

OBITUARIES



JAMES WILLIAM BECK

BRUNSWICK - James William Beck, only son of Gene and Scottie; devoted husband of 55 years to Barbara; loving father to Kate, David and Dan, died in his family's embrace Thursday evening, March 24, 2016.

Born in Lewiston, December 25, 1934, Jim grew up on the Barley Neck Road in Woolwich, and was a graduate of the Class of 1953 at Morse High School in Bath. He enjoyed a long and successful career in banking which began at Maine National Bank in Bath and lasted for many years within the Merrill Trust Company of Bangor. He was an avid and accomplished sportsman, with a deep knowledge and true love of the Maine woods and waterways, hunting and fishing with dear friends and family throughout his life. He was especially proud of the bird hunting prowess of our beloved Brittany, Dutchess. Jim's perceptive insights and observations, his infectious good humor and enthusiasm for storytelling touched many, many people throughout his 81 years.

He was predeceased by his parents, Eugene and Margaret Beck of Bath; his wife, Barbara Wilson Beck; his in-laws, Harry and Berta Wilson; his sister-in-law Carol Wilson, and many beloved friends, especially John, Bob and Bev, Carol, Clyde, Genie and Leon. He is survived by his 3 children and 11 grandchildren, Katherine Beck Whittemore and James M. Whittemore, and Beck and Jaimie, Caitlin

and Raleigh, Tim and Carol, and Sam; David Wilson Beck and Mette Michelsen Beck, and Jami and Johnny; and Daniel Wight Beck and Brooke, Tyler, Matthew, Katie and Maddy; his brother-in-law, Harry Wilson and nieces and nephew, Harry, Jenifer and Becky; and 7 great-grandchildren. Jim was a loving friend to Mary Renshaw, a friendship which began as youngsters in Woolwich and rekindled in these last years of his life. Mary has been a joy and a comfort.

Our dad had a strong, brave heart that embraced so many, in so many ways. We are very grateful for the wonderful professional and personal care he has received from Christopher Meserve, MD and his staff, CVS Pharmacy in Bath, Chaplain John Larssen and all of the exceptional nurses and physicians at MidCoast Hospital and Chans Hospice. Thanks to this caring community, our dad has been able to go gently into that good night.

A service will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on Washington Street in Bath Saturday, April 2, 2016, at 11 o'clock in the morning, followed immediately by a reception at the Kennebec Tavern on the waterfront. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Jim's name to the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust, which supports the Pierce Pond Watershed, P.O. Box 5660, Augusta, ME 04332 or mwwt.org. Arrangements are by David Desmond & Sons.



VIRGINIA 'GINGER' A. SODERMARK

KENDUSKEAG - Virginia "Ginger" A. Sodermark, 83, was truly blessed that God received her on Easter, March 27, 2016, the special day of rebirth and renewal. She was born November 11, 1932, in Kenduskeag, the daughter of Ervin and Amy (Taylor) Pullen.

Ginger graduated from Brewer High School, class of 1951. She married the love of her life, James Sodermark, on October 26, 1951. She loved her family and spent much of her life as a homemaker, wife and mother. Later in life she worked at Dow Air Force Base cafeteria as a baker. She also attended Beal Business School, where she received her Associate Degree. She worked for many years at St. Joseph Hospital as an administrative assistant. Ginger also was a teacher's aide at Kenduskeag Elementary School and retired from Doug's Shop 'n Save. She loved to spend time with her children and grandchildren cooking, baking and camping. Ginger always put others ahead of herself and always had a smile on her face. She was devoted to her family, and was always there for them. She opened her heart and home generously.

In addition to her parents and husband, Ginger was predeceased by 4 sisters, Alma, Shirley, Rita and Ellie; 4 brothers, George, Mont, Raymond and William; a son-in-law, Frank Knaut; and a great-granddaughter, Rae. She is survived by 4 daughters, Valerie Knaut; Sherry Swan and husband, Marc,

Vicki Sodermark and Sandy Keith and husband, John; grandchildren, Jennifer Hoenig and husband, Scott, Jason Knaut and wife, Heather, Miranda Esten and husband, Jason, Melissa Moulton and partner, Mark Rodrigues, Jesse Keith and wife, Allison, Meagan Keith and partner, Chris Hashey; 6 great-grandchildren; 2 sisters, Clarissa McClure and Ethelyn Gass; brother, Gordon Pullen; sister-in-law, Pauline Sodermark; and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to extend special thanks and gratitude to caregivers Melissa Morba and Karen Bouchard; Hospice of Eastern Maine; and all other friends and family who showed their love and support throughout the years.

