

OBITUARIES



FATHER JOSEPH H. BLATTNER JR.

SPOKANE, WASH. - The Reverend Joseph H. Blattner, Jr., aged 83, passed away on April 16, 2016, in Spokane, Washington. Acta est fibula, plaudite.

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri on February 6, 1933.

He was pre-deceased by his mother, Clara Cotter Blattner; and his sisters, Lorraine Caufield, Doris Ann Blattner, and Billie Clair Miller. He is survived by his sister, Judy Preis, of Lakeland, Florida. De mortuis nil nisi bonum.

He received his Bachelor's degree in philosophy from Kendrick Seminary in St. Louis Missouri in 1954, and was ordained a priest by Joseph Cardinal Ritter of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis after graduating from Kendrick Seminary on March 22, 1958. Caesar si viveret ad remum dareris. Subsequently, he served at St. Gregory's Parish in St. Louis, and was a teacher of religion at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in St. Louis.

He received his Master's degree in Modern European History in 1963 from St. Louis University; and was then posted as a missionary priest to Bolivia and Chile from 1963 to 1965. Returning to St. Louis in 1965, he served at Saint Augustine's, Holy Guardian Angels', and Saint Bridget's parishes in St. Louis. He subsequently received a Master's degree in Social Work from St. Louis University in 1971; and a Master's degree in education from the University of Missouri in 1982. He was fluent in Spanish, French, and German.

He was also a chaplain at the Deaconess Hospital, in St. Louis, Missouri.

From 1968 through 1982, he served as an officer in the Missouri Air National Guard; and in 1982, he joined the United States Air Force as a chaplain.

In 1968 he was assigned

to the Tactical Control Group in St. Louis, Missouri; in 1979 he was transferred to the St. Louis Fighter Wing in St. Louis, Missouri; in 1982 he was assigned to active Duty at Eglin Air Force Base, in Fort Walt Beach, Florida; in 1984 he was assigned to Torrejon Air Force Base, in Torrejon, Spain; in 1986 he was assigned at Mountain Home Air Force Base, in Mountain Home, Idaho; in 1988 he was assigned to Zweibruchen Air Force Base, in Germany; and from 1991 to 1993 he served in Griffiss Air Force Base, in Rome, New York.

He received five Air Force Meritorious Service Medals, and one Air Force Commendation Medal. Acta non verba.

Retiring from the Air Force in 1993, as a lieutenant colonel, he was assigned to St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church in Benedicta, Maine; and was responsible for its mission churches: St. Agnes, St. Joseph's and St. Paul's in the Towns of Island Falls, Stacyville, and Patten.

Following those assignments, he served parishes in Pius X Catholic Church, in Portland, Oregon; St. Mark's Catholic Church, in Burlington, Vermont; in St. Vince De Paul Church, in Burlington, Vermont; as well as parishes in Utah, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska.

He also was a chaplain for the New England Branch of the Association of Former Federal Narcotic Agents.

Special thanks to Jane Rush Cummings, Norah Gardiner, the late Mary Ann Guiggey, and Anna Rand Robinson, for their loyalty and patience. They deserve a special place in heaven. Fortus quo fidelius.

Dormit in pace.

Condolences and anecdotal messages may be forwarded to pathunt@fairpoint.net, for forwarding to friends.

SAMUEL LEE HEABERLIN

ORONO - Samuel Lee Heaberlin, 68, passed away on April 21, 2016. He was born in Huntington, West Virginia on February 14, 1948 to father Samuel Heaberlin Sr. and mother Janet Heaberlin.

He graduated high school from Saint Charles, Illinois in 1967. He joined the US Navy in 1968, where he served in Vietnam. In 1972 he joined the US Air Force which took him to Anchorage, Alaska and upon separation from the Air Force he went to work for the Office of Aircraft Services. After a few years he went to work for the US Army Corps of Engineers which he retired from in 2008. During this time he met his partner, Douglas Ellis, whom he spent 29 years together before marrying in 2013. At that point they moved to Mountain View, Missouri and after four years moved to Orono, Maine. Sam enjoyed camping, gardening, friends and family. He loved his two dogs, Kenai and Kobuk.

He is survived by Douglas Ellis; sister, Judy Holpuch; brother, Sid Heaberlin. He was predeceased in death by his parents, Samuel and Janet Heaberlin; and his brother, Ray Heaberlin.

He will have a full military honors burial at a later date at Fort Richardson, Alaska at the National Cemetery.

RICHARD C. KNEELAND

EASTON - Richard C. Kneeland, 82, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Thursday afternoon, April 28, 2016 at Maine Medical Center, Portland.

Family and friends may call 6pm to 9pm, Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at Duncan-Graves Funeral Home, 30 Church Street, Presque Isle where funeral services will be held 2pm, Wednesday May 4, 2016 with Pastor Larry Palmer, officiating.

