

OBITUARIES



DONNA GAIL COWAN
ORONO - Donna Gail Cowan, 53, lost her battle to ALS on Tuesday, September 20, 2016. She was born April 23, 1963, in Bangor the daughter of John J. and Regina O. (Manzo) Kocur.

Donna Gail, as her family and close friends lovingly referred to her, was truly and angel on earth. She loved her family, friends, and community without restriction. Whether she was your mother, sister, daughter, wife, girlfriend, grandmother, friend, coach, or co-worker, she committed her time, love, loyalty and passion to you fully. Donna had the gift of gab and never met a stranger. Her exuberant spirit and love of life was evident to all that had a privilege to cross her path. She would drop everything to come to the aid of someone in need. In her professional life her keen mind, compassion, and patience allowed her to help those in the worst moments of their lives find hope. She loved to dance, to go for drives to the ocean, to play with her dog, to spend time with friends and family, attend her son's sporting events, and to just laugh. Donna laughed at herself and made others laugh with her and at themselves. Her gifts to those she loved are immeasurable. She had so much love and pride for her son Lance. Her absence will be a void in many lives but her spirit will live in all of us.

Donna was a Masters level counselor for CHCS, graduating from the University of Maine. She worked as a crisis counselor for CHCS and loved her work. Donna also loved to coach, she was a youth swim coach for many years and recently an assistant swim coach at Orono High School, where she touched many young students with her energy and smile.

She is survived by her only child, Lance Cowan, and his grandmother Marilyn Cowan; a sister Anne (Kocur) Osolinski; a niece Aja Matthews; and her boyfriend Bob Chandler. She also had many friends who loved her dearly, and were with her until the end.

The family invites relatives and friends to attend a Celebration of Life Gathering from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, September 25, at the Family Reception Center of Brookings-Smith, 163 Center Street, Bangor. Those who wish to remember Donna in a special way are encouraged to help with donations to "Donna's Fund" with the ALS Association Community of Hope. Donations can be made through her fund's website at <http://web.web.als.a.org/goto/Donnasfund>. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com.

Rapper Shawty Lo dies in car crash

BY RICH MCKAY
REUTERS

ATLANTA — Atlanta rapper Carlos Walker, who went by the stage name Shawty Lo, died early on Wednesday in a fiery car crash while returning from a nightclub near his hometown, police said. He was 40.

Walker, a founding member of the Southern rap group D4L and founder of D4L Records, was best known for his single, "Dey Know."

A message posted on Shawty Lo's Twitter account, apparently written by the rapper's manager and brother, noted the death. "My brother has passed, he is no longer here but his spirit, his kind heart and his music will live on," it said.

Tributes poured in from



ROBERT 'BOBBY' M. BOWER
ORRINGTON - Bob passed peacefully in his sleep at home with loved ones at his bedside. He was born in Arlington, MA and soon the family moved to Brewer, ME. Bob graduated from Brewer High class of 1955. While at BHS he lettered in all sports and was a Parade All American in football. In 2015 he was inducted into the BHS Sports Hall of Fame. Bob went on to the Univ. of Maine and graduated class of 1959. At UMO he excelled in football. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. In his senior year he put football behind him to focus on ROTC and obtained his flying license.

Bob entered the US Army as a 2nd Lt. and became a helicopter pilot, reaching the rank of Major. Bob served 3 years in Vietnam and for a time he served with the 101st Airborne Division. During his time in Vietnam he was awarded many medals including The Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart for wounds received in combat, Air Medal with 45 Oak Leaf Clusters. Bob flew over 1,200 missions in Vietnam and was shot down. After 10 days on the ground and moving at night he made it to friendly lines. When not in Vietnam he was a flight instructor and a test pilot at Ft. Rucker, AL, and one of the pilots chosen to test flight the Cobra Helicopter in Yuma, AZ.

