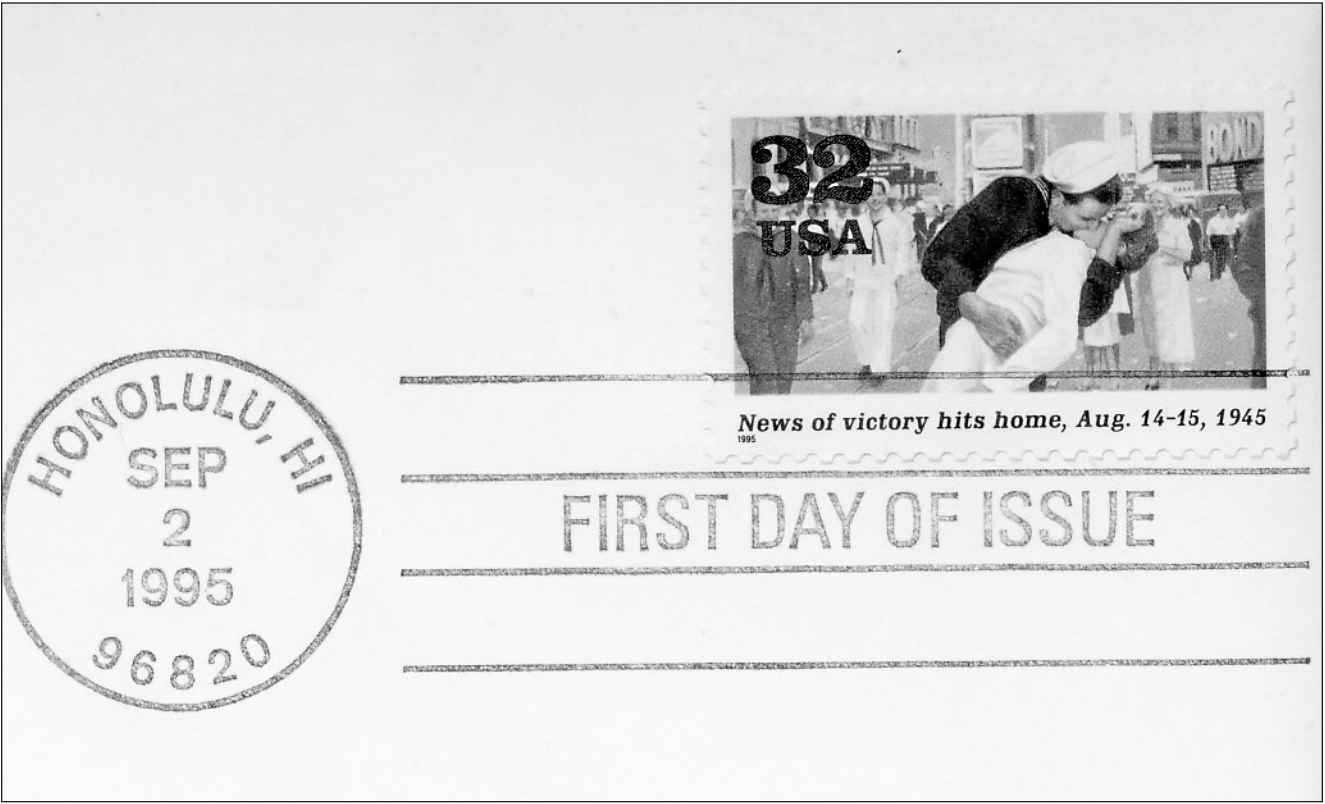


OBITUARIES



PATRICK RAYCRAFT | HARTFORD COURANT | MCT
George Mendonsa and Greta Friedman, featured in a famous end of World War II photo, were portrayed on a U.S. postage stamp in 1995. Friedman died last Thursday at the age of 92.

Woman kissed by sailor in famed photo at World War II's end dies

REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Greta Friedman, the woman in white kissed by a sailor in New York's Times Square in a photograph symbolizing the end of World War II, has died at age 92, media reports said on Saturday.

Her son, Joshua Friedman, said she died on Thursday in Virginia after suffering a series of ailments, including pneumonia, NBC News reported.

