

Obituaries

All obituaries are edited for proper spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as clarity, conciseness and style prior to publication in our newspapers. It should be understood that information might not be published exactly as submitted by the funeral home or family.



Hudobenko

OAKVILLE — Vera G. Hudobenko, 91, of Waterbury, was reunited with her husband in heaven on Friday, November 1, 2019. She was the loving wife of the late Stephen W. Hudobenko of 56 years.

Vera was the last surviving member of the Crocco family. She was predeceased by brothers Julio, Dominic, Freddy, Ernest, Carlo, Atillio and Charlie; her dear sister Victoria and her beloved cat, Trouble.

Vera was born August 30, 1928 in Waterbury, the daughter of the late Dominic and Assunta (Guerrera) Crocco of Waterbury, formerly of Pontelandolfo, Italy. She was raised in Waterbury and like most individuals from the "Greatest Generation," she overcame many obstacles in life. At the age of 16, when her brothers left to fight in World War II, she was forced to leave Wilby High School before her senior year to

help run the family business, Crocco's Bakery.

She married her husband, Stephen, in 1949 and had six children. They moved to Watertown in 1968 where they remained for most of their lives.

Vera was a stay-at-home mom for many years but was actively engaged in town and school activities and also found time to work as an Avon lady.

The neighborhood children were always welcome in the Hudobenko home as if it were their own; they called her "Mom Hud." Everything she cooked was from scratch and she will always be remembered for her pizza, perogies and her Easter raisin bread.

After her youngest child began school, she worked as a cafeteria cook at Watertown High School, working her way up to manager before retiring in the 1990s. Like her husband, she was very involved with her children in the Oakville-Watertown Drum Corps. She marched beside the children in parades, chaperoning trips and always cooking for the group. Her "Hudi's fried chicken" was always a favorite.

Vera was and will forever be a symbol of all things good. She adored spending time with her family and friends, bowling, polka dancing, sewing, listening to music, baking and volunteering at the Oakville VFW, where she was a member of the Women's auxiliary for more than 25 years. She was especially known for her fried dough at the VFW tag sales.

Steve and Vera possessed a strong sense of faith and were very active in the church. There, Vera enjoyed supporting the parish in which they were married, St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church. She cooked for the annual festivals, fundraisers and dances, sang in the church choir and was a member of the St. Olga's sisterhood and the Sr. "R" club.

In her retirement, she and Steve traveled throughout the United States, visiting various places including Sam's Town in Las Vegas, one of their favorites, the National Parks and other places they could explore including Steve's Navy SeaBee

reunions.

After her husband's passing, she traveled to St. Thomas and the U.S. Virgin Islands twice, to attend her son's and daughter's weddings. She also took a Caribbean cruise with her eldest daughter and son-in-law and was so amazed by it, she often joked that she thought her children were lying to her about places with blue water until she saw it for herself.

Vera loved animals and was regarded as the family vet. As if six children were not enough, she and Steve sponsored several other children through the Christian Children's Fund for over 50 years.

She leaves six children, Leon Hudobenko and his wife, Filomena (DeSomma), Nancy Brooks and her husband, Jim, Susan Stack and her husband, Ricky, Esther Zinolli and her husband, Jeff (Chip), Faith Richmond and her husband, Chris and Matthew Hudobenko and his wife, Debbie (Descault); three grandchildren whom she loved and cherished, Leanna Pratt, Tanya Bozzo and her husband, Jake, and Lauren Hudobenko, and many nieces and nephews. The family wishes to thank them all for their love of Vera over the years.

They wish to also thank the many caregivers, friends and family who provided assistance to Vera over the last several years. Their support is very much appreciated.

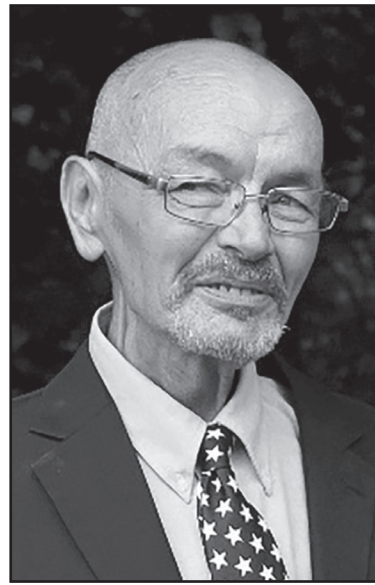
Those who knew Vera were better off for knowing her. She was loved by all. Her kindness will be her legacy.

A funeral service took place November 4, at Chase Parkway Memorial, The Albin Family Funeral Home, 430 Chase Parkway, Waterbury. Burial followed in St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Cemetery, Stillson Road, Waterbury.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that friends perform a random act of kindness to keep her legacy alive.

