# OBITUARIES

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*Presented by Brian W. Havens*



## How to Tell When It's Time

It's tough to acknowledge that the person who raised you is no longer able to properly care for themselves. It can be even harder for the aging person to admit they need help. Older people may deny or not realize they can no longer care for themselves. Most older adults want to stay in their home and maintain their freedom and independence. Denying or hiding problems with living at home is a good indicator that they're no longer capable, and that they already know it themselves. Omitting crucial information, acting defensively, and withholding facts from doctors are all common behaviors for people at risk of losing their autonomy. It's crucial to recognize these behaviors before the person risks harming themselves.

**When a loved one dies, grieving family members and friends often are confronted with dozens of decisions about the funeral -- all of which must be made quickly and often under great emotional duress. We value our reputation for providing the highest quality of professional services with the personal attention and understanding needed to help you and your family through a difficult time. To learn more, please call 203-239-1179. We are located at 36 Washington Avenue.**

*Quote: "The idea that men are created free and equal is both true and misleading: men are created different; they lose their social freedom and their individual autonomy in seeking to become like each other." David Riesman*

North Haven Funeral Home, Inc.



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**Joseph E. Ruggiero**, 87, of Wallingford, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on Friday, July 4, 2025 at St. Raphael's Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Judith (Stopkoski) Ruggiero for 65 wonderful years. Born in New Haven on June 6, 1938, he was a son of the late Joseph S. and Mary (Velardi) Ruggiero.

He married Judy in 1960, and together, they built their lifelong home on a lot with 13 apple trees in Wallingford, CT. In 1990, they built their dream home in New Bern, NC, where they spent the next 30 years creating lasting memories.

Joseph is survived by his children, Karen Lovington and her husband, Wayne of Guilford, Joe Ruggiero and his wife, Sabrina of Sheffield, MA, Christopher Ruggiero of Wallingford, Thomas Ruggiero and his wife, Theresa "Terri" of Wallingford and Carol Dallas and her husband, Daniel of Wallingford; his grandchildren, Julianna Lovington, Aimee Lovington, Sydney Ruggiero, Olivia Ruggiero, Caitlyn (Andrew) Strongin, Christopher Ruggiero, Cameron Ruggiero, Adam Ruggiero, Zachary Ruggiero, Rachael Ruggiero, Benjamin Ruggiero and Alicia Dallas. His stepgrandchildren; Christopher Dallas and Caitlyn Dallas; and his brother, Robert (Lois) Ruggiero; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Amelia "Abby" Caswell.

Wallingford•Yalesville Funeral Homes



**Elaine Nuzzo Butler**, 80, of North Haven passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 5th, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. For more than 50 years, she was the proud and devoted wife of the late William J. Butler. Born on October 29,1944, to the late Mary and Frank Nuzzo, Elaine grew up in West Haven and spent her retirement years in North Haven. She was pre-deceased by her sister, Maryann Morrell.

She is survived by her children: Bill and MaryEllen Butler of Orange; Debbie and John Godi of North Haven; and Jennifer and Jeff Titus of Fairfield. Elaine was a cherished grandmother to Marissa (Michael DeMilo) and Paige Godi, Liam Butler, and Steven and Eric Titus. Her heart was further filled with joy by her two great-granddaughters, Isabella and Giuliana DeMilo, who brought tremendous light and laughter into her life.

Elaine also leaves behind lifelong friends Margaret and Richard Dziamalek and Bette Devine, whose steadfast friendship meant the world to her.

Should friends desire, please consider a donation to The Connecticut Hospice (hospice.com), a charitable organization dear to her heart.

