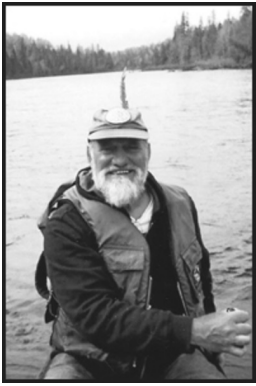


# OBITUARIES



**ROBERT RAYMOND FRAZIER**  
GORHAM - Robert Raymond Frazier, 69, died on February 25, 2016 during his sleep. He was born on May 15, 1946, the son of Raymond H. and Mary (Power) Frazier.

Robert grew up in Bangor and attended John Bapst High School. After receiving his degree from UMO, he joined the navy and served for three years. He then moved to Gorham where he spent the rest of his life. Robert was known for his love of the outdoors, history, passion for community volunteerism, and family.

He is survived by his wife, Laurie Bem Frazier; children, Kelly Frazier Adams, Kristin Frazier, Greg Bem, Katie Bem, and Kevin Frazier; grandchildren, Hunter, Caleb, and Megan Adams, and Kendra and Fiona Wilbur; retired wife, Susan Clifford; and countless other family, friends, and colleagues, all of whom will miss him dearly.

A celebration in Robert's honor will be held at a later date. Arrangements by the Dolby and Dorr Funeral Chapel, Gorham. To read Robert's complete obituary, express condolences and to participate in his online tribute, please visit [www.dolbyfuneralchapel.com](http://www.dolbyfuneralchapel.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association [www.mofga.org/support-MOFGA](http://www.mofga.org/support-MOFGA). The family asks that anyone interested take a walk on a trail of their choice, in Robert's honor.



**GEORGE ELLIS SPRINGER, JR.**  
BUCKSPORT - George Ellis Springer Jr., 75, went to be with his wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whom he loved and served, on February 26, 2016. He was cared for by his loving wife of 46 years, Linda, daughter Sarah, and sisters-in-law, Loris DiCesare and Jill Briggs, as he battled with brain cancer.

He was predeceased by his father, George Springer Sr., mother, Mary Ashmore Springer, & infant son, George Ellis Springer III. He is survived by his brother Richard & sister Lorena. Services will be held on Sunday, March 6th at the Bucksport Bible Church on Central Street in Bucksport. Visiting hours will be from 2pm to 3pm, the service will be at 3pm, & a fellowship time will follow.

## Tony Burton, who appeared in six 'Rocky' movies, dies

REUTERS

Tony Burton, a former boxer who portrayed Apollo Creed's trainer in six of the "Rocky" movies, has died at age 78 after a long illness, according to media reports on Friday.

Burton's sister said he died on Thursday in California after being hospitalized repeatedly in the past year but never receiving an official diagnosis, according to MLive.com, a local news website in Burton's home state of Michigan.

Burton was among only a handful of actors to appear regularly in the decades-long "Rocky" series, featuring Sylvester Stallone as Philadelphia's favorite son, boxer Rocky Balboa.

Burton played Duke, who was the trainer of Rocky's



**WILLIAM "BILL" J. SMITH**  
CORINTH - William "Bill" Smith, 90, passed away February 27, 2016. He was born in Waltham, MA., December 26, 1925, son of Horace C. Smith, Sr. and Celeste Beatrice (Shaw) Smith.

Bill attended Waltham High School, where he played both football and hockey. He left school in February 1944 to join the US Marine Corp. He served his country during WWII as a tail-gunner. He was discharged from the service as a corporal in July of 1946.

Bill was a long-time employee of General Radio and retired in 1990 and moved to Kennebunk, ME. Where he made many friends. At the time of his death he was living in Corinth, ME. Where he was lovingly cared for by Diane and Barry Skoefeld and Renee Stefanik and Michael Davis, who were at his side for the last ten months. He especially enjoyed having Heidi Dupuis as an alternate, loving caregiver.

Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife, Barbara J. (MacNaughton) Smith; three brothers, Horace C. Jr., Shaw B., and George H. Smith; and a beloved niece, Priscilla C. Brown.

