangordailynews.com](http://obituaries.bangordailynews.com)



#### JEANETTE EDINGER

VEAZIE - Jeanette Edinger, 94, our beloved mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. She was born March 27, 1921 in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the daughter of Anthony and Nellie (Wesley) Saltamachia.

Jeanette was a resident of Veazie since 1968 and worked at Fogler Library, University of Maine until her retirement. She will be remembered for her strength, patience, love for family and steadfast faith.

She has been gloriously reunited in heaven with her parents; her sons, David and Don Jr.; Don Sr., granddaughter, Erika; beloved pets, Katie and Belle and Sylvia, her dear friend. She will be forever loved and missed by Dale, Debbi, Terry and Maeve, all of Veazie; Tara of Portland and Denise of Milton, MA. Special thanks to Dr. Claudia Picone and the Fifth Floor Nursing Staff at St. Joseph Hospital for their kindness and compassion.

Relatives and friends are welcome to call 1 to 2pm Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Brookings-Smith, 133 Center Street, Bangor. A graveside committal will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery, Bangor with the Rev. Justin Howard, rector of Imago Dei Anglican Church, Bangor, officiating. Condolences to the family may be expressed at [www.BrookingsSmith.com](http://www.BrookingsSmith.com).

#### STEVEN BENJAMIN LOUNSBERRY

EDDINGTON - Steven Benjamin Lounsberry, was born September 24, 2015, the son of Kristin Izaijs and Benjamin Lounsberry. Baby Steven fought a hard battle and on November 2, 2015, God wrapped his loving arms around him and took him to a higher place.

Baby Steven was predeceased by his grandfather, Steven Izaijs. He is survived by his loving parents; grandmother Corrine Cote; great-grandparents Allen and Shiela Cote of Eddington, and their family.

Special thank you to the wonderful nurses and doctors in the NICU at EMMC. Arrangements by Kiley & Foley Funeral Service, 69 State St., Brewer.

#### CHRISTINE HATCH

PASSADUMKEAG - Christine Hatch passed away Nov 4, 2015 at her home. A complete obituary will appear in Friday's edition of the Bangor Daily News. Clay Funeral Home, Lincoln.

### In Memoriam

In Loving Memory Of  
**HERBERT W. LEBRETON SR.**  
July 17, 1953 - Nov. 5, 2013



Sadly missed, but never will be forgotten. Love always, Rick, Elicia, Mike and Scott



#### MARGARET "PEGGY" LAYNE

BREWSTER - Margaret "Peggy" Layne, 77, passed away on Saturday, October 31 surrounded by her loving family. She was born on September 10, 1938 in Mineola, New York.

Peggy worked many years in healthcare while raising her four wonderful children. She and her family loved to travel and take vacations. One of her favorite spots was on the ocean in New Hampshire where she could sit on the beach soaking up the sun and watching her grandchildren play in the sand. Another favorite spot was in the mountains of Vermont where she could sit by the campfire and cook all the big mouth bass they caught that day. She enjoyed going to the racetrack to watch the horses practice with her granddaughter; they would usually share a rotisserie chicken. She had a big heart and a tremendous amount of love for all animals. Peggy loved taking long drives, gardening, reading, crocheting, cheering on her favorite sports team, boating, and cooking with her family on the holidays. Peggy had many people that loved and cared about her. She is most certainly unforgettable.

Peggy is survived by her four children, Rob Rimany and his wife Lois of Cape Coral, FL, Doug Rimany of Brookfield, CT, Lori Ruckel and her husband Phil of Brookfield, CT, Jennifer Bowen and her husband Randy of Hampden, ME; her nine grandchildren, Alexandra, Victoria, Angela, Nikki, Jessie, Chelsea, Peter, Roxanne and Claire; one brother, Tom Healy and his wife Anne; a brother-in-law, John Giglio; and many nieces and nephews. Peggy had one very special niece Mary Barrett and her husband Tim of Warwick, RI. Mary was like a daughter to her and she loved her very much.

Peggy was predeceased by two loving sisters, Donna and Gertrude.

The family would like to thank the staff at Brewer Rehab for the exceptional care and support that was given to her and her family. They could tell by their heartfelt sorrow that she touched many lives.

A private celebration of her life will take place next summer on a lake that is very dear to her and her family.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Peggy's name to the Bangor Humane Society, 693 Mt. Hope Ave., Bangor, ME 04401.

### In Memoriam

In Loving Memory Of  
**THOMAS A. MCCANN III**  
Jan. 16, 1933 - Nov. 5, 1997  
Missing and loving you until we meet again.  
Love, Gladys and family

In Loving Memory Of  
**DAVID BASSI**  
Dec. 30, 1949 - Nov. 5, 2011  
Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words, And missed beyond measure.  
Lots of Love, Family and Friends

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