CBS News said she would be laid to rest with her late husband, Mischa Elliot Friedman, at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Friedman, then a dental assistant on a break, was the woman in one of the most

famous pictures of the 20th century, the moment Americans learned of the Japanese surrender on Aug. 14, 1945.

Photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt snapped a sailor in a dark uniform kissing Friedman with his arms around her and her white-clad body bent backwards as revelers in New York's Times Square celebrated the victory over Japan, or V-J Day.

"I did not see him approaching, and before I know it I was in this vice grip," Friedman told CBS News in 2012. After the embrace, Friedman and the sailor, quartermaster George Mendonsa of Rhode Island, went their separate ways.

Eisenstaedt's photo, "V-J Day in Times Square," ran the following week in Life magazine.

The photographer recalled in his 1985 book "Eisenstaedt on Eisenstaedt" that a sailor in Times Square was kissing women randomly. When he saw a flash of white, he took four shots in 10 seconds.

"If she (Friedman) had been dressed in a dark dress I would never have taken the picture. If the sailor had worn a white uniform, the same," he said.

Mendonsa and Friedman were not identified until 1980 when Life asked the unknown pair to come forward. Mendonsa told CBS he and his future wife had been

celebrating the end of the war when he began kissing women in the street.

In a 2005 interview with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, the Austrian-born Friedman said she later designed dolls' clothes, worked in summer theater and became a book restorer.

She moved to Frederick, Maryland, and graduated from Hood College in 1981, the same year her son and daughter graduated from university.

Friedman said of the photo, "It was a wonderful coincidence, a man in a sailor's uniform and a woman in a white dress ... and a great photographer at the right time."

Operatic tenor Johan Botha dies at 51

BY EMILY LANGER
THE WASHINGTON POST

Johan Botha, a South African tenor known to patrons of the world's most prestigious opera houses for the unusual combination of dramatic force and lyrical grace that he brought to a seemingly boundless repertoire, died Sept. 8 in Vienna. He was 51.

Raphaela Hodl, a representative of the Michael Lewin artistic management firm, confirmed his death in an email, citing a "severe illness." Botha was reportedly diagnosed with cancer in November 2015 and announced last month that he was "free" of the disease.

Botha spent much of his adult life in the Austrian capital, where he sang often at the Vienna State Opera, as well as at houses including Milan's La Scala, London's Royal Opera House at Covent Garden and the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where he sang 10 roles, in a total of 80 performances, since his debut there in 1997.

His success on the stage represented a private as well as professional triumph.

"As a child I was dyslexic," he told Opera News. "Because of this, people thought I was

stupid. I could not read words, and I couldn't spell. What I could do was read music. This proved to everyone that I could accomplish something, and singing became my life."

Trained initially as a bass-baritone, he possessed the heavy vocal power of a heldentenor, the type of voice suited for the dramatic roles of German opera. Yet he also was capable of the shining brilliance that distinguishes the best lyric tenors in the Italian tradition.

With his dual gifts, Botha excelled in the Wagnerian repertoire as the knight Walter of "Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg," Siegmund in "Die Walkure" and the title character of "Tannhauser," which he sang at the Met last season.

In the Italian canon, he appeared as Canio in Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci," the role in which he made his Met debut; the title character of "Otello," based on Shakespeare's tragedy, and the Egyptian warrior Radames of "Aida," both by Verdi; and Prince Calaf in Puccini's "Turandot."

Botha was the "rarest type of tenor voice," F. Paul Driscoll, the editor in chief of Opera News, said in an interview.

If critics identified in Botha a weakness, it lay in his acting abilities, which some observers found lacking in comparison with his vocal power. Botha said he was wounded when critics remarked on his girth, which at times appeared incompatible with the romantic, even swashbuckling nature of the characters he portrayed.

He said he had done "every diet you can think of" and that he was "fighting a losing battle."

"We have all been conditioned by television," he told Opera News. "Everyone on television looks like a model, and now people expect opera singers to look the same. But believe me, no anorexic could sing Otello."

He was, however, heartened by a comment from one colleague.

