

# Obituaries

## Dorothea T. Cotter

Dorothea T. Cotter, 92, passed away peacefully at her home on March 15, 2020 surrounded by her family. Born in Manhattan on September 5, 1927, she was the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Dunker) Hooper. Dorothea grew up in the Kingsbridge Section of the Bronx. On November 18, 1950 in the Bronx, she married Francis P. Cotter (NYPD) who predeceased her on October 9, 1977. For 40 years, they lived in New City where they raised their four children and attended St. Augustine's Church. She had been employed as a School Crossing Guard for the Town of Clarkstown for 20 years and a Photographic Assistant for Olaf Studios. For the last 23 years, Dorothea made her home in Fishkill where she attended St. Mary, Mother of the Church. She enjoyed sewing, quilting and spending time with her family. She was a fiercely independent woman, who was still living on her own and on her own terms. Dorothea is survived by her children and their spouses, Patricia and Hans Schick, Moira and Edward DeSalvio, Robert and Kathleen Cotter, and Francis and Florence Cotter; her grandchildren, Robert and Laurie Schick, Kevin and Kristen Schick, Meaghan Schick, Erin and Kevin Hunt, Edward DeSalvio, Cate DeSalvio, Collin DeSalvio, Patricia Rose Cotter, and Elizabeth Cotter; and her great-grandchildren, Ella, Nathan, Carter and Greta. In addition to her parents and husband, she was also predeceased by her sister, Elizabeth "Betty" Carroll. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill followed by interment in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Valhalla. A Memorial Service to celebrate Dorothea's life is being planned. Details will be announced in the near future. Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc. Memorial donations may be made to the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, 195 Hudson Street, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520. Please visit Dorothea's Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## Patricia A. Pennington

Patricia Ann Pennington, nee Newman, age 81, of Wappingers Falls, died Saturday, March 14. She was born September 1, 1938 in Lansing, MI, the daughter of Allen and Erma Walker Newman. Pat (sometimes known as Patty) graduated from Lansing Eastern High School in 1956. From 1959 - 1962, she worked at the US Department of Agriculture, where she met her husband. She married William in 1961. He survives at home. Also surviving are Pat's children: her daughters Terry, of Huntingtown, MD, and Tracy, of Ventura, CA, and son, Kyle, of Poughkeepsie. Pat may be remembered by the staff and the students of Sheafe Road Elementary School, where she worked in the library from 1976 - 2000. Pat was an avid reader, an animal lover, enthusiastic square dancer, and a dedicated crafts hobbyist, belonging to the Home Bureau for many years. She was a faithful member of the Skyllkill Needlework Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America until she was overcome by Alzheimer's disease. There will be no local memorial at this time but if you wish to remember Pat Pennington, her family encourages you to treat an animal with kindness and make a donation to your local library. Arrangements are under the direction of Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. To send a personal condolence, please visit our website at [www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com](http://www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com).

## Thomas P. Bracone

Thomas P. Bracone, 93, of Wappingers Falls, passed away Monday, March 16, 2020 at Eleanor at Hyde Park. He was born in Wappingers Falls January 12, 1927, the son of Pasquale and Ida Eanni Bracone. On May 10, 1953, he married the former Ida S. Priante, who died December 13, 2018. Tom was employed at IBM in Poughkeepsie as a mail clerk. He was a member of S.W. Johnson Eng. Co.#2, Knights of Columbus Council

1646, V.F.W. Post 5913, and American Legion Post #427, all of Wappingers Falls. He also served in the U.S. Army from '44-'48. Surviving are his sons, Thomas Bracone (Ronni) of Marlboro, Frank Bracone of Milton, and a daughter, Barbara Jackson (Don), of Marlboro, Grandchildren, Ian, Corey, Dylan, Matthew, Meredith, Erin Verhazen (Peter), Bryan, and Alexandra, Great grandchildren, Landon, Asher, and Holden, and several nieces and nephews. There will be a private viewing at the convenience of the family. Graveside services will be held Friday at 11:00 AM at St. Marys Cemetery. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date. Donations may be made to the V.F.W. Post 5913, 8 School St. Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590. To send a condolence, visit [www.delehantyfuneral.com](http://www.delehantyfuneral.com).

## Michele Harris

Michele Harris, 79, of Wappingers Falls, passed away Monday, March 16, 2020 at Wingate at Dutchess. She was born in Poughkeepsie May 6, 1940, the daughter of Edward F. O'Neill and Elma Winifred Ferdon. Michele was employed as a secretary to the Superintendent of Public Works at Eastman Park (Harold Dean), and later for Kenneth Pearce, City Manager, both for the City of Poughkeepsie. She also was co-owner and manager of My Own Antiques in Wappingers Falls. Surviving are her husband Dale P. Harris, a sister, Patricia Martin of Red Hook, a niece, Kendall Martin of Pennsylvania, and a nephew, Todd Martin, Red Hook. She was predeceased by a sister, Margaret "Peggy" Duclos. There will be no calling hours or services. Donations may be made to the SPCA, or the American Cancer Society. Arrangements are in charge of the Delehanty Funeral Home Wappingers Falls. To send a condolence, visit [www.delehantyfuneral.com](http://www.delehantyfuneral.com).