Relatives and friends are welcome to call 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2016, at Brookings-Smith, 133 Center St., Bangor, where a celebration of her life will be held 11 a.m. Friday, April 1, 2016, with Pastor Ruth Guerette, officiating. The family invites relatives and friends to share conversation and refreshments at the Family Reception Center of Brookings-Smith, 163 Center St., immediately following the service. Interment will be at Corinthian Cemetery later in the spring. Those who wish to remember Ginger in a special way may make gifts in her memory to Hospice of Eastern Maine, 885 Union St., Suite 220, Bangor, ME 04401. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com.



WILLIAM 'BILL' GOOD

GARFIELD PLT. - William "Bill" Good, 85, went to be with the Lord on the day of His Resurrection, Sunday, March 27, 2016.

He was born October 6, 1930, in Portage Lake, ME. He was the son of the late Allen and Annie (Pye) Good.

Bill served during the Korean War in the Army. He graduated from Bob Jones University in 1960 and later was employed in the highway maintenance department with DOT in Ashland, followed by Portage Lake and lastly Garfield Plantation. He was deeply involved in ministry in a number of churches in Maine for the past 50 years.

He is survived by: his wife of 62 years, Gertrude; children, Doris (James) Cushman, Danny (Melanie), John (Martha) and Tim (Cindy); siblings, Annabel Adoff and Arthur Good; six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews. Bill was predeceased by a son, David; and three sisters, Laura Spurlin, Kathleen "Kay" Currier and Helen Jandreau.

A funeral service will be celebrated at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, at Lajoie Funeral Home, 114 Exchange St., Ashland, with Pastor Joe Mortland officiating. Relatives and friends may greet the family Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. until the time of service at the funeral home. Spring interment will be in Portage Lake Municipal Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to New Life Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1576, Presque Isle, ME 04769 or to Hospice of Aroostook, P.O. Box 688, Caribou, ME 04736. To share condolences online, please visit www.LajoieFuneralHome.com.



MARY J. (COON) GAGNON

MEDWAY - Mary J. (Coon) Gagnon passed away unexpectedly March 23, 2016, with her family by her side. She was born August 17, 1958, in Millinocket.

Mary was a Schenck High School graduate of 1977. She worked in the East Millinocket mill for years, followed by working in the health care field. She was loved by her husband, Joseph Gagnon Sr.; and her mother, Doris Coon and her fiancé, Donald Murray. Mary was full of life, laughter and love. She had a heart of gold, also a smile that would brighten the darkest room. She loved spending time with family, reading, camping and boating. She and Joe loved wintering in Florida, where they made many more loving friends.

She was not only a wonderful mother, but a special friend to her daughter, Whitney MacArthur and her fiancé, Todd Leighton; son, Lauren MacArthur; stepchildren, Melissa and Leon Ouellette, Chris and Lisa Gagnon, Joe Gagnon Jr. and Debbie Beaulieu; and grandchildren, Treeth, Emily, Derek, Katrina, Gavin, Tysen, Tressa, Katey and Matty. She also leaves behind loving siblings, Lorena and Phillip, Jane and Fred, Ronald and Debra, Larry and Kelly, Joel and Paula, Audrey and Steven, Terri and Joseph, and Corey and Kelly. Mary was loved by all, including many special nieces and nephews and friends. She also loved her four-legged babies. She was predeceased by her loving father, Ronald Coon; and son, Travis Thompson.

Friends may visit with her family from 6-8 p.m. Friday, April 1, and from 11 a.m.-1p.m. Saturday, April 2, at Calvary Temple Assembly of God, East Millinocket, where funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday with the Rev. Reginald Adams officiating. Interment will be in Grindstone Road Cemetery, Medway, at a later date. Condolences may be expressed at www.clayfuneralhome.com.



BETSY E. (MCKEEN) HILL

DOVER-FOXCROFT - Betsy E. Hill, 63, passed away March 24, 2016, at her home. She was born in Lewiston to Walter and Marceline McKeen on December 29, 1952.

She is survived by her son, Isaac Wilkins of Bangor; her dear companion, Conrad Lundgren; mother, Marceline; sister, Deborah and husband, Steve Brown, of Fryeburg; sister, Susan McKeen of South Portland; special aunt, Maxine Duffy; and 3 nieces and a nephew. He was predeceased by her father, Walter McKeen, in 1986; and brother, Walter Jr. (Joe) in 1993.