Surviving are his niece, Audrey K. Ray and her husband, Richard W. Ray; nephews, Frederick Smith, Douglas Smith, Stuart Smith and Horace "Clifford" Smith III.

Relatives and friends are invited to call 12 to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2016 at Brookings-Smith, 133 Center St., Bangor, where a funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. The family invites folks for conversation and refreshments at the Family Reception Center of Brookings-Smith, 163 Center St., Bangor, following the service. Spring interment will be in Corinthian Cemetery, Corinth.

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

**DALE P. SWIMM**  
MONTICELLO - Dale P. Swimm 69, passed away Feb. 28, 2016 at a Presque Isle hospital.

Friends may call at the Dunn Funeral Home Thursday 6:00 to 8:00PM. Funeral service will be held at the Littleton United Baptist Church Friday 11:00AM with Rev. Steve Straubel officiating. Spring interment with military honors in Jewell Cemetery will be announced at a later date. A service of Dunn Funeral Home.

## Yolande Betbeze Fox, a rebellious former Miss America, dies at 87

BY ADAM BERNSTEIN  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Before she was an alluring mainstay of Washington's watusi-era salons and soirees, Yolande Betbeze Fox was a rebellious, convent-educated, Alabama-born beauty queen. As Miss America of 1951, she alarmed organizers when she refused to squeeze into a bathing suit for cheesecake photos, publicly lambasted the pageant for excluding minorities, and picketed for civil rights.

In a life as nonconformist as it was glamorous, she was also an off-Broadway producer, lighted off to Cuba with a rodeo, married a onetime Hollywood "wonder boy," and was the longtime companion of an Algerian revolutionary-turned-diplomat.

When in 1966, she contemplated running for Congress in an Alabama district that included her home town of Mobile, her then-paramour, the architect Edward Durrell Stone, observed that she would dramatically improve her chances if she renounced her membership in the NAACP.

Fox, whose independent-mindedness in that era was perhaps best defined by her quip, "I'm a southern girl, but I'm a thinking girl," died Feb. 22 at an assisted-living home in Washington. She was 87 and the cause was lung cancer, said her daughter, Dolly Fox.

Raven-haired and statuesque, she first began turning heads as Yolande Betbeze (pronounced Yo-lond, Bet-bees). While attending an Alabama Jesuit college, she won the campus title of "Miss Torch." She was also a coloratura soprano, well read in philosophers such as Arthur Schopenhauer and David Hume, and was determined to harness her brains and beauty to advance her opportunities.

"I entered the Miss Alabama contest because it was still a via aperta," she once told The Washington Post, "and because it was one possible way to get out of the South. I knew that I was really a very good singer and that I could do serious opera even though my braces made me sing German lieder with a pronounced lisp."

A Mobile music critic, beguiled by her talent and charm, urged her to enter the Miss Alabama contest, which she clinched (braces removed) with her performances of works by Schubert and Ger-shwin. Then it was on to Atlantic City, singing the "Caro nome" aria from Verdi's "Rigoletto."

That was when problems began. She didn't mix well with the other contestants, whom she found both intellectually wanting and cut-throat. One scrawled the phrase "hairy sits here" on her mirror, referring to her thick eyebrows.

After her triumph — as the first winner from Alabama — she infuriated a major sponsor, Catalina bathing suits. She had, perhaps inadvertently at first, neglected to sign the standard contract obligating her to make promotional appearances modeling their new line of swimsuits, and then outright refused to be bullied into it.

"I'm a singer," she declared at the time, "not a pin-up."

As she later recalled, a man representing Catalina "stood up and fumed. He looked at me and said, 'I'll run you off the news pages. I'll start my own contest. You'll see.' I said, 'That's splendid. Good luck to you.' . . . Anyway, he did indeed start the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageant. So people can thank me — or blame me — for that."

She used her public plat-

form to condemn de facto exclusionary policies in some Miss America preliminaries. She also stood vigil outside New York's Sing Sing prison in 1953 to demonstrate against the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who had been convicted of conspiracy to pass atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet Union.