After his military service he returned to Maine where he owned and operated Sonny's Italians for several years. He later work at Pottle's Transportation for 15 years before retiring. His parents predeceased him: Charles and A. Elizabeth Martin Bower. Bob is survived by his wife Melanie, children Robert Bower his wife Yvette, Orrington, ME, Lori Bower-Greene her husband Donnie, Milton FL, and David Bower his partner Maryann Ford, South Portland, ME. Grandchildren: Bria Lafayette, Nicholas and Taylor Bower. Brothers: William Bower his wife Charlotte, Auburn, ME, Charles Bower Cincinnati, OH, Bruce Bower his wife Donette, Pell City, AL. Nieces and nephews, and the mother of his children Linda Albert Bower, Bangor, ME.

A private family service will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made in Robert's honor to the Brewer Athletic Department 79 Parkway South Brewer, Me 04412.

fans and fellow rappers. "Prayers to his family and friends. ATown Legend," wrote American disc jockey DJ Drama. "Legends never die ... Shawty Lo Forever," hip-hop recording artist Future wrote. Walker was driving a white Audi on an interstate highway in South Fulton County near Atlanta at about 2:20 a.m. when the vehicle crashed through a guard rail, hit several trees and caught fire, Fulton County Police spokeswoman Maureen Smith said.

Two women passengers in the vehicle were injured and taken to a nearby hospital, Smith said. The group had recently left a nightclub, she said.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.



MICHAEL ALBERT HODGDON
MINOT - Michael Albert Hodgdon, kind spirit and gentle soul, was called home on September 20, 2016. Mike was born in Lewiston on April 11, 1958. He attended Minot Consolidated School and graduated from Edward Little High School in 1977.

Mike loved all things automotive and enjoyed building model cars. He was always tickled to loan out cd's from his impressive collection of rock, country and oldies music. He enjoyed his job at Gammon Landscape Nursery and his friends at the Looking Ahead Clubhouse, especially his mentor Steve Hish.

Mike's sudden passing leaves a chasm in the heart of his sister, Cindy Hemond and husband Richard with whom he made his home in Minot; his mother, Patricia (Yokell) Hodgdon of Poland; sisters, Johanna Barnett and husband Steven of Gardiner and Kathy Williamson and companion Steven Dillon of Auburn; a brother, Scott Hodgdon and companion Pamela Luce of Poland; a niece and 5 nephews, many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by his father, C. Thayne Hodgdon in 2012 and a sister, Debra Hodgdon, in 1994.

Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; - from Isaiah 40:11. Visiting hours will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 27, at the Chandler Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 26 W. Dwinall Street, Mechanic Falls, where a funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday. Burial will follow at Maple Grove Cemetery, Mechanic Falls. Condolences can be expressed to the family at www.chandlerfunerals.com.

Late guitar legend Gatton subject of film

BY JOHN KELLY
THE WASHINGTON POST

Danny Gatton could take any piece of music that entered his ears and send it out through his fingertips.

He wasn't just Washington's greatest guitar player. He may have been the world's. Gatton played it all: bluegrass, rock, jazz, big band, rockabilly, surf. ... He could pick incredibly fast, but always with a soulful tone, a passionate pyrotechnician.

If you were a guitarist, Gatton was the Humbler.

That's the title of a documentary about the late guitarist that just launched a fundraising effort at IndieGoGo.com. Filmmaker Virginia Quesada met Gatton in the late 1980s when she was putting together a feature on three local musicians: Gatton,

Dying man in Durham crash: 'Tell my family that I love them'

BY JUDY MEYER
SUN JOURNAL

DURHAM — Kneeling on Route 9 on Wednesday morning, James Merrill begged 21-year-old Malakai Cawood to stay awake until an ambulance arrived.

"He was looking at me. I kept telling him, 'Hold on man,'" Merrill said. "He was in really bad shape."

As they waited, Cawood said to Merrill, "Please, tell my family that I love them."

Then, he closed his eyes and died. Cawood, who lived in Limington and was a recent graduate of the Adult Education program in Gorham, was one of two passengers killed in an accident at the intersection of Route 9 and Runaround Pond Road. The other passenger was 24-year-old Brendon Harthorn of Cornish.

