Because We Care

Presented by Brian W. Havens



Helping Others Grieve: Support the Bereaved

The person managing a parent's affairs will need copies of their death certificate in order to claim their property and benefits (like life insurance, social security, or veterans' benefits), in addition to accessing their bank and other financial accounts. Experts recommend obtaining at least ten copies of a death certificate to use for handling a person's estate. It takes around three to ten days to prepare a death certificate. Copies can usually be obtained through a funeral home or a state or county vital records office, but the laws about who can get one vary by state. Funeral directors and doctors often work together to collect the necessary information, including the cause, date, place and time of death.

It is the goal of North Haven Funeral Home to help people complete the relationship with the one who has died and to provide a climate that encourages each person to give and receive emotional support. During the funeral service, family and friends have the opportunity to relate to each other at the deepest levels and find mutual strength. To learn about our funeral services, please call 203-239-1179 We are located at 36 Washington Avenue.

Quote: "Even amidst fierce, flames, the Golden Lotus can be planted." -Sylvia Plath's epitaph.

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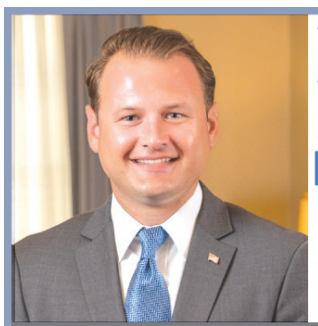
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OBITUARIES



Sharon K. Napolitano, 63, Hamden, CT, beloved wife of Philip and loving mother of Kathryn and John, passed through death to life with Christ forever Thursday, February 5, 2026. Sharon Kristina Almquist, the daughter of Erland Lincoln and Elinor Frances Chase Almquist, was born October 13, 1962, in Red Oak, Iowa.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Phil; daughter, Kathryn (Nate Bushmaker) Napolitano; son, John (Katherine Chwe) Napolitano; mother, Elinor Almquist; brother, Dennis (Brenda) Almquist; sister, Mary (Wallace) Wanek; sisters-in-law, Ellen Frost, Alice (Michael Markowitz) Napolitano; brothers-in-law Dan (Judy) Schweer, Jim (Lorraine) Napolitano, Jim Elliott, Anthony (Theresa) Napolitano; many nieces and nephews: her church family at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran; and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Erland Almquist; father- and mother-in-law, James Vincent and Mary Alice Napolitano; sister, Diane (Almquist) Schweer; sisters-in-law, Nancy Elliott and Agnes Napolitano; and nephew, Matt Nunno, as well Should friends desire, memorials are suggested to Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hamden, CT at www.christgoodshepherdlutheran.org; Smilow Cancer Hospital, New Haven, CT at www.givetoynhh.org; or the Napolitano family for its wishes, c/o Phil Napolitano.

Services were held at the BEECHER BENNETT
www.beecherandbennett.com.



Frank P. DeLuigi, 98, of Hamden passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, at the Regency House, Wallingford. He was the beloved husband of 64 years to the late Helen DiFabbio Calamonica DeLuigi. Frank was born in Hamden on January 8th, 1928, and was the son of the late Agostino and Angelia DeLuigi. He served his country faithfully in the US Army. Survived by his sister Theresa Macolino, many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He was predeceased by brothers Henry, Vito, Anthony DeLuigi, and sister Mary Recchia.

Services were held at the NORTH HAVEN FUNERAL HOME
www.northhavenfuneral.com.



Catharine McPherson, 71, a lifelong resident of Wallingford, passed away February 3, 2026 at MidState Medical Center in Meriden. She was born in New Haven on May 5, 1954. She was predeceased by her parents, John and Joan (Bertini) McPherson and Alfred DeCarlo.

Catharine is survived by her aunt, Maryanne Bertini; her niece, Alicia McPherson Soule; her nephew; Calvin McPherson; her sister, Dorothy DeCarlo; her brothers, Antonio DeCarlo and his wife, Sandra, and David DeCarlo and his wife, Charlene; her dear cousin, Nina DiMauro and her husband, Ron; her close friend, Leeann Snedeker and family; many nieces, nephews and cousins; and family friends, Mark Delucia and Janice Frye. She was predeceased by her brothers, John and Robert McPherson and William DeCarlo.

Catharine's family would like to thank the staff at Complete Care and MidState Medical Center for the care and compassion they gave her and her family.

Should friends desire, gifts in her memory can be made to the Wallingford Animal Shelter, 5 Pent Road, Wallingford, CT 06492 or to the American Diabetes Foundation, P.O. Box 7023 Merrifield, VA 22116-7023.

Wallingford•Yalesville Funeral Homes



Ruth DiGioia, 93, loving wife of the late Nicholas DiGioia of Hamden passed away peacefully on Thursday February 5, 2026. Born in Hamden, June 24th, 1932 as daughter of the late Otto and Martha Podgwaite Marenholz to a family of 10, all growing up in the West Woods section of Hamden. She is survived by brother Sterling "Tuddy" (Laura) Marenholz and sister Cynthia (Daniel) Joyce both of Hamden and brother John (Jackie) Marenholz of Southington. Ruth is predeceased by sisters Martha Marshall and Alma Rosadini and brothers, George Marenholz, Otto "Bob" Marenholz, Richard Marenholz, and Albert Marenholz. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews, as well as grand-nieces and nephews, all of whom she enjoyed their presence and contacts immensely. Ruth was a lifelong resident of Hamden, graduate of Hamden High School. Should friends desire, contributions in her memory may be sent to Christ the Good Sheperd Lutheran Church 600 Sheperd Ave Hamden, CT 06514.