She tried to make the best of goodwill ambassador roles foisted on her by the Miss America pageant. That once meant babysitting across the Atlantic a small container of Hudson River water meant to be poured into the Seine "in the name of Franco-American amity," she told journalist Frank Deford for his book "There She Is: The Life and Times of Miss America."

"I think the Pageant earnestly believed that I was America's answer to Lafayette at last," she said. "All the damn water ran out of the vial on the plane over, and I had to refill it with water from the faucet in my hotel."

She rebuffed movie offers but not the 1954 marriage proposal of entertainment executive Matthew M. Fox, whom she met at a party in New York.

He was stout and twice her age, but she was drawn to his ballroom dancing skills, his agile mind and his drive. A onetime Universal Pictures wunderkind, he ventured presciently but disastrously into a subscription-TV service in the 1950s and lost millions of dollars. He also immersed himself in shadowy economic and political ventures in Indonesia, playing a role in engineering its independence from the Dutch and bringing Sukarno to power.

Her marriage to Matty Fox, as he was often called, brought many privileges. They included property from Hollywood to Paris, including a Park Avenue penthouse in Manhattan. She formed tight friend-

ships with movie stars such as Marlene Dietrich and Elizabeth Taylor and other grandees of culture and politics, including Clark Clifford, who became godfather to her only child.

Fox had a stint as an off-Broadway producer, putting on works by Aristophanes and Shakespeare at a theater she started over a bagel bakers' union office on East Houston Street. She and two other former Miss Americas played the three witches in her 1955 staging of "Macbeth."

She also was a volunteer with the NAACP, the Congress of Racial Equality and the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy.

Outside of a Woolworth's near New York's theater district in 1960, she was photographed by the New York Times hoisting a placard that slammed the department store's segregationist lunch counter policies.

The Miss America pageant gradually started to include black and Asian contestants — in 1983, Vanessa Williams became the first African American winner — and Fox was not demure in assigning some of the credit to herself. "I spoke out against the pageant when it was needed," she told People magazine in 2000. "The pageant has changed, thanks to me."

Yolande Margaret Betbeze was born in Mobile on Nov. 28, 1928. Her first name, she said, derived from a book about medieval history that her mother was reading at the time. Her father, whose family was of Basque heritage, owned slaughterhouses.

After 12 years of schooling in a convent, she attended Spring Hill College in Mobile and throughout the 1950s continued her studies of philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York.

## Elvis Presley's 'Dr. Nick' dies at 88

BY BILL TROTT  
REUTERS

George Nichopoulos, known as "Dr. Nick" as he dispensed thousands of doses of prescription drugs to Elvis Presley in the final decade of the rock star's life, has died at the age of 88, a Memphis, Tennessee, funeral home said.

Memorial Park Funeral Home, which posted an obit of Nichopoulos online, did not indicate the cause of death on Wednesday.

Nichopoulos, who was stripped of his medical license 18 years after Presley's 1977 death, was a valuable member of the Presley camp and accompanied him on tour.

Nichopoulos met Presley in 1967 when he treated him for saddle sores suffered from horseback riding. He realized Presley had an irrational approach to drugs the next time

he treated the singer, who had taken a week's worth of medication in one day for tonsillitis.

As Presley's drug consumption continued in the 1970s, he suffered overdoses and acted erratically. Nichopoulos provided him with painkillers such as Quaalude, Demerol, codeine, Percodan, Dilaudid, as well as a variety of stimulants and sedatives.

Presley, a notorious insomniac, often called Nichopoulos in the middle of the night to get drugs. The doctor would typically comply with a prescription that another Presley associate would rush to an all-night pharmacy. According to Joel Williamson's book "Elvis Presley: A Southern Life," such a scenario played out about 12 hours before Presley died on Aug. 16, 1977, at age 42.

The cause of death was list-

ed as cardiac arrhythmia but considering his history and a finding showing Presley had 14 drugs in his system, the medical examiner's ruling set off talk of a cover-up. Many Elvis fans blamed Nichopoulos for the death and the doctor received death threats.