For more information or to send e-condolences, visit www.chaseparkwaymemorial.com.

New Obituaries Appear Daily at www.towntimesnews.com



Townsend

WATERTOWN — Paul Arthur Townsend, 71, passed away Sunday, November 3, 2019 at home in Watertown, surrounded by the love and comfort of his family.

Paul is survived by his children, Alicia Rose Townsend, Bryan Townsend and his wife, Ashley (Petruzzello) Townsend and Cristin Townsend; as well as his former wife and faithful friend, Clare Keating; his grandson, Liam, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, Dorothy and Harold Townsend; his sister, Lois Perock; brothers Leroy and Leland Townsend, and granddaughter Charlee Mae Townsend Christolini.

Paul graduated from Southbury High School in 1968 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served in active combat duty during the Vietnam War. He had multiple awards and medals, including the RVN AF Cross of Gallantry with Palm and the RVN Campaign Medal w/dev.

He was a veteran member of the Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department and worked at the

Stone Construction Company for more than 40 years.

Now, for the more noteworthy highlights of Paul's legacy...

Following his first major victory, winning second prize in the 1951 Loring Studio Personality Child Contest, it was pretty much a steady run of remarkable moments, hovering somewhere between fame and infamy.

The following are some examples, including but not limited to the Memorial School Flagpole Misunderstanding of '64.

Frequent sightings of Paul running barefoot through the streets of Middlebury at all hours and in all seasons as he made his way to the Middlebury firehouse, responding to fire calls. Incidentally Paul was known for being the first firefighter into any burning structure, wielding an axe.

He also had an understated yet noteworthy sense of fashion, evident in drawers full of t-shirts with sports teams, patriotism or construction company logos, but also had an extensive collection of shirts with wildly inappropriate and offensive designs, the latter of which were frequently worn with hand-cut Daisy Dukes.

Just underneath Paul's rough and rugged exterior lived a sensitive and thoughtful soul, one who appreciated the beauty of nature and life, love and special moments shared with family and friends; he will be greatly missed.

Calling hours will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, November 9, with military honors at 5 p.m., at Munson-Lovetere Funeral Home, 235 Main St. North in Southbury.

Memorial donations may be made to Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department or Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center.

To leave an online condolence, visit www.munsonloveterefuneralhome.com.



They know each other so well, they know what each other's thinking. But there's still some things you need in writing.

Like a living will; it's an important piece of paper that can speak for you when you're unable. It can keep your loved ones from guessing your wishes, and make decisions on your behalf. For more information call us, you'll be glad you did.

O'Neill Funeral Home 742 Main Street, Oakville, Connecticut
A Casey Family Services Funeral Home Main 860.274.3005 Fax 860.274.4691
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At Heminway Municipal Building

Town to Plant White Oak Tree

WATERTOWN — The town will plant a white oak tree at 4 p.m. Wednesday, November 13, at the Heminway Municipal Center, 61 Echo Lake Rd.

The tree and plaque were donated by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association and the installation is donated by Brothers' Tree Service, which will nurture the tree as it grows.

The tree planting is part of an effort on behalf of the CTPA to honor the 100th anniversary of the passage of the state's arborist law.

This law, currently comprising Section 23-61a-m of state General Statutes, requires that arbor-

ists in the state be licensed and establishes the foundation for proper tree care.

Because of this law, knowledge and practice of tree care are notably better within the state of Connecticut than elsewhere in the country.

The original law was passed when Connecticut's forests were still regrowing and the gypsy moth and chestnut blight were rapidly becoming major tree problems.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and others recognized a developing problem with tree care services that were often no good and sometimes

downright dangerous.

The first arborist law, then called the tree expert law, required anyone who sold services as a tree expert to demonstrate their knowledge of trees and of tree care through a rigorous examining process.

The testing process laid the basis for the qualifications that must be demonstrated for all arborists and has encouraged the growth of arboriculture as a highly skilled, deeply knowledgeable and scrupulously safe profession.

Arborists know that the mishandling of trees takes many lives each year and have safety deeply ingrained into their professional practice, to limit the dangers to themselves and their co-workers and to the public at large.

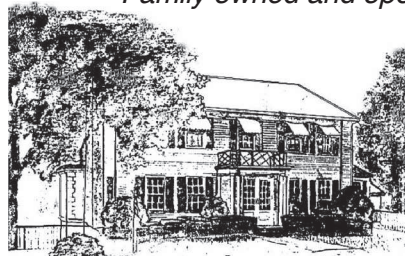
This feature is one of the provisions included in the arborist law and distinguishes the professional arborist from the non-arborist.

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, organized in 1922, owes its existence to the original arborist law and today there are approximately 1,000 licensed arborists in Connecticut.

The state was the first to pass such legislation and one of the few in the nation to have licensing requirements.

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