Betsy graduated from Telstar Regional High School in Bethel, Maine, in 1971. She attended college at the University of Maine (Farmington) and Husson College of Nursing, graduating in 1992. Betsy worked as a nurse for various hospitals and nursing agencies in Bangor and surrounding communities. She was an avid animal caregiver and advocate and was always involved in many animal rescue and placement adoptions. She was a lifelong devotee caring for both people and animals and spent countless hours on any related cause. Betsy also had a great appreciation for flowers and gardening. Betsy always saw the good in all and maintained an unwavering Christian faith. She would share her strengths and positive beliefs with everyone she encountered, and was known by many as an unwaveringly kind and compassionate soul who touched many. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Friends are invited to call from noon until time of memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 2, 2016, at the Lary Funeral Home, Dover-Foxcroft. Donations in her memory can be sent to an animal shelter of your choice or to the American Heart Association. Condolences and memories may be expressed at www.laryfuneralhome.com.



INEZ ELDORA (DAVIES) GETCHELL

BREWER - Inez Eldora (Davies) Getchell, 101, wife of the late Ralph Getchell Jr., passed away March 26, 2016. She was born June 1, 1914, in Brewer, the daughter of Thomas H. and A. Jewell (Ring) Davies.

Inez graduated from Brewer High School in the Class of 1931. She then graduated from Farmington Normal School in the Class of 1933 with a teaching degree. Inez taught Kindergarten and First Grade in Brewer from 1933-1937. She was a member and past president of the Bangor Brewer Business & Professional Women's Club, a member and past president of Kings Daughters, member of Brewer MPM Club, and was active in the Bangor and Brewer PTA's. Inez loved to attend all her children's and grandchildren's sports and music events.

She is survived by a daughter, Lauralee Sevigny and husband, Paul, of Holden. Grammy G will be missed by six grandchildren, Brian Doyle, David Farnham of Rockland, Kristina Kelshaw and husband, Rodney, of Dedham, Amanda Pattanayak and husband, Jan, of Asheville, NC, and Emily Sevigny and partner, Brian Doyle, of Orono; and nine great-grandchildren, Scott, Carl, Gary, Andrew and Ellie Farnham, Hannah Kelshaw, Maya, Lucas, and Oliver Pattanayak. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by a son, Thomas; two daughters, Marilyn Getchell and Louise Farnham; and a sister; Elsie Davies.

Private graveside services will be held later in the spring at Oak Hill Cemetery, Brewer. Gifts in her memory may be made to the Brewer High School Scholarship Fund, 79 Parkway South, Brewer, ME 04412. Condolences to the family may be expressed to www.BrookingsSmith.com.



DAVID P. BOUCHER

FAIRFIELD and CARIBOU - David P. Boucher, 56, passed away unexpectedly March 24, 2016. He was born in Presque Isle, May 19, 1959, the son of Lawrence and Maxine (Plourde) Boucher.

Dave was a 1977 graduate of Caribou High School and received his B.S. degree from the University of Maine at Orono in 1984. He married Christa Mailman in 1987. He spent over thirty years working with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, beginning as a work study student in Ashland, and becoming the Fisheries Management supervisor in Augusta. Dave was an avid hunter and his love for the great natural resources of Maine were his passion and life's work. Dave was a devoted husband and father.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Christa of Fairfield; and his mother, Maxine, of Caribou are his son, Paul Joseph Boucher of Boston, MA.; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Mark and Joeline Boucher and Carl and Michelle Boucher; and a sister and brother-in-law, Jean and John Bonnell, all of Caribou. Dave was predeceased by his father Lawrence Boucher of Millinocket. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11:00am Saturday April 2, 2016 at the Parish of the Precious Blood Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Following the service all are invited to visit with the family for a time of continued fellowship and refreshments in the parish hall. Friends who wish to contribute in Dave's memory may do so through the Waterville Area Humane Society or the American Heart Association. Arrangements by the Mockler Funeral Home 24 Reservoir Street Caribou. www.mocklerfuneralhome.com

WAYNE V. JOHNSTON

FORT FAIRFIELD - Wayne V. Johnston, 71, husband of Penny (Devine) Johnston, passed away Easter Sunday evening, March 27, 2016, at a Presque Isle health care facility, following an extended illness. He was born January 28, 1945, in Fort Fairfield, the son of Loomis G. and Vera E. (Goodwin) Johnston.

