

# OBITUARIES

## Chaplain outfits wheelchair to take hospice patients outdoors

BY ERIKA I. RITCHIE  
THE ORANGE COUNTY  
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MICHAEL GOULDING | ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER | TNS  
Chaplain Roger Rustad and Navy veteran Alvin Butcher, 88, enjoy a drive in an oversized wheelchair in Mission Viejo, California, recently.

MISSION VIEJO, California — Alvin Butcher put on his finest suit last Monday.

There were a couple of reasons for that.

First, the 90-year-old World War II veteran was slated for an outing, away from his routine inside a Mission Viejo, California, hospice and out to the outside world.

Second, the man who would be taking Butcher out, the hospice's 65-year-old chaplain, Roger Rustad, had promised that this outing would be special. Butcher, Rustad said, would be going for a ride.

So when Rustad walked in and saw Butcher sitting at attention in his best suit, both men grinned.

"I expected him to be dressed warmly," Rustad said. "But he insisted on wearing his suit."

Rustad and two caregivers helped get Butcher out of his regular wheelchair, upright. Next, they guided him in a walker to get down the driveway.

"I can do it," Butcher cried out happily as he moved forward. "I can do it!"

Finally, they came upon an interesting looking rig, another wheelchair that wasn't at all like the one Butcher had just exited.

The seat was big and comfy. It played music. It was built for two.

It had a motor. Rustad secured Butcher into his seat and climbed in next to him. Butcher beamed.

Rustad soon started to maneuver the vehicle, slowly at first, avoiding bumps. But when they got on the street, he put it into fifth gear.

That's when Rustad and Butcher took off, down the road, in a wheelchair built for two.

"Wow," Butcher said. "Wow!"

The rig is something Rustad dreamed up.

Rustad, of Laguna Hills, works as a chaplain at Sonoran Winds Hospice. As part of that work he sometimes partners with Oscar Liort, founder of American Outreach Foundation, to procure wheelchairs for the use of aging military veterans. And as part of that effort, Rustad recently came across a \$13,000 motorized wheelchair designed to hold a 700-pound man.

The chair, he learned, was barely used; Liort kept asking Rustad if he had any use for the chair.

Being a chaplain, he said, is more than a job.

"My dad always said, 'The real test to see if you're truly called to be a pastor or chaplain is to see if there is anything else you can do in life besides being a pastor or chaplain. If you can do that with a clear conscience, then do it.'"

"I couldn't." Rustad grew up in Amarillo, Texas, the son of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. After studying theology and education and architecture, Rustad started a career designing and building churches throughout the Southwest. He established congregations in Arkansas, Louisiana, Arizona, California.

Rustad, his wife and three children eventually settled in Laguna Hills. That's where he got involved with charitable organizations such as the AIDS Services Foundation and food-distribution programs.

In the 1980s, he started volunteering at Mission Hospital. Rustad said working with people in hospice care is a special form of being a chaplain.

"I get to be their last new friend." Rustad first met Butcher in November, when the older man's failing heart sent him to hospice care in Mission Viejo.

Rustad had another patient in the home, and he'd

chatted with Butcher off and on.

Rustad, trained in helping veterans, recognized Butcher's Navy service photos and asked about his time in the military.

Rustad also asked Butcher about his dog tags; Butcher said those had been lost a long time ago. So Rustad made him a new set.

Dog tags are important, Rustad explains. Many veterans pass them to family in their will or request to be buried with them.

Rustad also had a memorial blanket made for Butcher. It shows Navy ships and Butcher's own portrait.

After a few visits, Butcher, who previously kept to himself, warmed to Rustad. When Rustad told him he was a chaplain, Butcher told him he was Christian Scientist and didn't need that.

"I told him, 'I'm coming as a friend,'" Rustad said. "He told me that would be OK."

That's the goal. Rustad said he tries to treat each person "like family," adding "very quickly, all of us will be in the same situation."

Now, Butcher looks forward to his outings with Rustad.

"He doesn't butt into my business," Butcher said.

"He just comes here to do his job."



PAULINE 'POLLY' LANDRY

CORINTH - Pauline "Polly" Landry passed away Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, after a brief illness. Polly was born May 11, 1930, in Corinth, daughter of Mildred McCard Page and Hallett Page.