Services were held at the
Peter H. Torello & Son FUNERAL HOME, INC.
www.TorelloFH.com



Carmen ("Skip") Vegliante, 93, passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 30th 2026. Born in New Haven in 1932 to Carmen and Antoinette (D'Arche) Vegliante, the family later moved to First Street in Hamden where Skip grew up with his older brother Fred. The family lived there for the next twenty-two years.

Skip taught elementary school in Hamden for two years before serving as a Corporal in the U.S. Army in Georgia. After receiving an honorable discharge, Skip returned to Hamden and the Hamden public school system where he worked from 1955 until his retirement in 1990.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-five years, Angela (Russo). His children: David (Kim) Vegliante; Anne (Glenn) Yeomans; and Paul (Carolyn) Vegliante. His eight grandchildren: Nicholas; Danielle; Mia; Jennifer Nelson (Yeomans); Jaime (Yeomans); Jack; and Olivia. Finally, his newborn great grandson Luca Vegliante. He was predeceased by his older brother Fred (97), who passed away just ten days earlier. The two brothers spent their final years together at The Landing in North Haven where they both made friends with the wonderful residents and staff.

Services were held at the NORTH HAVEN FUNERAL HOME
www.northhavenfuneral.com.



Francis "Fran" Lynch, age 71, of North Haven, Connecticut, passed away comfortably in his home, surrounded by his family on February 9, 2026. He was predeceased by his parents, Raymond and Ruth Lynch; his in-laws, Vincent and Frances Maiocco; his brothers-in-law, Thomas Thompson and Santino Calabro; and his nephew, Gregory Zurlis.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Bernadette ("Bunny") Lynch; his children, Michelle (Aaron) Riel, Jesse (Pablo) Valentin, Brian (Julia) Lynch, Steven (Marina) Lynch, and his bonus daughter, Stephanie Weber; his cherished grandchildren, Gabriel, Aurora, Bennett, and Isla; his sister Lorraine Thompson and his many loving nieces and nephews, all of whom held a special place in his heart, along with his many cherished friends and extended family, and his loyal dog, Bowser.

Should friends desire, the family requests that donations be made in Fran's memory to The V Foundation for Cancer Research and the American Transplant Foundation.

Services were held at the NORTH HAVEN FUNERAL HOME
www.northhavenfuneral.com.

St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday Service

North Haven: You are welcome at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3 Trumbull Place (at the top of the North Haven Green) for Sunday Service (Holy Communion) at 9am.

Visit our website: https://www.stjohns-northhaven.org/

Follow us on Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church, North Haven, CT.



Paula C. (Decker) MacPherson, 79, of Northford, CT passed away at home on Monday February 2, 2026 peacefully after a long illness with Alzheimer's disease, with her spouse Tom Picolo and her family by her side, reuniting with her late husband John D. MacPherson. Paula was born on January 16, 1947, in Bridgeport, CT, the daughter of the late Cecelia (Orzechowski) and Paul Decker.

Paula will be greatly missed by her spouse, Tom Picolo, her son John-Paul MacPherson and his wife Lindsey, along with her three adored grandchildren, Cecelia, Annabel and Estelle MacPherson, a loving stepdaughter Sandra MacPherson. She also leaves to cherish her memory a brother Michael X. Decker and her dearest life-long friends, Ann Marie Cummings and Claire Fox. Paula was pre-deceased by her sister Patricia.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to Shoreline Veterans Corporation. www.shorelinevets.org

Wallingford•Yalesville Funeral Homes



Kong Lee, 89, of Hamden, passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Yale New Haven Hospital. He was the beloved husband of 53 years to Wai Chi Eng Lee. Kong was born in Canton, China on May 5, 1936. Besides his wife, he is survived by his son Kenneth Lee and daughter Dorothy (Derrick) Solla. Loving grandfather to Michael and Matthew Solla.

Services were held at the NORTH HAVEN FUNERAL HOME
www.northhavenfuneral.com.



Joseph Paul (Joe) Derbacher, 98, of Hamden passed away peacefully on February 8, 2026. He was born in New Haven on November 27, 1927 to the late Karl Derbacher, Sr. and Ruth Andersen Derbacher. He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara, his daughter, Lisa Matusovich, and his brother, Karl Derbacher, Jr. Joseph served in the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1954, where he met his lifelong friend Mickey Sutton.

Joseph cherished his friends Mickey, Finbar, Joe, Ann, and Dick. He loved attending weekend races with Joe and spoke fondly of them.

Joseph is survived by his daughter, Susan (Ann), his granddaughter, Kolby, his son-in-law, Robert, and his nephews, Karl, Robert, and their families.

Should friends desire, donations in Joe's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org/donate.

Services were held at the BEECHER BENNETT
www.beecherandbennett.com.