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Presented by Brian W. Havens



How is a Celebration of Life Different from a Funeral

A celebration of life is often held in the weeks or months after a death rather than right after a funeral or wake. A funeral usually focuses on the passing of the deceased, while a celebration of life is usually about the deceased person's life and their accomplishments. It may also reflect their hobbies, lifelong interests, and things like their favorite music and foods. It's common to display photos and other memorabilia and to decorate in their favorite colors. Some prefer a funeral as a private event for family and close friends, while co-workers and acquaintances are more likely to attend a celebration of life. Today many families are choosing a celebration of life in lieu of a funeral reception.

The compassionate staff at North Haven Funeral Home is committed to serving you in your time of need. We will do everything in our power to make your experience meaningful and memorable. When the time comes for you to arrange funeral services for a loved one, please call 203-239-1179. We are located at 36 Washington Avenue.

Quote: "I can't think of a more wonderful thanksgiving for the life I have had than that everyone should be jolly at my funeral."
Admiral Lord Mountbatten

North Haven Funeral Home, Inc.



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OBITUARIES



Concetta Polito, age 92, of Wallingford passed away at Masonicare on August 3, 2026. She was born in Reggio, Calabria, Italy, the daughter of the late Antonio and Domenica Calabrese Galati. Concetta and her former husband, Frank, came to the United States in the 1950s in pursuit of the American Dream. Together they made their home in Wallingford, where they raised their children.

Concetta is survived by her children, Frank Polito Jr. of Florida, Maria Polito of Wallingford, Diane Chenkus and her husband Bob of Meriden and Anthony Polito of Florida, her grandchildren, Kate Pierce of Michigan, Steven and Joseph Polito of Wallingford, Alysa Dussault of Higganum, and Bobby Chenkus Jr. of Middletown, her great grandchildren, Dave and Adaline Pierce, and her siblings, Fred Galati, Dominic Galati, Kathy Syme, and Joseph Galati.

In addition to her parents, she is also predeceased by her son Joseph Polito, her former husband Frank Polito Sr., her brother Tony Galati, and her daughter-in-law Jill Polito.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate staff of Masonicare, Ramage 3, for the exceptional care, kindness, and dignity they provided to Concetta during the final stage of her life. They would also like to express a special thank you to Aunt Kathy for her unconditional love and devotion to her sister. As Concetta's best friend, Kathy was always by her side, offering comfort, companionship, and endless support throughout the years.

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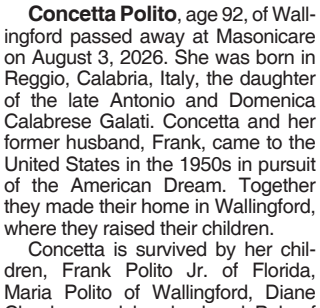

James C. Hoffman, 47, of Wallingford, husband of Sandra (Rusate) Hoffman passed away peacefully, August 1, 2026 at MidState Medical Center with his family by his side. James was born in Marion, Ohio on July 20, 1979. James proudly served his country as a member of the Army National Guard from 1998-2006.

In addition to his wife Sandra, he is survived by his son, Gavin Hoffman; his mother Sharon Tackett, his father James Hoffman and his wife Rebecca: his siblings, Tammi Cowell (Robert), Tonya Weisend (Scott), Rosemary Bright, Terry Tackett, Wes Bright and Brian Bright; his maternal grandfather, Roy Campbell (Kay); and his mother and father-in-law, Steven and Susan DeBaise. He was predeceased by his stepfather, Phillip Tackett, his grandparents, Frank Hoffman, Gladys Hoffman and Phyllis Campbell, and his sister, Marina Tackett.

Should friends desire, donations can be made to one of the following charities of your choice: Wallingford Yalesville Little League (PO Box 4065, Yalesville Station, Wallingford, CT 06492), Wallingford Wolverines (wolverineshoops8@gmail.com), The Sisters Project (info@thesistersproject.org).

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Elizabeth (Senville) Torino, 83, of Wallingford, passed away on July 27, 2026, at Benchmark Senior Living in Hamden. She was the loving wife of Robert J. Torino Sr. for more than 63 years. "Betty" was born in New Haven, September 14, 1942, a daughter of the late William H. and Mildred (Miller) Senville. She married her high school sweetheart Robert J. Torino Sr. on July 24th, 1962.

In addition to her husband Bob, she will be missed by her son, Robert J. Torino Jr.; her grandchildren, Robert M. Torino, Nicole Torino, Samantha Torino, Lauren Torino, Alyson Torino; and her stepsister Carol Cannon; as well as other dear extended family.

She was predeceased by her son, Todd M. Torino, sister Esther McPhee, and brother Buddy Cannon.

Should friends desire, gifts in her memory may be sent to: Disabled American Veterans, DAV National Service Office, Newington, CT 06111.

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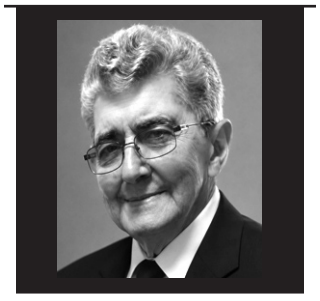
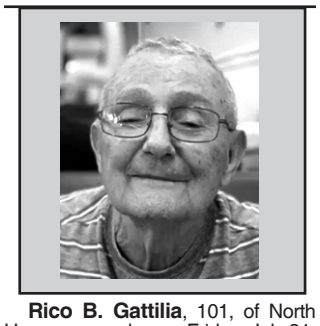


Irving Joseph Fisher, husband of the late MaryAnne Marino Fisher, passed away on August 2, 2026 after a long illness. He was born in New Haven on April 15, 1940 to the late Irene Mongollo Fisher. He served in the US Army. Irving leaves his two daughters, Lynn DeWolfe and her partner Scott McCarron, and Ellen Brockett and her husband Ronald Brockett; four grandchildren, Jennifer Kashpureff, Michael DeWolfe, Christopher Brockett and Taylor Brockett; and two great-grandchildren, Jewel Kashpureff and Callie Brockett. He will be remembered as being a hard worker, a devoted husband, loving father, and prideful grandfather.