Polly lived most of her life in Corinth, but lived the last nine years at Dexter Health Care, where she had many friends.

Polly is survived by a son, Dicky Landry and wife, Joyce; daughters, Linda Boone and husband, Daniel, Juanita Boyd and husband, Dennis, and Patty Breton and husband, Lou; brother, Donnie Page and wife, Midge; and sisters, Patricia Lovely and Barbara Hart. She is also survived by several grandchildren; great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Her greatest thrill came on Christmas Day 2015, when she got a ride in a Life Flight Helicopter from Dover to Bangor. It was her first plane ride and was all she could talk about.

At Polly's request, there will be no visiting hours or service. There will be a celebration and scattering for family later in the spring. Arrangements by Downeast Direct Cremation.

### RUTH (CUST) WOODSUM

VEAZIE AND BREWER - Ruth H. Woodsum, 99, passed peacefully, January 11, 2016. She was born in Old Town, April 17, 1916, daughter of Harry and Charlotte (Blakemore) Cust.

Ruth graduated from Old Town High School, class of 1934. She lived in Newport in her early years, and operated a dancing school. She was known for putting on lovely recitals. Ruth took great pride in her handiwork. She enjoyed tatting, knitting, gardening, making beautiful May Baskets and homemaking in general. She kept a lovely home that was admired by many. Above all she loved her family dearly.

She was a member of the Nokomis Chapter #42, OES, for 66 years.

Ruth was predeceased by her husband, James Woodsum, and siblings, Mae, Kay, Charlotte, Fred, Harold, Ralph, Robert, Kenneth, George, Vernon, and Harlan.

Surviving are, her daughter, Diane Peva and her husband, Jim; several nieces and nephews, including two dedicated nephews, Harlan Cust, and Alan Cust and his wife, Sue; a niece, Sandra Fowler; a great niece, Michelle Kauppila and her husband, Jim and their children, Christopher and Wesley; sister-in-law, Kay Baird.

Graveside services will be held in the spring at Pine Grove Cemetery, Bangor. Those wishing to remember Ruth in a special way, may contribute in her memory to the Ronald McDonald House of Bangor, Inc. 654 State St., Bangor, ME. 04401.

Condolences to the family may be expressed at [www.BrookingsSmith.com](http://www.BrookingsSmith.com).

### Free rabies clinic set for Winterport

WINTERPORT — The Waldo County Humane Society will hold a free rabies clinic 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, in the cafeteria of the Leroy H. Smith School, 319 South Main St.

Dr. Rachel Emerson of Ridge Runner Veterinary Services will administer shots. This will be the last free clinic until next fall.

Rabies shots are free to pet owners residing in Waldo County. Pets from other counties may also get the shot for a small fee. Donations will be accepted. Bring all animals on leashes or in portable pet carriers.

If the animal has had a previous rabies shot, bring proof of the shot by providing paperwork or a dog tag.

In addition to the rabies shot, coupon discounts toward the cost of having pets spayed or neutered will be available.

For information about the clinic, call 852-5033.



MEEHKA HELENA HACHEY

HOLDEN AND BANGOR - Meehka Hachey, 35, died January 12, 2016, after a long illness. She was born in Boston, MA., August 9, 1980, the daughter of Dennis and Mary (Caplin) Hachey.

Surviving are, her father, Dennis Hachey of Bangor; partner, John Gabe Everett of Holden; sister, Bella Hachey of Bangor; brother, Mark "Durby" St. George; four nephews, Joshua, Marcis, Jeffrey and Max.

She was predeceased by her mother, Mary (Caplin) Hachey, two nephews, Bubba and Jayme and a niece, Sara.

Relatives and friends are invited to call 5 to 7 Thursday, January 14, 2016 at Brookings-Smith, 133 Center St. Bangor. A Funeral Mass will be held 11 a.m. Friday, January 15, 2016 at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, St. John's Catholic Church, 207 York St., Bangor, followed by the Rite of Committal at Mt. Pleasant Catholic Cemetery. The family invites folks back to the church for refreshments, following the burial.

Condolences to the family may be expressed at [www.BrookingsSmith.com](http://www.BrookingsSmith.com).

### VICTOR L. BISSELL, SR.

PALMYRA - Victor Leon Bissell, Sr., 82, went to be with the Lord January 10, 2016. He was born October 17, 1933 in Margaretville, New York, a son of Arthur and Sylvia (ImObersteg) Bissell.

