

OBITUARIES

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Deaths

CHRIST, GEORGE MICHAEL, 86, of Winter Haven, Fla., and formerly of Sparta, died Monday, May 1, 2007. Visitation: Sunday, 7 to 9 p.m., Goble Funeral Home, Sparta. Service: 10 a.m., Monday, at the funeral home.

KAEGI, RUTH M., 71, of Wantage, died Thursday, May 3, 2007. Service: 10 a.m., Monday, Fairview Cemetery, Wantage.

YANEZ, BENJAMIN, 72, of Melbourne, Fla., and formerly of Ogdensburg, died Monday, April 29, 2007. Visitation: Friday, 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., Smith-McCracken Funeral Home, Newton. Service: Saturday, 11 a.m., at the funeral home.

Services

BEHLING, MARY: Service: Saturday, 2 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Mount Joy, Pa., with visitation from 12:30 p.m. until the start of service.

DEIPPA, ROSEMARY ANN: Service: Today, 4:30 p.m., Church of The Good Shepherd, Wantage.

DUDZINSKI, GERALD W.: Visitation: Today, 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., Pindel Funeral Home, Sussex Borough. Service: Saturday, 9:15 a.m., at the funeral home; Mass of Christian Burial, 10 a.m., St. Monica R.C. Church, Sussex Borough.

LADDEY, BRIAN M.: Memorial celebration: Sunday, 5 p.m., Perona Farms, Andover.

MARION, SCOTT M.: Service: Today, 10:30 a.m., Smith-McCracken Funeral Home, Newton.

McNAMARA, CATHERINE J.: Mass of Christian Burial: Today, 11 a.m., Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Church, Branchville, with visitation beginning at 9 a.m. at the church.

MORTIMER, HARRY R. SR.: Memorial celebration: Thursday, May 17, 4 to 7 p.m., American Legion Post No. 157, Branchville.

PREMOCK, KATHRYN M.: Memorial celebration: Saturday, May 12, 1:30 p.m., Branchville Presbyterian Church, Branchville.

SNYDER, SUSAN KAY McMINN: Service: Today, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Williamsport, Pa., with visitation in the hour preceding the service.

VORHEES, HARRY L. SR.: Graveside service: Saturday, 11 a.m., Newton Cemetery.



George Michael Christ

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — George Michael Christ, 86, died Monday, May 1, 2007 at Winter Haven Hospital. Born in Bayonne, he had resided in Sparta for most of his life.

Mr. Christ was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II. He served as a crewman in the 491st Bomber Group of the 8th Air Force, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was a maintenance supervisor for Hercules Inc., in Roxbury, for many years.

Mr. Christ was predeceased by his wife of 45 years, Violet Goble Christ.

He is survived by his wife of 14 years, June Pearson Christ; his son, George Christ Jr. of Jefferson; and his daughters, Sandra Seldin of Santa Fe, N.M., Denise Schaffer of Sesto ao Regheno, Italy, and Linda DiLeo of Lumberton. He is also survived by eight grandchildren.

Friends may call Sunday, May 6, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Goble Funeral Home, 22 Main St., Sparta. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Obituaries in The New Jersey Herald are paid for by the funeral home or families of the deceased. To submit an obituary, contact the newsroom at (973) 383-1500, or e-mail obituaries@njherald.com. Listings of deaths and upcoming services are provided free of charge.

Ruth M. Kaegi

WANTAGE — Ruth M. Kaegi, 71, passed away on Thursday, May 3, 2007, at her residence surrounded by her loving family. She was born and raised in Paterson, daughter of the late Frederick and Gertrude Kozel, and had lived in the Lake Neepaulin section of Wantage for 40 years.

Her husband, Victor, died in 2003.

Mrs. Kaegi is survived by two sons, Victor J. of Wantage and Charlie of Sussex Borough; two daughters, Wanda Kaegi of Newton and Ruthann Kunez of Milford, Pa.; her sister, Barbara Slack of Stroudsburg, Pa.; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Graveside memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 7, at Fairview Cemetery on Route 284 in Wantage. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Pindel Funeral Home, 31 Bank St. (Route 23), Sussex Borough.



Benjamin Yanez

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Benjamin Yanez, 72, died Sunday, April 29, 2007, at home.

Born in Olyphant, Pa., he was raised in New York City and had resided in Ogdensburg for 18 years before moving to Florida in 1994.

A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Mr. Yanez worked as a truck driver for Yellow Freight in Pine Brook. He retired in 1994 after 24 years of service. He was an avid golfer.

The son of the late Benito and Anna Mascolo Yanez, Mr. Yanez is survived by his wife of 41 years, Elise Martinez Yanez; two children, Nicole Watkins of Palm Bay, Fla., and Marc Yanez of Newton; and four grandchildren, Kaitlin Watkins, Macie Watkins, Andrew Watkins and Jennifer Watkins.

Visitation will be Friday, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., at the Smith-McCracken Funeral Home, 63 High St., Newton. Funeral services will be Saturday, at 11 a.m., at the funeral home. Interment will follow in Sparta Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 669 Littleton Road, Parsippany, N.J. 07054.

Donald Lay

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Donald Lay, a retired federal judge who led the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for more than a decade, has died. He was 80.

