



First Congregational Church of Rowley

Celebration of Life Service

November 14, 2021

Reverend Thomas Bentley

Organist Marge Thurston

Presentations by members of the Compassionate Care Network
Patti Cummings, Kay Dalzell, Penny Hurley, Jerry Schmidt, Nancy Schmidt
and Rev. Bentley

Doris P. Bradstreet

Doris P. Bradstreet, 97, of County Road, Ipswich, was born on July 15, 1923, in Bronxville, NY, daughter of the late William and Frieda (Becker) Parker. Doris was the wife of the late George F. Bradstreet.

She was employed for many years as a clerk at the Newburyport District Court, retiring in 1989. Doris was a member of the First Congregational Church of Rowley where she previously served as a deaconess. She was a member of the Rowley Council on Aging and the Order of Eastern Star # 94 of Ipswich. We all remember Doris's passion for the "traditional" hymns from the "red hymnal", her favorite one being, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

She loved gardening, Scottish heritage, Native American culture, traveling and local history. Her family owned the Bradstreet Farm of Rowley, founded in 1635 and sold to the town in 2006.

Doris is survived by her children; Jewel Heldman and husband Paul, Kenneth Bradstreet and wife Tammy, Linda Babcock and husband Frank, Ann Bradstreet, and Donald Bradstreet; a sister, Betty Foye, age 92; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Mariam P. Delaney

Our Mame passed away on January 6, 2021 after a long illness. She was born on June 22, 1933 in Orleans, VT and had two brothers, Paul and Tom and a sister Rebecca. After high school, she moved to Boston where she met her husband of 61 years, Jack Delaney who predeceased her. She had three children, Timothy, Christopher and Jeffrey. Mame lived in Topsfield and worked many years in the restaurant business and volunteering. She was a volunteer in the Thrift Shop, served on the Missions Committee and on the Search Committee. A woman of great faith, Mame had the ability to always look on the bright side of life.

Betty Duval

Betty J. Duval of Rowley, passed away at the age of 84 on Saturday, November 18, 2020. Betty was born in Medford on December 23, 1935 and was the loving wife of Paul Duval.

She was a resident of Rowley and active in Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cheerleading, P.T.A. and the Rowley on Aging. She had 4 children, Kevin, Ken, Kerrie and Kathie (who predeceased her). She enjoyed spending time with her family 10 grandchildren and great children. Betty and Paul were members of our First Congregational Church.

Richard Emery

Richard W. Emery was a lifelong resident of Merrimac. He was the devoted husband of Elizabeth L. "Betty" (Stevens) Emery. Both are members of the First Congregational Church of Rowley.

Born in Amesbury, May 20, 1934, he was one of six children of the late Hazen M. and Hazel (Morrison) Emery and was a graduate of the former Merrimac High School and the U-Mass School of Agriculture at Stockbridge. He also served in the U.S. Army for two years.

Richard was a letter carrier for the Merrimac Post Office for 32 years and was actively involved within the Merrimac Community through his entire life. He proudly served as the Governor's appointee to the Merrimac Housing Authority for many years. He was a gentle man with strong faith, reaching out to young and old.

He leaves behind wonderful memories of a life well lived and well-loved to his wife, Betty Emery; his two children, Amy Gaudet and husband Christopher and Steven H. Emery and husband Rolando Santos; his sister, Priscilla Weismann; along with many nieces and nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

Gerry Ernstrom

Gerry was born in Binghamton, New York, on February 6, 1933, to Ethel and George Ernstrom.

Gerry retired from the Air Force in 1972, having attained the rank of lieutenant colonel, and continued in the Air Force Reserves as a liaison officer for the Air Force Academy through the 1980s. Stationed in France in the 1950s and early 1960s, Gerry learned to fly jets and the large transport plane, the C-124. After the Air Force, he joined the Traveler's Insurance Company, where he applied his interests and skills in finance learned as a graduate of the University of Utah, majoring in business and economics. He stayed with the Travelers until he retired.

Gerry loved to fish. He taught his sons salt-water surf fishing, and he loved fishing the mouth of the Merrimac from his center console boat, "The Bug," named after his favorite playing card in poker. Gerry was generous and playful. He always looked forward to hosting monthly poker games with buddies from the neighborhood and work.

For those of us who attended Gerry's Celebration of Life Service, we could see the love his family, friends, and neighbors as they told numerous stories of how he made them laugh and enjoy life.

Michael Glynn

Michael was a man of wisdom, strength, and peace. He was married to Penny Hurley of our church.

Michael was born in Reading, MA, graduated Northeastern and went on to teach high school English and Drama, as well as coaching track and cross country. He possessed a deep understanding and compassion for students in need, helping many over the years.