Victor served in the U. S. Air Force in Alaska and New Mexico and was discharged as a licensed electrician. He returned to his childhood home in Vermont and while serving in the Vermont legislature he met and married the former Helen Anderson. They moved to Maine in 1975, raising their three boys on the family farm, instilling the value of hard work. He was an active member of the Newport Full Gospel Church and was involved with the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, Waterville Chapter.

In addition to his wife of 55 years, he is survived by 3 sons, John and wife Cindy, Daniel, Victor, Jr. and wife Laura; and a brother Arthur of Colorado; 10 grandchildren; and a niece.

A memorial service will be held at noon Saturday, January 16th, at the First Baptist Church of Pittsfield with the Rev. William Johnson officiating. Arrangements are by Crosby & Neal, Newport. Those who wish may leave written condolences at [www.CrosbyNeal.com](http://www.CrosbyNeal.com)

## Oxford head resists removing Rhodes statue

BY ESTELLE SHIRBON  
REUTERS

LONDON — The chancellor of Oxford University has warned against rewriting history in his first public comments on a student campaign to remove a statue of 19th century colonialist Cecil Rhodes from one of the university's colleges.

Inspired by protests at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, which led to its statue of Rhodes being removed last April, the "Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford" campaign says the statue at Oriel College celebrates a brutal racist.

The dispute is one of a growing number of university controversies over issues of history and identity, often pitting freedom of speech arguments against demands for symbols deemed offensive by some students to be removed.

In the United States, southern campuses have been rocked by arguments over the confederate flag, while at Yale a row erupted when an academic pushed back against suggestions that students should self-censor Halloween costumes to avoid causing offense.

Chris Patten, Oxford's



REUTERS FILE

The statue of Cecil Rhodes is seen on the facade of Oriel College in Oxford, southern England. The chancellor of the University of Oxford responded to a student campaign to remove a statue of 19th century colonialist Cecil Rhodes from one of the university's colleges by warning against rewriting history according to today's moral standards.

chancellor, spoke against removing the Rhodes statue in a speech widely reported on Wednesday.

"Our history is not a blank page on which we can write our own version of what it should have been, according to our contemporary views and prejudices," he said.

A fervent imperialist and mining magnate, Rhodes was a central figure in Britain's colonial project in

southern Africa, giving his name to Rhodesia, present-day Zimbabwe, and founding the De Beers diamond empire.

A student at Oriel in his youth, Rhodes left the college money when he died, which helped fund the construction of the building where his statue stands in a niche on the facade.

The student campaigners see it as a "veneration" of a man who made his fortune

from the exploitation of African miners, secured power through bloody imperial wars, and paved the way to apartheid with his beliefs and measures on racial segregation.

"[Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford] is NOT an attempt to 'rewrite history', but its opposite — a campaign to bring its uncomfortable truths to salience," said Jack Kellam, a political theory student at Oxford, on Twitter after Patten's speech.

The campaigners have also argued that the statue is a symbol of racist attitudes that black and ethnic minority students still encounter at Oxford today, and that removing it would demonstrate a commitment by the university to combat racism.

The decision will be made by Oriel, one of 38 colleges that make up the university. It has announced steps to improve the representation and experience of students from minority backgrounds at the college, and will launch a six-month consultation on whether to pull down the statue.

Patten, whose role as chancellor is largely ceremonial, told BBC Radio 4 on

Wednesday that Oxford should welcome debate on historical issues, no matter how uncomfortable, but that taking aim at physical monuments was the wrong way to go.

"Our cities are full of buildings that were built with the proceeds of activities, the slave trade and so on, which would nowadays be regarded as completely unacceptable," he said.

He asked rhetorically what should be done about Trinity College in Cambridge, which was founded by King Henry VIII, who had two of his six wives executed.

Patten, a former Conservative politician and governor of Hong Kong, also said that Rhodes' views on race and empire were "common to his time" and probably not very different from those of Britain's World War Two hero Winston Churchill.

Rhodes endowed the famous scholarships that bear his name and that have allowed 8,000 students from countries around the world to study at Oxford over the past century. Patten said some Rhodes scholars had become campaigners against apartheid and for civil liberties.