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



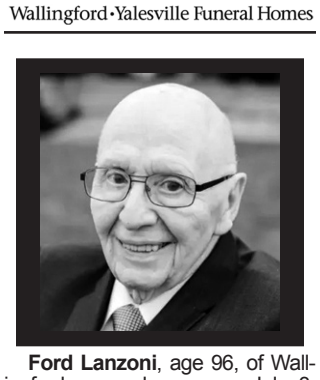
**Robert Bates Chace, Jr.**, 81, of Wallingford, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 5, 2025, at MidState Medical Center. He was the beloved husband of 54 years to Corinne (Marino) Chace, his partner in life, laughter, and love. Born in New Haven, CT, on July 22, 1943, Bob was the son of the late Robert B. Chace, Sr. and Dorothy (Dibble) Chace. A 1961 graduate of Hamden Hall Country Day School.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter in his wife Corinne and in his children: Robert B. Chace, III, Erica Hartline and her partner Jeff Quinn, Cynthia Case and her partner John Cook, and Alison Baxter. He was a proud grandfather to Mark Baxter, III, Jillian Case, Elena Baxter, Chad Hartline, Jr., Devyn Baxter, Mya Case, Grace Hartline, and Chace Hartline. He is also survived by his sister, Suzanne Stericker, and by many loving nieces and nephews.

Bob was predeceased by his brother, Bradley J. Chace, his son-in-law, Chad Hartline, Sr., and nephews Jeffrey Langbehn and Jonathan Langbehn.

Should friends desire, the family kindly asks that you plant a tree in Bob's memory-a fitting tribute to a man who gave shade, laughter, and lasting joy to so many.

Wallingford•Yalesville Funeral Homes



**Ford Lanzoni**, age 96, of Wallingford, passed away on July 3, 2025. He was the loving husband of the late Virginia "Ginny" Nash Lanzoni. Ford was born in Meriden, CT the son of the late Otto and Pella (Malaguti) Lanzoni. A proud and humble US Army Veteran, Ford served his country in Germany during the Korean War.

He is survived by his children, Jim (Annamarie) Lanzoni, Michael (Lynn) Lanzoni, Tom Lanzoni, and Diane (David) Nadeau;

His grandchildren, John (Hildy) Somerville III, Megan (Jason) Fredrick, Laura Strehl, Melissa Lanzoni, Tina Lanzoni, Michael Lanzoni, Matt (Lauren) Lanzoni, Thomas (Nicole) Lanzoni Jr., David (JoAnn) Poach Jr., Aaron (Caitlyn) Poach; and 12 great grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, Ford was predeceased by his infant son, Ford Jr., Daughter Vivian Somerville, his sister Ann Joyce Dunn and brothers Edward, Walter, Robert and William.

Should friends desire, memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Boys Town, 14100 Crawford Street, Boys Town, NE 68010.

Wallingford•Yalesville Funeral Homes






**Robert William Perugini, Sr.**, 81, of Wallingford, CT, formerly of North Haven, CT died peacefully at Connecticut Hospice, Branford with his loving family by his side. He was the beloved husband of Patricia Ann Lovelace Perugini. Bob was born in Waterbury, CT on November 24, 1943, a son of the late Nicholas and Jean (Harper) Perugini and had resided in Naugatuck and Beacon Falls for most of his life. He had also lived in Seymour for eight years, Northford for seven years and North Haven for eight years before moving to Wallingford this past February.

In addition to his wife Patricia, Bob is survived by a daughter, Michele Perugini of Oklahoma, three step-daughters, Patricia "Tricia" Schmidt of Northford, Carol Longo of Branford and Michele Gianfredo of Bristol, one step-son, Robert Vitello of New Haven, two brothers, Ronald (Denise) Perugini of Waterbury and Nicholas Perugini of Lisbon, CT, eighteen grandchildren, including his special grandson Nathan Alley, and six great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son Robert William Perugini, Jr. and his step-daughter Joann DiGioia.

Services were held at the
WASHINGTON MEMORIAL Funeral Home
North Haven.