The Tennessee medical board suspended Nichopoulos' license for three months in 1980 and a year later he was tried and acquitted of overprescribing for Presley, fellow rock 'n' roll pioneer Jerry Lee Lewis and others. He testified his plan was to control his patients' usage and eventually wean them.

Testimony from Nichopoulos' trial showed he prescribed 19,000 doses for Presley in his final 31-1/2 months, but the doctor said some were for members of the Presley entourage.

He testified that Presley's

drug regimen while on tour included 10 medications when he awoke in the afternoon, seven more an hour before a show, a shot of caffeine or a caffeine placebo immediately before show time, five drugs after the show and bedtime sedatives.

Nichopoulos' medical license was revoked permanently by the board in 1995 for a pattern of overprescribing drugs.

"No one understands that Elvis was so complicated," Nichopoulos said in a 2009 interview with the Daily Beast website. "I worked so hard just to keep things together and then they turned the tables on me after he died and decided I was to blame."

"... I was one of his closest friends. At times I was his father, his best friend, his doctor. Whatever role I needed to play at the time, I did."

## Veterinarian Robert Leonard dies at 92

BY JACQUES KELLY  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Dr. Robert A. Leonard, a retired veterinarian who co-owned a horse breeding farm and was a leader in the Maryland thoroughbred industry, died of pneumonia Feb. 10 at his home in Chester. He was 92.

Born in Cincinnati, he was the son of Robert Francis Leonard, an executive with the Ford Motor Co., and Mary Harrington Leonard.

His studies at Ohio State University were interrupted by his service during World War II. He enlisted in the Army and served in the infantry in Germany, France and Austria as part of Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army. He also was an Army guard at an internment camp where Nazi party members were held pending the Nuremberg Trials.

After his military service, he resumed his studies and earned a Doctor of Veteri-

nary Medicine degree at Ohio State University.

He met his future wife, the former Nancy Moore, at the Rocky Fork Headley Hunt club in Ohio, where he rode and showed horses.

The couple married in 1950 and settled in Maryland a year later. In 1956, the Maryland Racing Commission named Leonard as state veterinarian, a post giving him oversight of thoroughbred and harness racing tracks. He held the position for more than a decade.

He enjoyed fox hunting with the Rocky Fork Headley Hunt. He also raised vizsla and German short-haired champion show and field-trial dogs. He read widely and sailed the Chesapeake Bay, the Bahamas and along the Maine Coast.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Cynthia Dianne Leonard of Cape Elizabeth, Maine; and nieces and nephews.

## Michael Russell, CIA analyst and Astaire enthusiast, dies

BY HARRISON SMITH  
WASHINGTON POST

Michael Russell, a senior CIA analyst who studied the economy of the Soviet Union during that country's final years and who in retirement devoted himself to preserving the artistic legacy of Hollywood dancer Fred Astaire, died Feb. 14 at a hospital in Washington. He was 74.

The cause was a heart attack, according to friend Doug Kreshover.

Russell, a District of Columbia resident, joined the CIA in the late 1960s, as a political and then economic analyst studying the Soviet Union. In the years before the Soviet collapse in 1991, he prepared the CIA director's annual report on the Soviet economy to the congressional Joint Economic Committee. He retired in 1993.

Russell became a collector of Astaire memorabilia in the late 1980s after he visited a Smithsonian exhibition that

included a pair of Astaire's dancing shoes. He later acquired Astaire shoes, beginning with a pair the dancer used in the 1934 film "The Gay Divorcee," which co-starred Ginger Rogers, as well as a top hat and other props.

Russell was a frequent contributor to an online forum devoted to Astaire and a crucial source for "Puttin' On the Ritz," a 2009 biography by music publicist Peter Levinson.

Russell feared Astaire's artifacts and legacy would fade away, Kreshover said, and he willed his collection to Boston University. The school has a collection of Astaire memorabilia and papers.

Michael Alan Russell was born in Frankfurt, Indiana, Aug. 17, 1941. He graduated from Indiana University, served two years in the Army, and received a master's degree in Russian studies from Columbia University.