## Joseph Murray

Joseph A. Murray, 88, an area resident since 1972, died on March 17, 2020 at home surrounded by his family. He previously lived in the Bronx. Born on July 6, 1931 in Verona, NJ, Joe was the son of the late Thomas and Lillian (Penny) Murray. He worked as a custodian for over 20 years for Wappingers Central School District until his retirement in 1998. He was a dedicated parishioner of St. Columba Church and a member of St. Mary's Council Knights of Columbus. On September 25, 1954 at Our Lady of Mercy Church in the Bronx, Joe married Ruth Anne (Martin) Murray who predeceased him in 2018. He is survived by his children and their spouses, Joseph Murray, Kathleen and Steven Alewine, Brian Patrick and Margaret Murray, Anne Marie and Guy Martin, Maureen Ritacco, and Stephen John and Sherry Murray; his son-in-law, Philip Rock; his grandchildren, Joseph III, Shane, Kelly, Melissa, Mina, Matthew, Ashley, Corey, Philip, Jacinta, Frank, James, Heather and Samantha; his great-grandchildren, Francesca, Victoria, Kal-El, Leia, Pippin, Amelia, Kennedy and Ruth Anne; and his great-granddaughters, Isabella and Katelynn. He was predeceased by his daughter, Suzanne Rock; his son-in-law, Frank Ritacco; and his grandson, Philip James "PJ" Rock. Joe loved his family, and enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Due to the recent Coronavirus pandemic, family will have private calling hours, a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Columba Church and burial at St. Denis Cemetery. Donations may be made in Joe's Memory to St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Columba Church. Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. Please visit his Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## Nicholas H. Hemmer Jr.

Nick Hemmer passed away peacefully at his home with his loving family by his side. He was born on February 4, 1922 in Syracuse, NY to his late parents Nicholas and Helen O'Connor Hemmer. He attended schools in Syracuse. Her earned a BS in Physics from Lemoyne College. Upon Graduation he married Helen Grabosky

on September 8, 1951 at Holy Trinity Church in Syracuse, they have enjoyed 68 years of marriage. Nick enjoyed golfing, tennis and Skiing. He loved his family reunions with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Nick served in the US Army Signal Corps from 1943 to 1946 in the European Theater. He was very proud to have served his Country. Nick joined IBM in 1951, after many managerial positions he retired in 1981 as Director of Safety and Regulatory Compliance. He held several patents throughout his career. Upon retirement he formed a consulting firm in Industrial Engineering until 2008. Nick is survived by his wife Helen at home in Poughkeepsie, his sister Sister Rosarii Hemmer IHM, his three children Nicholas Hemmer III and his wife Suzanne, Anne Kruczek and Mark Hemmer, his grandchildren Sarah Hanford, Elizabeth St. John, Nicollette and Cassandra Hemmer, great grandchildren Dean, Austin, Caroline, Olivia, Madison and Bennett. Nick was predeceased by his parents and his siblings Helen Rita, Paul, Frank and Sister Helen IHM. A Funeral Mass was held at Holy Trinity Church 775 Main Street Poughkeepsie New York 12603. Because of the Coronavirus and concerned members of the Community the services werelimited to family members and close family friends. If you would like to send an online condolence please visit our website at [www.doylefuneralhome.com](http://www.doylefuneralhome.com). The family asks that memorial donations be made in Nick's name to Holy Trinity Church 775 Main Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or to Hospice of Dutchess 374 Violet Ave. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

## Henry J. Butts

Henry J. Butts, 70, a lifelong area resident, passed away on Friday, March 20, 2020 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. Born on October 29, 1949 in Sharon, CT, he was the son of Dorothy (Yeno) Butts of Poughkeepsie, NY and the late Henry W. Butts. He proudly served in the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Henry was an avid baseball fan and played on the senior softball league in Poughkeepsie. He was also a member of VFW Post #170 in Poughkeepsie, NY. In addition to his mother, Henry is survived by a daughter Melissa; two brothers, Michael (April) Butts of Poughkeepsie, NY and Joseph Butts of Phoenix, Az and a sister, JoAnn Bedford of Kerhonkson, NY. He is also survived by his faithful dog, Toby, and several nieces and nephews. Besides his father, Henry was predeceased by a son, Jeremiah. Graveside services with military honors and burial at South Dover Rural Cemetery will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306. To send the family an online condolence, please visit [www.hufcutfuneralhome.com](http://www.hufcutfuneralhome.com).