"You might not look like a lover," she told him, "but you sure sing and act like one."

Botha was born in Rustenburg, 70 miles west of Pretoria, on Aug. 19, 1965. He discovered opera through his father, who listened to recordings of Enrico Caruso, Beniamino Gigli and Richard Tucker.

"When I was five, I already knew all those famous tenor

arias," Botha told Opera News. "Each time my father put on one of his records, I took great pleasure in joining in, with my squeaky falsetto voice, at the top of my lungs. Naturally, my father didn't really like my trying to compete with those legendary singers, and he always shut me up."

Botha recalled declaring to his father that "someday I'll sing the way they do."

His parents supported his musical ambitions, which he pursued first by singing in choirs. Later, he studied opera with a teacher who helped him compile a list of operatic roles to learn and opera houses where he wished to sing.

In 1989, Botha debuted in Roodepoort, South Africa, as Max in Weber's "Der Freischutz." He later sang in the chorus at the Wagner festival in Bayreuth, Germany, and honed his abilities while singing small roles in Europe. He was propelled to greater recognition in 1993 when, on two days' notice, he took on the role of Pinkerton in Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" at the Opera Bastille in Paris.

Survivors include his wife, Sonja, and two sons, Marius and Louis.

Frugal librarian leaves \$4 million to his university

BY SARAH LARIMER
WASHINGTON POST

Robert Morin lived a simple, frugal life.

He drove a '92 Plymouth, the Boston Globe reported. In his free time, Morin read — a lot. And he didn't eat fancy meals.

"He would have some Fritos and a Coke for breakfast, a quick cheese sandwich at the library, and at home would have a frozen dinner because the only thing he had to work with was a microwave," his financial adviser, Edward Mullen, told the Globe. "He was a very unusual gentleman."

Morin was a longtime employee at the University of New Hampshire library; he worked as a cataloguer, which is basically someone who writes descriptions of new material coming into the library.

The university announced recently that when Morin died in March 2015 at the age of 77, he left his estate to the school.

His \$4 million estate.

"It's very inspiring and exciting," Erika Mantz, a UNH spokeswoman, told the Globe. "In our history, I'm not aware of anything like this."

A UNH news release about the gift noted that "few suspected" Morin, a graduate of the school, had "quietly amassed" millions. But his life wasn't super extravagant. He watched thousands of videos, according to the release, and read a bunch of books. Okay, that's all sort of an understatement. I don't know if I can really capture it, so I'm just going to go ahead and quote this portion of the news here, because, wow:

Morin also had a passion for watching movies, and from 1979 to 1997 he watched more than 22,000 videos. Following this feat, he switched his attention to books. He read, in chronological order, every book published in the U.S. from 1930 to 1940 — excluding children's books, textbooks and books about cooking and technology. At

the time of his death he had reached 1,938, the year of his birth.

"He never went out," Mullen, the financial adviser who helped Morin build his wealth, told the New Hampshire Union Leader.

Morin was employed by the university for nearly five decades before his retirement in 2014. In the 2013-2014 fiscal year, he was paid \$102,220, according to a Nashua Telegraph database of salaries provided by the University System of New Hampshire.

Mullen, in his interview with the Globe, called Morin a "very bright guy and a very smart guy." He told the newspaper that Morin wanted to give UNH freedom to spend the gift and trusted them to use his funds.

"He said, 'They'll figure out what to do with it,'" Mullen told the Globe.

In a phone interview with The Washington Post on Tuesday, Mantz called Morin "a very recognizable person on campus" who lived a simple and quiet life, stayed away from controversy and frequently took the time to chat with students.

A portion of Morin's gift — "\$100,000 — will go to the university's Dimond Library, where Morin worked, according to the news release. That money, the only dedicated gift in the estate, will be used for scholarships for work-study students and to support staffers who are continuing their library-science education. It will also help fund a renovation project in a multimedia room at the library.

An additional \$1 million will go toward a video scoreboard at the UNH football stadium. (In the final months of his life, Morin started watching football while he was in an assisted-living center, according to the release. He learned the rules of the game and knew the players' names.) Another chunk of the money will go toward an expanded and centrally located career center, Mantz said.