Merrill, a 28-year-old who recently relocated from New Hampshire to Maine with his girlfriend, was getting ready for work around 7:15 a.m. when he heard a loud crash just down the road. He jumped in his car and drove to the intersection, where he saw two people lying in the road near a pickup truck on fire. There was an overturned dump truck some yards farther south on Route 9.

"I knew it was bad and I knew my uncle was on the porch, so I yelled, 'Uncle Bob, Uncle Bob!'" Merrill said. "I needed help."

As he waited for his uncle, Merrill said he tried to move the two men in the road away from the burning truck, but they were too heavy.

When the older Merrill arrived at the scene, a third man who was driving by stopped to help, and the three managed to move the injured men. Then, the younger Merrill said, "We realized the driver was still in the truck."

As the three men started working to get the driver out of the truck, the younger Merrill said he "got talking to him and asked him what happened. He told me that he blew the stop sign."

The driver is Jeremy Reardon, 35, of Buxton.

Reardon initially didn't want to leave the vehicle, James Merrill said. "He wouldn't let me move him. But, I said, 'Dude, we got to move you. This thing's on fire and we gotta go.'"

Merrill said "there was literally no choice. It was either move him or he dies."

The three rescuers worked together to get the driver out of the truck and set him on the ground, but as the flames grew, Merrill said they had to move him despite very serious injuries to his left hip and leg. "We dragged him on his back," Merrill said, "and had to move him two or three times because the truck got progressively worse."

"The truck was on fire so bad, if we hadn't gotten him out in time there would have been three dead bodies" there, Merrill said.

They also moved the two passengers in the road several more times to get them



RUSS DILLINGHAM | SUN JOURNAL
James Merrill of Durham lives near the site of Wednesday morning's fatal crash and was one of the first people on the scene.

farther from the flames.

"No sooner did we pull him out, and got together to pull the other gentlemen away from the truck, and it blew up," Merrill said.

"It was a very scary situation," he said.

Merrill said Harthorn was dead when he got there, but Cawood was still alive and he sat with the man until he died.

Later in the day, Merrill said, "All I can do is see that guy's face. Hearing him say, 'Please tell my family I love them.'"

Merrill said he doesn't know how to get in touch with the man's family, but he thinks it's important for them to know "that your son was thinking about you before he died and wanted you to know that he loved you."

The Merrills and the passer-by also helped Clifton Larrabee of Durham, who was driving one of his company's dump trucks south on Route 9 when it was struck by Reardon's pickup.

Larrabee was still trapped in the overturned truck when the three rescuers reached him. One of them kicked in the window to reach him, but they decided not to move him from the truck because they didn't know how badly he was injured.

"So, we figured we'd just tell him to hold on and we talked to him to keep him calm," Merrill said, assuring him an ambulance had been called.

Merrill recently moved to Maine to find employment, and started work for Dunham's Tree Service in Lewiston on Tuesday. When EMTs arrived at the crash scene, he left so he wouldn't be late for work.

At some point during the rescue, Merrill said he pulled something in his leg and he was visibly limping later in the day.

singer Mary Chapin Carpenter and sax player Buck Hill.

"While working on this, we lose Danny," she said. Gatton killed himself in 1994 after a day spent working on one of his prized hot rods. He was 49.

"It was kind of shocking," Quesada said. "We thought, 'What do we do now?'"

What Quesada did is interview musicians who knew Danny, worked with him or were inspired by him, a roster that included Les Paul, Albert Lee, Vince Gill and Rodney Crowell.

Gatton grew up in D.C.'s Anacostia neighborhood when much of the neighborhood was white and working-class.

"He wanted to play everything," Quesada said. "He could play the history of the guitar in one song—and did."

For all his technical brilliance, Gatton sometimes

struggled with fame.

"He would have been happy playing behind a curtain," Quesada said. "He was brilliant, but he wasn't a showman."