Lay died Sunday at his home in North Oaks, Minn., the court said. Chief Judge James Loken said Lay's health had been declining for some time and that he retired in January.

Lay served on the St. Louis-based appeals court for more than 40 years after being appointed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966.

Astronaut Schirra dies at 84

By **THOMAS WATKINS**
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Walter M. "Wally" Schirra Jr., who as one of the original Mercury Seven astronauts combined the Right Stuff — textbook-perfect flying ability and steely nerves — with a pronounced rebellious streak, died Thursday at 84.

He was the only astronaut to fly in all three of NASA's original manned spaceflight programs: Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. Although he never walked on the moon, Schirra laid some of the groundwork that made the lunar landings possible and won the space race for the United States.

Schirra died of a heart attack at Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla, said Ruth Chandler Varonfakis, a family friend and spokeswoman for the San Diego Aerospace Museum.

In 1962, the former Navy test pilot became the fifth American in space — behind Alan Shepard, Virgil "Gus" Grissom, John Glenn and Scott Carpenter — and the third American to orbit the Earth, circling the globe six times in a flight that lasted more than nine hours.

Schirra returned to space in 1965 as commander of Gemini 6. Some 185 miles above Earth, he guided his two-man capsule to within a few feet of Gemini 7 in the first rendezvous of two spacecraft in orbit.

On his third and final flight, aboard Apollo 7 in 1968, he helped set the stage for the landing of men on moon during the summer of 1969.

An inveterate prankster, he could be grumpy and recalcitrant in space, most famously during his Apollo mission.



SCHIRRA

But "on Mercury, Gemini and Apollo, he flew all three and did not make a mistake," said Christopher Kraft, who was Schirra's Mercury and Gemini flight director and later head of NASA's Johnson Space Center. "He was a consummate test pilot. The job he did on all three was superb."

Of the Mercury Seven, only Glenn and Carpenter are still alive.

Schirra was named one of the Mercury Seven in 1959. Supremely confident, he sailed through rigorous astronaut training with what one reporter called "the ease of preparing for a family picnic."

"He was a practical joker, but he was a fine fellow and a fine aviator," Carpenter recalled Thursday. "He will be sorely missed in our group."

Roger Launius, a space historian at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, said Schirra "had a personality that was fun and

effervescent. He had the gift of gab. He was able to take complex engineering and scientific ideas and translate that to something that was understandable."

Launius recalled that Schirra smuggled a corned beef sandwich onto his Gemini flight. During the mid-December 1965 flight, he and his Gemini crewmate, Thomas Stafford, unnerved Mission Control when they reported, slowly and in deadpan fashion, seeing some kind of UFO consisting of "a command module and eight smaller modules in front. The pilot of the command module is wearing a red suit" — Santa Claus.

Then Schirra and Stafford played "Jingle Bells" on a tiny, smuggled-aboard harmonica and a set of sleigh bells.

"At times he gave us a hard time during his flight; technically what he did was superb," Kraft said.

Schirra blasted off from Cape Canaveral on Oct. 3, 1962, aboard the Sigma 7 Mercury spacecraft. "I'm having a ball up here drifting," Schirra said from space before making a perfect splash-down in the Pacific Ocean.

His Gemini mission represented a major step forward in the nation's space race with the Soviet Union, proving that two ships could dock in space.

Kraft said Schirra showed great poise during his Gemini flight when a problem on the launch pad cropped up. Schirra would have been warranted in triggering a launch ejection, but instead, he held steady, and the launch went off OK, Kraft said.

Schirra's Apollo mission in 1968 restored the nation's confidence in the space program.

Cuomo sends 90 subpoenas in loan probe

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has broadened his student loan investigation to alumni associations nationwide that steer students to loan consolidation companies, his office said on Thursday.

Cuomo issued 90 subpoenas and letters to alumni groups, including those representing graduates from The Juilliard School in New York, the University of Illinois, the University of California-Riverside and San Jose State University, said Cuomo spokesman John Milgrim.

All the groups had agreements or relationships with lender Nelnet, based in Lincoln, Neb., Milgrim said.

Cuomo is asking whether the alumni groups that endorsed loan consolidation companies received any benefit or payments from lenders, Milgrim said.

Nelnet had no immediate comment. Cuomo had previously targeted lenders and colleges for their "revenue sharing agreements."

In his probe of the \$85 billion college loan industry, Cuomo said he has found cases of colleges getting a percentage of loan pro-

ceeds — he calls them "kickbacks" — from lenders granted preferred status by the schools. And, according to Cuomo, some college loan officers have received trips to luxury resorts and gifts from lenders.

Twenty-one schools have so far agreed to operate under a code of conduct that, among other things, prohibits them "from receiving anything of value from any lending institution in exchange for any advantage sought by the lending institution." And, college employees are barred from taking "anything of more than nominal value."

Anthony R. Romeo

Aug. 14, 1922 - May 4, 2004

In Loving Memory of a Dear Husband, Father and Grandfather

God knew you were getting tired and a cure was not to be
So He put His arms around you and whispered come with me.
With tearful eyes we watched you suffer and saw you fade away
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A golden heart stopped beating and a special person went to rest
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Your loving wife Betty,
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