He was a graduate of the Fort Fairfield High School, Class of 1963, and farmed with his father, Loomis, on the Strickland Road in Fort Fairfield for a number of years. He later became employed by the Fort Fairfield Police Department, where he worked for over 25 years, retiring from the Northern Maine Community College as a campus security officer. He was a member of the U.S. Horse Trotting Association and greatly enjoyed harness racing, hunting and fishing, but most especially his grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his father, Loomis G. Johnston; one brother, Keith H. Johnston; and is survived by his wife of thirty-six years, Penny Johnston of Fort Fairfield; his mother, Vera E. Johnston of Mars Hill; two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard W. and Kerry Johnston of York and Christopher W. and Kelley Johnston of Presque Isle; one daughter and son-in-law, Angela and Marc Thibeau of Stratham, NH; four grandchildren, Heather Thibeau of Stratham, NH, Kelsey Johnston, Riley Johnston, both of York, and Colton Johnston of Presque Isle.

In keeping with Wayne's wishes, there will be no calling hours. A graveside service will take place at a later date and will be announced by the Giberson-Dorsey Funeral Home, 144 Main Street, Fort Fairfield. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may contribute in memory of Mr. Johnston to the Carl Robert Dream Foundation, 304 North Caribou Road, Fort Fairfield, ME 04742. Online condolences may be expressed at www.gibersondorseyfuneralhome.com.



RUTH ALICE THOMPSON

CORINTH - Ruth Alice Thompson, 91, the wife of the late David Sawyer Thompson Sr. died March 26, 2016, at a Bangor hospital. She was born June 14, 1924, in St. Steven, N.B. Canada, the daughter of Ceiward and Reta (Kennedy) Campbell.

She had lived most of her early years in Woodland (Baileyville) and was a member of the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church for 30 years. In 1955 she moved to MA and was employed as a bookkeeper for an office supply company. After moving to Corinth in 1996, she attended the Corinth United Methodist Church and the Church of Good Hope.

She is survived by a son, Arthur Thompson and his wife, Joanne, of Dedham, MA; two daughters, Sylvia Hackett and her husband, Mark, of Billerica, MA, and Nancy Bither of Corinth; a daughter-in-law, Jean "Chickie" Thompson of Corinth; sister, Barbara Gibson; sister-in-law, Cynthia Adams; two brothers, Donald Campbell Sr. and Stephen Campbell Sr.; 8 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Ruth was predeceased by her parents, Ceiward and Reta Campbell; her husband, David S. Thompson Sr.; her beloved son, David S. Thompson Jr.; brothers, Ceiward Jr., Shirley and Franklin; sister, Jacquelyn Wallace; and son-in-law, Roger "Butch" Bither Jr.

Friends may call at the Thompson Funeral Home, 17 Hudson Road, Corinth, Wednesday, March 30, 2016, from 2 p.m. until time of services at 4 p.m. with Pastor Misti Latourette of the Church of Good Hope officiating. Cremation will be at the Mt. Hope Crematory in Bangor.



PATRICIA J. LIBBY

BANGOR - Patricia J. Libby, 80, died March 24, 2016 at a local hospital with her aunt, Gerry; cousin, Rosemary; and nephew, Frank (Vern) Jr., at her side. She was born in Bangor, the daughter of Carleton and Juliette (Richards) Libbey.

Patricia attended Bangor schools and was employed at Bangor Federal Credit Union and Freese's Dept. Store. She enjoyed spending time with family, going to camp with Aunt Frances and cousin, Rosemary, watching the Red Sox with sisters, sewing and crafts.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by three sisters, Marilyn Willette, Claudette Daniels and Carlene Libbey; her niece, Victoria Wyman; and her grandparents, Flossie and Seth Libbey, who she had spent a great deal of time with in prior years. She is survived by her aunt, Geraldine and uncle, Reginald Richards; aunt, Virginia and uncle, Raymond Gagnon; nephews, Frank (Vern) Wyman Jr. and his wife, Barbara Plummer, and Eric Zimmerman; nieces, Valerie Zimmerman and Nicole Daniels, several cousins, great-nephews and great-nieces.

A graveside service will be held for the family at a later date. Arrangements by the Greenlawn Funeral Directors Bangor. The family would like to thank the staff at St. Joseph's Hospital CCU and Emergency Dept. for the compassionate care they provided Patricia.