A complete obituary will be in Monday's edition of the Bangor Daily News. Online condolences may be expressed at

www.duncan-graves.com



DONALD PAUL STRATTON

AUGUSTA - Donald Paul Stratton was born December 12, 1928, in Reading, Massachusetts, to Charles Pettengill and Ruth Orcutt Leavis Stratton. He was predeceased by his brother, Dick; and his parents. He died at home on April 24, 2016, and is survived by his wife, Sheila; his cherished daughters, Anya, Abigail and Meredith; niece, Dian Stratton; nephews, Jim and Pete Stratton; several great-nephews, great-great-nieces, stepsons and grandchildren.

Don lived in Bangor, Maine, from infancy until age nine when his family moved back to Reading. He graduated from Reading High School in 1946. One of his passions was research, a passion which lasted his lifetime. Another was music. He was given a trumpet when he was nine and he played his first paid gig at age fourteen.

After high school, Don moved to Boston where he joined the Boston Musician's Union at age sixteen and was a dues paying member until his death. He eventually commuted to NYC for gigs while still living in Boston and moved to Brooklyn in 1951. Don chose to be a professional sub, which got him gigs and recording session with many great musicians and bands such as Tony Pastor, Charlie Parker, Phil Woods, Herbie Mann, Lester Young and many more. He subbed at venues including Birdland, Radio City Music Hall and played in the pit on Broadway for "Bye Bye Birdie," "Once Upon a Mattress," and "Hello Dolly." He toured with bands large and small up and down the east coast.

While living in NYC in the '60s, Don became a student at Manhattan School of Music (MSM) where he got his BA and MA in Music Theory, then became the school's registrar. Together with brother Yusef Lateef, Don helped initiate MSM's jazz program. While he was still a student, Don arranged and produced a concert which included Gregorian chants and historical music for voice

and instruments. He also established a program at MSM for sight impaired musicians.

In the early '70s Don returned to Bangor to teach music theory and composition at the University of Maine at Orono. At his students' request he agreed that if they would do the work, he would lead the 20th Century Music Ensemble, a touring big band playing his and their own compositions and arrangements. While professor of music at UMO, Don also organized and presented "Phuong! A Requiem for Maine KIA/MIA in Vietnam." It was performed from bridges and towers across Bangor by 280 musicians. Don was active in the community, founding the "Bagel Shop Trio," performing weekly with his quartet at the Hilton at Bangor International Airport, as music director for Bangor Community Theatre's "Kismet," and working to keep Eastern Maine Medical Center from turning upper Hancock Street into a parking lot.

In 1992, Don moved to the University of Maine at Augusta as a professor in the Jazz and Contemporary Music Program, teaching trumpet, advanced music theory, composition, and improvisation.

After retirement, Don continued to teach private students and to compose for himself and for colleagues, as well as arranging music for Augusta's Unitarian Universalist Community Church Occasional Orchestra (UUCOO). In 2014 Don composed "KTAADN," based on Thoreau's "The Maine Woods," which was presented at Bangor Public Library. His original compositions are archived at BPL.

Don will be remembered by all his friends and family as an avid learner and deep thinker; a man with generosity of spirit, compassion, and a sense of humor. Friends and family will gather at his home on May 22nd. Remembrances may be given in his name to: Augusta Children's Discovery Museum, Augusta UUC and HOSPICE.



FRANKLIN LEE WATTS

MEDWAY - Franklin L. Watts passed away April 26, 2016, after a long battle with leukemia. He was surrounded by his wife Mildred, son Ralph, and daughter Penny.

He was born February 2, 1936 in Machias. Franklin left Roque Bluffs at the age of 17 to move to Sherman Mills, where he got a job picking potatoes. That is where he met his wife of 57 years, Mildred L. Corliss. They were married February 22, 1958. He worked for Marshall Merry in Staceyville on the Summit Farm. Franklin and Mildred moved to Medway and built their home on the Horseshoe Rd. where they spent the rest of their married life. They had 3 children: Pennecia, Ralph and Peggy Sue.

Franklin was employed at Great Northern Paper Company in Millinocket, where he worked for 38 Years. He ended his career working on Paper Machine Number 11. He had many friends who he worked with in the mill that he spoke of often well after he retired in 1994.

His past time passion was rebuilding anything antique that didn't run. Mainly antique John Deere tractors, one lung engines, and gas pumps. All of his friends knew they were welcome when the garage doors were up.

Franklin is survived by his wife, Mildred; daughter, Penny and husband Bill; and son, Ralph; granddaughters, Jessica and husband Kyle, Laura and husband Justin and son Tyler, Michaela and Tori Lee; grandson, Cody; two very special great grandsons who called him Bump, Joseph and Jackson.

Franklin is survived by a sister-in-law, Rita Corliss and her family; a nephew, Russell Manchester and his wife Carla; a niece, Pamela Hoxie and husband Billy; a brother-in-law, Lawrence Foster; a friend, David Violet and his wife Theresa; friend and neighbor, Kevin Bouchard and his wife Glorianne; and a life long special friend, Walter Morse of Roque Bluffs.

Frank was predeceased by his daughter, Peggy Sue; his mother-in-law, Susie Corliss; and a brother-in-law, David Corliss.