Transgender actress Alexis Arquette dies at 47

REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Transgender actress Alexis Arquette died Sunday morning, her brother Richmond Arquette revealed in a Facebook post. She was 47.

"Our brother Robert, who became our brother Alexis, who became our sister Alexis, who became our brother Alexis, passed this morning September 11, at 12:32 am," Richmond wrote. "He was surrounded by all of his brothers and sisters, one of his nieces and several other loved ones. We were playing music for him and he passed during David Bowie's Starman. As per his wishes, we cheered at the moment that he transitioned to another dimension."

Multiple sources, including Richmond's agent, also confirmed the news to Variety. A cause of death has not been yet released. Alexis Arquette's sister, Oscar-winning actress Patricia Arquette, also appeared to pay tribute to Alexis by tweeting David Bowie's "Starman" and T. Rex's "Cosmic Dancer."

"Breaking through the veil singing Starman," Patricia captioned one tweet. "To My first best friend — Cosmic Dancer," she wrote with the other.

"I am feeling immense gratitude to have been afforded the luxury of sharing life with him/her, for learning from Alexis, for being given the gift of being able to love him/her and to be loved by him/her. He was a force," Richmond added in the Facebook post.

"He died as he lived, on his own terms. I am immensely grateful that it was fast and painless. It was an incredibly moving experience and I am humbled and grateful to have

been able to have been with him as he began his journey onward. Thank you, Alexis, I love you and will love you always."

Born Robert Arquette, Alexis started acting at a young age and nabbed a variety of roles over her career. She played a Boy George-inspired character in "The Wedding Singer," and also appeared in "Of Men and Mice," "Bride of Chucky," "The Surreal Life," "Down and Out in Beverly Hills" and most recently in 2014's "Blended" alongside Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore.

Along with Patricia, Alexis' famous family also includes David and Rosanna Arquette. Alexis' transition into a woman was documented in 2007's "Alexis Arquette: She's My Brother."

NH man dies, 2 Maine men injured in boat crash

BY CHARLIE PETERS
THE ENTERPRISE

TAUNTON, Massachusetts — One person was killed after three speed boats collided during a race on Watson's Pond in Taunton on Saturday afternoon, officials said.

Shortly after 1 p.m., a boat in the Bill Giles Memorial Regatta spun out at 65 mph and was struck by a boat trailing close behind and then a third boat, according to the Taunton Fire Department.

All three boat drivers were ejected and the driver of the second boat was declared dead at the scene, Fire Chief Timothy Bradshaw said in a statement.

The driver who was killed was identified as a 39-year-

old New Hampshire man, according to the Bristol County district attorney's office.

The driver of the third boat, a 67-year-old Maine man, is listed in critical condition and was taken to Rhode Island Hospital, according to the Fire Department and Massachusetts State Police.

The Taunton Fire Department's Dive Team was on scene for the race and pulled all three drivers out of the water.

The driver of the first boat, a 72-year-old Maine man, suffered minor injuries, according to the Fire Department.

The victims cannot be publicly identified at this time pending next of kin notification.

Sgt. Thomas Ryan of the Massachusetts State Police said the crash is under investigation by the Environmental Police.

Watson Pond falls under the jurisdiction of the Environmental Police because it is in the Watson Pond State Park, Ryan said.

The Bill Giles Memorial Regatta is run by the South Shore Outboard Association and features races in 10 hydroplane classes from a junior division to the D-Stock Hydros with 50 horsepower engines.

Hydroplanes are 9 to 12 feet long and designed to rise up out of the water when at speed, allowing the boats to skip over the surface faster than boats with hulls that displace water.

This is the 33rd running of the race. It was renamed this year for Bill Giles, a boat racer who founded and directed the regatta for many years.

Participants can win trophies from this race and also points toward an overall trophy in a competition sanctioned by the national American Power Boat Association.

Rhode Island Hospital in Providence is designated as the regional hospital for serious trauma cases.

The race was scheduled to run heats on both Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Officers with the South Shore Outboard Association could not be reached for comment Saturday afternoon.



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