And he was hard to pin down, segueing from an American standard, say, to the theme song from "The Simpsons."

This was a problem at a time when radio and record stores needed to know where to file an artist. Gatton lamented the trouble he had getting a major label contract, "They said you had to be categorized into one thing," he told an interviewer. "Why? There's more than one color in nature."

Apparently, sometimes the colors in Gatton's life were dimmed. Friends think he suffered from depression, and took his life not because of

dissatisfaction with his career but because of his illness.

"I think he hid it pretty well," Quesada said. "I think that in the sort of good-old-boy redneck world he was part of, you didn't talk about your problems. You kind of manned up and dealt with it."

Thanks to clips of him on YouTube, Gatton continues to gain fans around the world. The fundraising campaign for "The Humbler: Danny Gatton" ends Oct. 24. Last I checked, the campaign was a third of the way toward the goal of \$36,000. (For info, visit thehumblermovie.com.)

Danny Gatton was just one of a number of acclaimed D.C.-area stringbenders, a list that includes Roy Buchanan, Roy Clark and Link Wray.

"What is it?" Quesada asked. "Something in the water?"

Former Fort Hood commander Cone dies

BY BROCK VERGAKIS
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

NORFOLK, Virginia — Retired four-star Gen. Robert Cone, who led the Army's Training and Doctrine Command here and was in charge of Fort Hood during the 2009 shooting that killed 13 on the Texas post, has died.

He was 59.

"He was a brilliant and caring leader who served our nation in a challenging era. Our hearts go out to his family during this difficult time," Lt. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, commander of the III Armored Corps and Fort Hood, said in a statement.

The Army did not specify in its Tuesday statement when, how or where Cone died.

Cone had been the commanding general at Fort Hood for just two months when an Army psychiatrist opened fire in what became the deadliest shooting to ever occur on a U.S. military base.

It quickly thrust Cone into the international spotlight,

and he was widely praised for his response.

"You never know what you may face as a leader. We had the right leader at the right place, because his calm and steady demeanor was critical following the tragic shootings at Fort Hood, and he led the community to properly care for our fallen and wounded, as well as their families," Gen. Ray Odierno, then-Army Chief of Staff, said during Cone's 2014 retirement ceremony at Fort Eustis.

Cone grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire. He loved football and decided to attend the Military Academy instead of the University of Maine or Boston College at the persistent urging of his high school coach, who graduated from West Point in 1946.

He served in the Army for 35 years. His last assignment was as commanding general of Training and Doctrine Command, or Tradoc, at Fort Eustis. There, he was responsible for helping shape the Army's future by overseeing

recruiting, training requirements and developing strategies for how the Army should fight. Tradoc has a presence in all 50 states and four U.S. territories.

"The privilege of commanding such an outstanding organization as Tradoc, composed of our Army's finest soldiers and civilians, is truly humbling," Cone said during his command change ceremony at Fort Monroe in 2011.

Before arriving in Hampton Roads, Cone was deployed to Iraq from March 2010 to February 2011. There, he served as deputy commanding general of operations, making him the second-highest-ranking military officer in United States Forces Iraq.

Cone also had deployed to Afghanistan in June 2007, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom as commander of the Combined Security Transition Command.

"Gen. Cone devoted his life to preserving freedom at home and abroad, serving in Iraq,

Afghanistan, Qatar, Kuwait and Germany, and his distinguished career has made New Hampshire proud," New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen said in a statement.

Cone's career began at Fort Hood as a platoon leader in the 2nd Armored Division after he graduated from the Military Academy in 1979.

Cone later returned to West Point to serve as an assistant professor in behavioral science and leadership development after he earned a master's degree at the University of Texas.

Cone joined the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany in 1991 and deployed for Operation Desert Storm. Three years later, he was selected to command 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment after the previous commander was relieved for toxic leadership.

Cone continued rising through the ranks in various assignments before he was made commanding general of Fort Hood in 2009.

Obituary Department

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