A gifted athlete, Michael led his track team to victory at the Penn State Relays, and ran the Boston Marathon three times. He was a lover of music, books, philosophy and thought, and an artist in restoring Jaguars from engine to body. He was one with nature, drawn to the ocean, the mountains, hiking in all seasons, hunting, fishing, once landing a 688-pound tuna.

Michael's life took many turns through darkness and light. After years of deepening alcohol and substance abuse, he set himself free 29 years before becoming ill. Michael lived with a quiet peace and acceptance that filled his days with grace.

Carol Locke

Carolyn "Carol" (Roberts French) Locke, was born in Saugus, she was the daughter of the late Lynwood and Clara Roberts.

Carol worked many years as a waitress at the former Klemm's, Stromberg's, and Valles Steak House. She was also a former Girl Scout mother. To know Carol was to love her. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, taking walks, and tending her garden. Carol was a member of First Congregational Church of Rowley.

In addition to her beloved husband, Al, with whom she shared 33 wonderful years of marriage, Carol is also survived by her daughters Lori Bray and Cheri Judge, both of Lynn. She was the step-mother to Jean and her husband, Randy, of Naples, Fla.; Alice and her husband, Paul, of Las Vegas; Kevin Locke of Old Orchard Beach, Maine; and the late David Locke of Arizona.

We remember Carol as the loving wife of Al. You seldom saw one without the other. Their love and devotion to one another was inspiring.

Gordon Robert Merry

G. Robert Merry was known to us as "Bob" was born in Ipswich, MA, on May 5, 1944 to Gordon Merry and Marjorie Merry (Shepard). He married Geneva A. (Douglass) Merry on July 2, 1965.

Bob attended Haverhill High School and Trade School. He was also a member of the First Congregational Church in Rowley. He worked as a lineman for the Rowley Light Department for over four decades, as well as being a Firefighter for the Rowley Fire Department and Auxiliary Police Officer for the Rowley Police Department. He was a lifelong historian of Rowley. Bob enjoyed being involved in town politics as well as flying, hunting, boating, and visiting relatives abroad. He loved being a member of the Rowley Historical Society.

Bob was an avid customer of Todd's Farm. In the summer, Bob could be found on Sunday mornings, searching for something old, some of which he donated to the Rowley Historical Society. His wife, Ginny, professes that their house is full of "treasures" from Todd's Farm.

Bob is survived by his wife Geneva Merry (Douglass), daughter Pamela McKenzie and her husband Scott, his son David and his wife Heather, his three brothers Roger Merry, Donald Merry, and Ronald Merry. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Clifford and Robert McKenzie as well as Kendra and Eric McQuarrie. He is predeceased by his brother David Merry and Barbara Merry.

Elaine Pyburn

Elaine Pyburn was the mother of Glen Pyburn and his wife Nicola, members of our church. Elaine was born in Lynn and became a lifelong resident of Lynnfield. She enjoyed a long career as a bookkeeper and served a dual role as bookkeeper for their family business, Arthur Pyburn and Sons. She loved her sons' sports and was an avid fan. Elaine was active in her community, contributing to the Women's Club of Lynnfield, as well as a member of Centre Congregational Church of Lynnfield, following membership in Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Elaine was always dressed to the nines, wearing her fur coat to the hockey rink to watch her grandsons play. And you never caught her without her lipstick on! Her family will always have fond memories of Elaine.

Dorothy Spurling

Dorothy Spurling was a devoted member of the First Congregational Church of Rowley. She graced the congregation with her beautiful singing voice on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday for many years. The congregation would be spellbound when she sang Ave Maria. Dorothy sang in multiple languages, and soloed at many area weddings, church services, and funerals. She also had her own voice study studio where she taught vocal technique & diction. She performed at several local Rotary, Masonic, and Lions Clubs, belonged to numerous charitable foundations. She was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and was especially proud of her service at The Pentagon.

Dorothy is survived by her children, Gail A. Lockard and her fiancé Jon of Exeter, N.H., Robert E. Spurling Jr. of Maine, Diane Spurling Ward of Seabrook, N.H., and Tanya J. Clifford and her husband Billy of Salisbury, Mass. She is also survived by her sister, Jean Rynkowski; and several beloved grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Vernon Thomas

Vern Thomas was the special and close friend of Judy Robillard. Born in Salem, NH, Vern led a full life both in his long career as a field representative for Granite State Electric, and in his many talents and passions. He followed in his father's footsteps as an on-call firefighter for the Salem NH fire department. He worked hard as a custodian for Canobie Lake Park, Rockingham Racetrack, the Kelley library, eight Salem schools and many town departments.

Vern was also known as "the harmonica man", playing since the age of 6. He volunteered at nursing homes, enjoying entertaining the residents with his playing. Vern was also a grandson of three Civil War veterans and was an active member of numerous historical societies.

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