

OBITUARIES

Claire McGee, 75

QUINEBAUG, Conn. — Claire (Guerin) McGee, 75, of Charlene Drive, died Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010 in UMass Hospital University Campus, Worcester, MA.

She was the loving wife of Donald J. McGee for 55 years.

In addition to her husband, Claire is survived by her sons: Michael McGee of Charlton, Mass.; Thomas McGee and his wife Denise of Oxford, Mass.; Donald McGee and his wife Jean of Charlton, Mass.; her daughter, Maryellen Menzone and her husband Anthony of Agawam, Mass.; her sisters: Cecile Deschenes of Auburn, Mass., and Lorraine McDonough of Manassas, Va.; her grandchildren: Lisa, Joseph and his wife Jessica, and Domenic Menzone all of Agawam, Mass., Timothy McGee of Charlton, Mass., Carolyn, Donald, and Patrick McGee all of Charlton, Mass., and Thomas, William and Mathew McGee, all of Oxford, Mass.

She was predeceased by her brothers: Paul Guerin, George Guerin, Norman Guerin and Richard Guerin; and her daugh-

ter-in-law, Marlene McGee.

Born in Worcester, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Philiias and Emma (Lambert) Guerin.

Mrs. McGee graduated from Holy Name High School in Worcester in 1953. She went on to graduate from Clark University in 1968 with a B.A. in English.

She worked at the former American Optical Corporation for 24 years as a Patent Administrator before continuing this position in the private sector until her retirement in 1998.

She spent her retirement years going on a number of cruises, as well as typing for her husband's books and enjoying time with her grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, Nov. 20 in St. Joseph Church, 20 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. Burial will be at a later date in St. Joseph Cemetery.

The Valade Funeral Home, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, directed the arrangements.

For guestbook visit please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Estelle E. D'Agostino, 83

CHARLTON — Estelle E. (Bolivar) D'Agostino, 83, died on Nov. 16, 2010. For the last three years, she received loving care from the dedicated staff of both Overlook Masonic Health Center and Summit Elder Care in Charlton.

Estelle shared a full life with her husband of 63 years, Victor D'Agostino. Her pride and joy were her family: Steven Jones-D'Agostino and his wife, Lana, of Worcester; Michael D'Agostino, and his wife, Patricia, of Charlton; Mark D'Agostino and his wife, Vicky, of DeWitt, N.Y.; and Gary D'Agostino and his fiancé, Kimberly Nelson, of Franklin. She was also blessed with six grandchildren: Nicholas, Kelly, Scott, Adam and Alexander D'Agostino, and Antonio Nelson; and a step-grandchild, Charissa Kelly. She is also survived by three brothers, Arthur, Robert, and Raymond Bolivar; and one sister, Evelyn Ormo; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Lawrence Bolivar and

Guy Bolivar Jr.; and four sisters, Florence Schneider, Jenny Dennis, Minnie Cournoyer and Bernice Wood.

Estelle was born and raised in Auburn, where she attended Auburn public schools.

During World War II, she was employed at Reed and Prince in Worcester. Later in life, she worked at Casson-Foster Photographers in Auburn.

She met Victor at White City Amusement in Shrewsbury and they danced their way into each other's hearts. For the next several decades, they lived life to the utmost in their home in Rochdale, enjoying family, parties, camping and golf.

A funeral was held Friday, Nov. 19, 2010, from Paradis Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford, followed by a Mass at St. Roch's Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. Burial was at Hillside Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's unit at Overlook Masonic Health Center, P.O. Box 1000, Charlton, MA 01507.

Yvonne E. Germain, 90

OXFORD — Yvonne E. (Morin) Germain, 90, died Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010, at Webster Manor Nursing Home in Webster after a short illness.

She was predeceased by her husband of 35 years, Ernest H. Germain of Oxford, who died in 1973.

She is survived by a son, Ernest G. Germain of Oxford; two daughters, Yvonne H. Young of Southbridge and Pamela M. Snay of Florida; two sisters, Olive Rabidou of Holden and Theresa Johnson of Worcester; many grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and many nephews and nieces.

She was predeceased by a son, Louis A. Germain of Dorchester, who died in 1998; a daughter, Brenda C. Ciuchta of Webster, who died in 2009; four sisters and six brothers.

She was born in Worcester, the daughter of the late Arthur and Sophie (Metivier) Morin, and lived in Auburn and Worcester before moving to Oxford in 1951.

Mrs. Germain worked at Experditte in Washington, D.C., for six years, retiring in 1983.

She was a member of St. Roch's Church in Oxford.

Her funeral will be held on Monday, Nov. 29, from Paradis Funeral Home, 357 Main St., followed by a Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Roch's Church, 332 Main St. Burial will follow at St. Roch's Cemetery.

Calling hours will be held from 7-9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28 at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Earl M. Suss, 74

DUDLEY — Earl M. Suss, 74, of 35 Lawrence Road, died Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010 in his tree stand while hunting in Woodstock, Conn.

He leaves his wife of 54 years Annette "Netty" (Casavant) Suss of Dudley. He also leaves a son Michael J. Suss of Dudley and a daughter Michele Suss of Florida. He also leaves a sister Virginia Krushesky of Woodstock and three grandchildren, Amanda, Jessie and Samantha and great-granddaughter Emily.

Suss was born in Dudley, son

of the late Michael and Florence (Boudreau) Suss and lived in Dudley all his life.

He was an avid fisherman and hunter and died doing what he loved best. He was a member of the Pomfret Rod and Gun, Last Cast Anglers.

There are no calling hours and services and burial are private.