## Dorothy Cullen

Dorothy B. Cullen, 98, passed away on Friday, March 20, 2020 at the Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Fishkill, NY. Daughter of the late Martin and Marie (Schneider) Bauer, she was born in the Bronx on August 4, 1921. She lived most of her life in New York until moving to Southern Pines, North Carolina in 1990. Dorothy worked as a Postal Clerk for the U.S. Postal Service and enjoyed several hobbies such as reading, writing letters, doing crossword puzzles, and watching Jeopardy. In 1947 in the Bronx, she married Thomas Cullen, who predeceased her in 1996. Dorothy is survived by her daughter, Patricia Carola of Beacon, NY; her son, Richard Cullen & his wife Elaine of Fishkill, NY; her son, Kenneth Cullen & his wife Nancy of Dayton, OH; her grandchildren, John Carola (Melissa), Jeffrey Carola (Amy), Jamie Carola (Theresa), Joseph Carola, Tracy Cullen, Trevor Cullen, and Kyle Cullen; eight great-grandchildren; and many other relatives & friends. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1400 Route 52, Fishkill,

NY 12524. Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY 12524. For online tributes, please visit Dorothy's Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## Stephan Leed

Stephan F. Leed, 43, passed away on March 19, 2020 in Boston. He was born in Poughkeepsie on September 29, 1976 and grew up in Fishkill. Stephan graduated from John Jay High School. He was a chef for almost 25 years at restaurants in Boston, Atlanta, and New York City, and specialized in French cuisine. Stephan is survived by his parents, Stephanie and Bobby Dyer of Hopewell Junction; his son, Carter; his girlfriend, Karla Zinnell; his brothers, Joshua Leed and his wife Jessica of Monroe and Alexander Leed of Hopewell Junction; his grandmother, Anna Kalfa of Florida; his niece, Layla; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Stephan was predeceased by his father, Jonathan Leed. Due to the recent Coronavirus pandemic, the family will have a memorial service at a later date. Donations may be made in Stephan's memory to the Matt Herring Foundation (<https://mattherringfoundation.org> or 146 Old Route 9, Fishkill, NY 12524). Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. Please visit his Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## Donald McNeal

Donald C. McNeal, 62, an area resident for 25 years, died on March 17, 2020 at home. He previously lived in the Bronx. Donald was born in the Bronx on August 26, 1957. He was an avid animal lover who owned and operated the New Windsor Barkery and the Beacon Barkery. He had also worked as a self-employed exterminator and for Orkin/Craig Thomas Pest Control. He also enjoyed playing the drums. On August 21, 1982 at SS Philips and James Church in the Bronx, he married Arlene (Golpe) McNeal. His wife of 38 years survives at home. He is also survived by his sons, Donald C. McNeal III and his wife Julie of Wappingers Falls and Jonathan E. McNeal of Hopewell Junction; and a host of friends. Donald was predeceased by his mother, Sandra (Gruby) Redman and his grandparents, Kathryn and Leonard Gruby. Due to the recent Coronavirus pandemic, the family will have calling hours, a funeral service and burial at Fishkill Rural Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. Please visit Donald's Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com) to post online condolences and check for service updates.

## David Eric Plass

David Eric Plass, 49 of Poughkeepsie, previously of Lagrangeville passed away at Vassar Brothers medical Center on March 6, 2020. He was born December 21, 1970 in Poughkeepsie, NY to George Plass and Lynn Albright. He received his GED and graduated from BOCES in kitchen service. He worked at IBM in Manufacturing and the Marriott in food service. David was of the Protestant faith, enjoyed yard sales, day trips, cards, camping and movies. David loved life, friends, and was always there to help others. Survivors include his spouse; Paul Talbot, his mother; Lynn Albright and her husband Stanley, sister; Christine Moshier, brother; Richard Chapman, nephews; Cody, Rylan and Richard III, aunts; Nancy, Gail and her children Rich and Karen Rogers, Susan, June and her kids Carl and Tara Miles, cousins; Missy Currier, Nathan Currier, Erin and Wayne Ellis, Steven and Tammy, Jane Bartholf, David was predeceased by his father; George A. Plass, grandparents; George and Elizabeth Plass and Willis and Jane Houghtaling, aunt; Sharon Gorman and uncle Bill Gorman. Due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 a future memorial service will be held at a later date. Services have been entrusted to Joseph J. Darrow Sr. Funeral Home Inc. 39 S. Hamilton St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. To send online condolences please visit our website at [www.darrowfuneralhome.org](http://www.darrowfuneralhome.org)