**Ercole Casella**, 90, of North Haven, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, July 3rd, 2025, at his home. He was the husband of Giuseppina Cappiello Casella. Born in Caserta, Italy on February 9, 1935, and was the son of the late Gaetano and Elisa Natale Casella. Father of Gaetano Casella (Bernadette) and Nicola Casella (Elisa). Grandfather of Ercole Casella (Christy), Alexander Casella (Jessica), Cristina Casella (Marc Fusco) and the late Marc A. Casella. Great-Grandfather of Matteo, Dante, Nico and Sienna. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Predeceased by brothers Alessandro and Angelo Casella, sisters Emilia Casella Maione and Maria DeNicola.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital www.stjude.org

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



**Estrella "Ella" Samonte Bryant**, aged 91, resident of Hamden, wife of the late Charles Bryant, passed away peacefully on July 3, 2025. Born in the Philippines, in the city of Manila, on April 26, 1934, daughter of the late Pastor Samonte and Simeona Leoncio.

Ella will be lovingly remembered by her three children, Hayley, Steven, and Ryland; son-in-law, Tim Hobgood; and grandchildren, Nirina and Marco

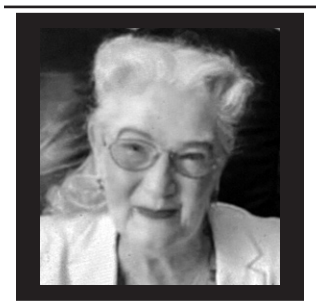
Services were held at the BEECHER & BENNETT
www.beecherandbennett.com.



**Rita Milone**, 84 of Hamden died peacefully at home July 4th with her family by her side. She was the loving wife of 64 years to Peter J. Milone. Born in New Haven, daughter of the late Louis & Theresa Monaco Sacco. In addition to her husband, she is survived by sons Peter K. Milone and Gregory (Kathy) Milone both of Hamden, a sister Concetta Sacco of West Haven, a sister-in-law Barbara Sacco of Fairfield a daughter-in-law Josephine Milone of East Haven, and 4 grandchildren Nicole, Haley, Gary Jr., and John. She was predeceased by a son Gary Milone, a brother Louis Sacco and a sister Anna Wargo.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to HHCAH - Hospice 680 Main St. Suite 300 Watertown, CT 06795.

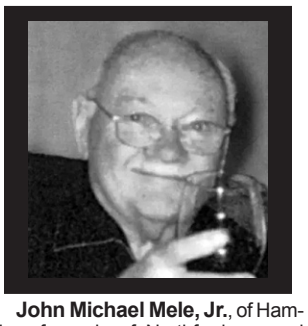
Services were held at the
Peter H. Torello & Son
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
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**Mary E. Antoch** of Hamden, CT passed away on June 25, 2025 at the age of 95. Mary Elizabeth Fitzgerald was born on November 4, 1929 in Hartford, CT to William Fitzgerald and Katherine (Coughlin) Fitzgerald. She was the second of four children. Mary lived in Connecticut almost her entire life, in the towns of Hartford, Pawcatuck, Norwich, New Haven, Cheshire and Hamden.

Mary is predeceased by her loving husband Anthony (1929-1983); her brother William; her brother James; brother-in-law Oscar; and sister-in-law Marian. She is survived by her sister Dorothy Pierson, sister-in-law Delores Fitzgerald, four children, Michael, Anthony (Tony), Gina, and Mark; daughter-in-law Michele; and three grandchildren, Michael, Andrew and Ryan.

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



**John Michael Mele, Jr.**, of Hamden, formerly of Northford, passed away peacefully on Friday, July 4th, 2025, at Whitney House Rehabilitation Care Center at the age of 91 following a brief illness. John was born May 21st, 1934, in East Haven and was the son of the late Janet and John M. Mele, Sr. John is survived by his wife Madelyn, sons John III (JT), Kris, Michael (Adria), Paul (Rebecca), and Mark. He is also survived by seven grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by siblings Faye Donroe, Joseph, and Robert as well as his daughter Dawn Gatewood.

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