Franklin also had special memories of his Aunt Evelyn and Uncle Millard Davis of Roque Bluffs.

If anyone would like to make a memorial gift in remembrance of Franklin please send contribution to the Millinocket Regional Hospital for the purchase of a bed extender for the comfort care room. A notice for the celebration of life will be posted at a later date.



DORIS MAY SMITH GRANT

BANGOR - Doris May Smith Grant passed away peacefully April 27, 2016 at Ross Manor in Bangor, ME. She was born February 28, 1930 in Marshfield, daughter of the late Lee I. Smith and Susan Elizabeth Palmer.

Doris attended school in Whitneyville and Machias. Later, she graduated from Cherryfield Academy as the class valedictorian in 1947. Shortly after high school, she had the opportunity to work as a telephone operator in Presque Isle. It was during this time that she formed many long lasting relationships with the other girls working there. She soon returned to Cherryfield and worked at a local insurance agency. She married Liston Grant on October 16, 1952. She stopped working full time to raise their two daughters, Cynthia and Cheryl. After going back to work, she took on several different jobs, including a secretarial position at the local high school, but returned to an insurance position until her retirement.

Doris loved her family and friends. She looked forward to the times when she could be with them. Doris was a born again believer and attended many churches during her lifetime, including in Florida when wintering there with her husband, Liston. She was a member of South Levant Baptist Church at the time of her death. She was very active in various church programs, but loved working with children most of all. She enjoyed music, being at camp and her paddle boat, gardening, crafts and entertaining people. She loved to perform her version of Old Sheep and Bill Grogan's Goat. She enjoyed puzzles, playing board and card games. Doris spent many hours playing games with family and friends.

She is survived by her daughters, Cynthia Rhea and husband, Philip of Safford AZ, and Cheryl Drake and husband, Larry of Bangor;

two grandsons, Shannon Hall of Portland and Christopher Hall of Augusta; two great-grandsons, Taylor Scott of South Portland and Oliver Gilbert-Hall of Gardner; one sister, Alice Grace; one brother, Horace Smith and wife, Gerri; two sisters-in-law, Sylvia Smith and Judy Smith; and many nieces and nephews.

Doris was predeceased by her loving husband of 58 years, Liston Grant of Cherryfield, ME; both of her parents; one sister, Leah; five brothers, Irving and wife Margaret, Ralph and wife Lorraine, Donald, Lee Jr., and Eben; two sisters-in-law, Rena and her husband, Basil Tenan, and Flossie and her husband, Carroll Morse; three brothers-in-law, Dick Grace, Adfer Grant Jr. and his wife Marie, and Henry Grant and his wife Ruth; special cousin, Imogene Leighton; nieces and nephews.

Her family wishes to thank Linda and Normand Rivard, Dottie England, Rachel Ferguson, Theresa Hainer, FNP and Jenell, her caregivers at Sylvia Ross Home, Engel Place, Ross Manor, Beacon Hospice and friends and family for all of the very special things that you did on their mom's behalf, particularly in these last few years of her life.

There will be small, private family graveside service at 2pm on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at Pinegrove Cemetery in Cherryfield, ME. Her memorial service will be scheduled for a later date at the South Levant Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Doris may be sent to the South Levant Baptist Church 784 Horseback Road Levant, ME 04456 or Child Evangelism Fellowship P.O. Box 132 Carmel, ME 04419. Arrangements entrusted to Bragdon-Kelley Funeral Home, Milbridge, ME. Online condolences may be shared at

www.bragdonkelley.com

Committal Services

ROGER D. BOYNTON

MILLINOCKET - A committal service for Roger D. Boynton will be held in the family plot at Millinocket Cemetery on Monday, May 2, at 1 p.m. with Pastor Tim Bossie officiating.

FLORA L. SMART

CAMBRIDGE - Graveside committal services for Flora L. Smart, 99, who went to be with the Lord December 30, 2015, will be held 11 AM, Thursday, May 5, 2016, at the Pingree Center Cemetery in Parkman. For a complete obituary and online guest register, go to

www.CrosbyNeal.com.

DEBORAH D. IRISH

HARTLAND - Graveside committal services for Debbie Irish, who died December 9, 2015, will be held at 1:30 PM Saturday, May 7th at Pine Grove Cemetery, Hartland, with Pastor Al Worden officiating. Arrangements are by Crosby & Neal, Newport.

MILDRED K. BUCKLAND

NEWPORT - Graveside committal services for Millie Buckland, who died January 31, 2016, will be held at 11 A.M. Saturday, May 7th at the North Newport Cemetery, with the Rev. Terry McKinley officiating. Arrangements are by Crosby & Neal, Newport.

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory Of
JOHN PHILLIPS
Apr. 2, 1936 - Apr. 30, 2015



God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be, so he put his arms around you and whispered "Come to me." With tearful eyes we watched you, we watched you fade away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands now rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us he only takes the best. Sadly missed, forever loved, Your children and grandchildren