Donations may be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St, Webster, is directing arrangements.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY NOVEMBER 22

Today is Monday, Nov. 22, the 326th day of 2010. There are 39 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas; Texas Gov. John B. Connally, in the same car as Kennedy, was seriously wounded. Suspect Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested.

On this date:

In 1718, English pirate Edward Teach — better known as "Blackbeard" — was killed during a battle off the Virginia coast.

In 1928, "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel was first performed, in Paris.

In 1930, listeners of the British Broadcasting Corp. heard, for the first time, radio coverage of an American college football game as Harvard defeated Yale, 13-0.

In 1935, a flying boat, the China Clipper, took off from Alameda, Calif., carrying more than 100,000 pieces of mail on the first trans-Pacific airmail flight.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek met in Cairo to discuss measures for defeating Japan. Lyricist Lorenz Hart died in New York at age 48.

In 1965, the musical "Man of La Mancha" opened in New York.

In 1967, the U.N. Security Council approved Resolution 242, which called for Israel to withdraw from territories it had captured the previous June, and implicitly called on adversaries to recognize Israel's right to exist.

In 1975, Juan Carlos was proclaimed King of Spain.

In 1980, death claimed actress Mae West at her Hollywood residence at age 87 and former House Speaker John W. McCormack in Dedham, Mass., at age 88.

In 1990, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, having failed to win re-election of the Conservative Party leadership on the first ballot, announced her resignation.

Ten years ago: Amid the Florida recount battle, Republican vice-presidential candidate Dick Cheney was hospitalized with what doctors called a "very slight" heart attack. Valentin Paniaguabecame Peru's interim president, following the resignation of Alberto Fujimori

Five years ago: Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen in Navy custody, was charged with supporting terrorism, but the indictment did not mention the alleged "dirty bomb" plot that had prompted his three-year detention. (Padilla was later convicted along with two other defendants.) An Arab-American college student, Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, was convicted of joining al-Qaida and plotting to assassinate President George W. Bush. (Abu Ali was later sentenced to life in prison.) Angela Merkel took power as Germany's first female chancellor. Ted Koppel hosted his final edition of ABC News' "Nightline."

One year ago: Iran said it had begun large-scale air defense war games aimed at protecting its nuclear facilities from attack. Michael Jackson posthumously won four American Music Awards; Taylor Swift was named artist of the year; Adam Lambert's sexually provocative performance drew complaints.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Arthur Hiller is 87. Actor Robert Vaughn is 78. Actor Michael Callan is 75. Actor Allen Garfield is 71. Animator and movie director Terry Gilliam is 70.

Peter R. Ramirez, 71



SOUTHBRIDGE — Peter R. Ramirez, 71, of 45 Alpine Dr., died

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010 in the St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester,

after a long illness. His wife of 47 years, Theresa G. (Grignaffini) died July 28, 2009. He leaves two sons, Peter L. Ramirez and his wife Bea of Tolland, Conn., and Joseph R. Ramirez and his wife Estee of Lancaster; his daughter, Patricia A. Hirst and her husband James of Leominster; a brother, David Reardon of Arkansas; five grandchildren, Beatrice White-Ramirez, Kylee White-Ramirez, Noah Ramirez, Anthony Hirst and Aidan Ramirez; and nieces and nephews. He was born in Dexter, Maine, the son of Ralph and Ruth (Young) Ramirez and grew up in Wellesley. He was a graduate of Lowell Technical College.

Peter was a polymer chemist for the American Optical Co. in Southbridge for more than 35 years retiring several years ago. He was a former member and

chairman of the Southbridge Town Council and was also a former member and chairman of the

Southbridge Planning Board. He was a member of St. Mary's Church in Southbridge. He enjoyed singing and was a member of the St. Mary's Choir, the Interfaith Choir and the Quinebaug Valley Singers. He was a former president of the Southbridge Little League Baseball Association and was a former coach and umpire for both Little League and Babe Ruth League baseball. Pete enjoyed gardening and was an animal lover and enjoyed bird watching.

His funeral will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 23, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will be private.

Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 23 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. before the Mass.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the St. Mary's Parish Ministry Center, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550.

E-mail obituary notices to atremblay@stonebridgepress.com

Will someone please smack down the lies

LYONS
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Sometimes, see, Goldilocks can't find the porridge that's just right. Sometimes, when two sources tell very different stories, the truth doesn't lie somewhere between them. Often, somebody's lying. Over the past couple of decades, moreover, America's vaunted mainstream media has found itself hornswoggled by one big falsehood after another.

Historian Rick Perlstein ("Nixonland") applied himself to one recent example: polls showing that most voters in the last congressional election believed President Obama had raised their taxes, although he'd cut them.

Led by Rush Limbaugh, "conservative commentators told them Barack Obama was a tax-mad lunatic. They lied. The main-

stream media did not do their job and correct them. The White House was too polite — "civil," just like Obama promised — to say much. So people believed the lie. From this all else follows."

Some of this is Obama's weakness, his seeming need to enact the Goldilocks role. Drawing attention to falsehoods, it's feared, only spreads them. Confronting a faker like Limbaugh, people pretend, only empowers him. Perlstein argues that the failure also belongs to "mainstream media that acts as if anything [Limbaugh's] millions of followers believe is a priori deserving of respect as heartland folk wisdom."

"When one side breaks the social contract, and the other side makes a virtue of never calling them out on it," he observes, "the liar always wins. When it becomes 'uncivil' to call out liars, lying becomes free."

By succumbing to loser logic, Democrats

continue to "mainstream" themselves right down the drain.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette columnist Gene Lyons is a National Magazine Award winner and co-author of "The Hunting of the President" (St. Martin's Press, 2000). You can e-mail Lyons at eugenelyons2@yahoo.com.

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