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



Rico B. Gattilia, 101, of North Haven, passed away Friday, July 31, 2026, at Midstate Medical Center, Meriden with his family by his side. He was the beloved husband of the late Annette Richello Gattilia. Rico was born in New Haven on October 19, 1924, and was the son of the late Rico H. and Albina Sonazzaro Gattilia. He was the father of Rico B. Gattilia, Jr. and his wife Lauren, grandfather of Joseph Rico Gattilia and his wife Robin, and was predeceased by a sister, Edith Gattilia Gragg.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to the North Haven Historical Society.

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



David E. Seitz, 84, of Wallingford, husband of the late Valerie Seitz who passed away in 1996, and the late Andrea Seitz. passed away peacefully, August 1, 2026 at Arden Care Center. David was born in New Britain on September 14, 1941, a son of the late Edward and Sophie (Erickson) Seitz.

David is survived by his son, Erik Seitz of Southington; his daughter, Danielle Potter and her husband, William, of York, PA; his sister, Charlain Stocking Simichak and her husband, Joseph, of Southington; his brother, Kenneth Seitz of Meriden; his grandson, Rhys Potter; and several nieces and nephews.

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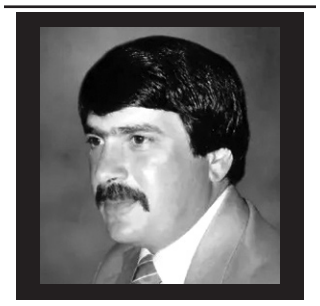

Richard A. Pucciarello, passed away on July 30, 2026. Richard was born on November 25, 1948, in Newark, NJ.

Rich was predeceased by his parents, Benjamin and Florence Pucciarello. He is lovingly survived by his son, David Pucciarello, his wife, Julianne, and their sons, Vincent and Dylan of New York; his daughter, Beth Pucciarello, and her daughter, Avery of Connecticut; his brother, Robert Pucciarello, his wife, Joni, and their son, Kyle and daughter Lisa, of New Jersey, and mother of his children, Fern Pucciarello of Connecticut.

B.C. Bailey
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES



Loretta (Santillo) LaPenna, 85, of Wallingford, passed away on Monday, July 6, 2026. Loretta was married for almost 63 years to the late Anthony M. "Tony" LaPenna Jr. She was born in Derby, CT, January 23, 1941, a daughter of the late Joseph and Loretta (Pompa) Santillo. "Honey", as she was known to her family, grew up in Wallingford with her 3 brothers Louis, Joseph and Paul.

One of her greatest joys in life was raising her eight rambunctious children - Tony, Jay, Lisa (Chris), Danielle (Bill), Chris, John, Matt (Ashawnta) and Noel (Eric). The chaos was worth it when she became a grandmother to Ant (Ingrid), Allasondra, TJ, Brendan (Talore), Dan, Cassidy, Bobby (Susy), Claudia (Warren), Jibbers, Connor, Ryan, Kaitlin and Oliver. She was then blessed with her great grandchildren Zoe, Dominic, Victoria and Leonardo.

Should friends desire, gifts in her memory may be sent to Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford (give.connecticutchildrens.org)

Wallingford•Yalesville Funeral Homes



Joseph K. Smolenski, 97, of Hamden, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, August 1st, 2026, with his loving family by his side. He was the beloved husband of the late Marie Palmieri Smolenski. Joseph was born in New Haven on March 17th, 1929, and was the son of the late John and Josephine Wojcik Smolenksi. He served his country faithfully in the United States Army during the Korean War. Joseph is survived by his daughters, Joan Smolenski, Maureen Coppola, and Nancy (Mark) Lydell, his grandchildren, Maria (Jon) O'Brien, Gina (Steve) Cohen, Laura (Scott) DeRose, Jennifer (Robert Henry) Lydell, Erik (Lisa) Lydell, and Jason (Emily Zmijewski) Lydell, and his great- grandchildren, Ryan and Isabella Cohen, Madison and Malin O'Brien, Abigail and Matthew DeRose, Chase and Rowan Henry, Brooke Lydell, and Olivia and William Lydell. He is also survived by his brother, Reverend Stanley Smolenski. He was predeceased by his sister and brother-in-law, Jayne (Francis "Frank") Bujalski.

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



Josephine (Sopko) Laub, 75, of Cheshire, on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at the Regency House in Wallingford. Josephine was born in Bridgeport, CT, August 8, 1950, a daughter of the late Joseph S. and Mary A. (Wargo) Sopko.

Josephine is survived by her son, Christopher Gilbert and his wife, Kelly, of Wallingford; her grandchildren, Skye Gilbert and Taye Gilbert; her siblings, Kathy Cuccaro and the late Anthony Cuccaro, Joseph Sopko, and Dorrine Sopko; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

She was predeceased by her beloved son, Jaime Gilbert.

Should friends desire, gifts in her memory can be made to the American Cancer Society.

Wallingford•Yalesville Funeral Homes

Thank you St. Theresa
J.C.P.

St. Ann's Food Pantry

Hamden: St. Ann's Food Pantry at 322 Circular Avenue (rear building), is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 9:30-10:30am.

For more information, please call (203) 248-0141.