

Tri-County Passings

Mary McClure



Born 86 years ago, Mary Lee Clanton arrived on the dusty plains of Shawnee, Oklahoma December 9, 1931. She drew her last breath January 28, 2018.

A graduate of Ada High School and East Central State College, she married her high school sweetheart, Roger "Skip" McClure, on February 4, 1951. They left Oklahoma for Marion, Ohio, where while raising three kids she was hostess extraordinaire at The Brown's House restaurant. Later her appreciation of beauty and high-quality lead her to sell Doncaster women's apparel.

Tired of Midwest winters, post kids she and Skip flew south to The Villages in 1996. She was active in her college sorority, Beta Sigma Phi and the Red Hats. Every election she could be found manning the polls (a particular highlight was being picked for the recount in the big hanging chad incident of 2000).

The daughter of a baseball player, an avid football fan too, more than anything Mary Lee loved to play cards. A lifelong bridge player, she shared many a game of gin rummy with her kids, became a mahjong enthusiast, and played a mean hand of Spite and Malice (once cleaning her daughter's clock for three months straight).

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Mary Lee could be raucous and rowdy or classy and elegant, but above all she was just plain fun.

Services to be held at St Timothy's Catholic Church, Saturday, February 24th, at 8:30 am.

NOTABLE DEATH

Award-Winning Composer Johann Johannsson Dead at 48

NEW YORK

Johann Johannsson, an award-winning composer and producer who combined classical sounds and modern electronics on the acclaimed soundtracks to "The Theory of Everything" and "Sicario," has died at age 48.

His manager Tim Husom announced that Johannsson was found dead Friday in his Berlin apartment. More details were not immediately available. "Today, I lost my friend who was one of the most talented musicians and intelligent people I knew," Husom said in a statement Saturday.

Rosalie Voss, who runs the European office of Redbird Music, told The Associated Press that the cause of death was currently unknown and that police were investigating.

"We are waiting to find out more in the coming days," Voss said.

Voss said Johannsson is survived by a daughter in Copenhagen, Denmark and family in Iceland.

A native of Reykjavik, Iceland who started out as a rock guitarist, Johannsson won a Golden Globe and received Grammy and Oscar nominations for his score for "The Theory of Everything," the 2014 film starring Eddie Redmayne as physicist Stephen Hawking.

Johannsson also received an Oscar nomination for the 2015 movie "Sicario." His score for "Arrival," a 2016 release, brought him Golden Globe, BAFTA and Grammy nominations. Last year, he worked with Darren Aronofsky on "Mother!" which starred Jennifer Lawrence.

Johannsson also recorded several albums of his own.

—The Associated Press

Herbert Ludwig



Herbert Gustav Ludwig passed away on January 30, 2018 at Cornerstone Hospice in The Villages, Florida. Born in Detroit, MI on May 4, 1922, he grew up in Royal Oak. Herb volunteered for the US Army Air Forces, serving 3 1/2 years as a fighter pilot during WW II, flying both P 38's and P 51's in the Pacific. After the War, he and Beverly married on December 27, 1947, completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering from UMichigan in 1948. Herb earned his PE from the State of Michigan in 1953, and his MS in Industrial Engineering from Wayne State University (WSU), Detroit, in 1956. From 1957-59, Herb and his family lived in São Paulo, Brazil, organizing the Industrial Engineering Program for the University of São Paulo. Returning to Michigan, he taught Industrial and Mechanical Engineering at WSU for 29 years. He was well known as an Expert Witness for attorneys in Michigan and neighboring states. Herb enjoyed camping, canoeing, and golf. He was an avid skier from high school until age 87. He and Bev owned a home in Steamboat Springs, CO, and taught their grandchildren a love of the sport.

He and Bev traveled the world with Road Scholar programs, going on over 40 trips. A life member of the Caberfae Ski Club, he also held memberships in the Elks and American Legion. He served as a Scout Master in the Farmington Hills, MI. Herb is survived by his wife of 70 years, Beverly; his three children, daughter Shelly Maifarth of Littleton, CO; son Gunnar (JoAnne) Ludwig of Tucson, AZ; son Steven (Donna) Ludwig of Petoskey, MI, and six grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, suggested donations --The Villages Hospice House, 601 Casa Bella, The Villages, FL 32162 or the Boy Scouts of America (www.scouting.org).

NOTABLE DEATH

John Gavin, Film Star Who Became Ambassador To Mexico, Dies

LOS ANGELES

John Gavin, the tall, strikingly handsome actor who appeared in "Spartacus," "Psycho" and other hit films of the 1960s before forsaking acting to become President Ronald Reagan's ambassador to Mexico, died Friday at age 86.

Gavin, who was also a former president of the Screen Actors Guild, died Friday, said Brad Burton Moss, manager of Gavin's wife, actress Constance Towers. Moss did not provide the cause of death.

After appearances in a handful of 1950s B-movies, Gavin's breakthrough came in 1958 when he landed the lead role of a World War II German soldier in "A Time to Love and a Time to Die."

He made a few other films and appeared on such TV shows as "Fantasy Island," "The Love Boat" and "Hart to Hart," but by the end of the 1960s he was already on the road to another profession, diplomacy.

Unlike some who win ambassadorships as political favors and are sent to countries they know little about, Gavin arrived in Mexico in 1981 well equipped for the job. His father had invested in the country's mines, and ancestors of his Mexican-born mother were among California's first Spanish settlers. Gavin had often visited Mexico in his youth and was fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

—The Associated Press

Frank "Chick" Perrotto



Frank J. "Chick" Perrotto, 80, passed from this life Saturday, February 3, 2018. Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Frank A. and Mary (Distasio) Perrotto. Chick was in sales in the building materials industry for 36 years. He was employed for various companies most notably, Gentek Building Materials, Inc. in the Woodbridge, New Jersey area. Chick served his country in the U. S. Army during the early 1960s as well as his community as a volunteer fire fighter in Highland Park, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. He was an active firefighter for over 13 years, a member of the Department for 50 years, and was recently honored by the Department with a 50 year plaque.

Chick was member of St. Thomas Moore, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, Summerfield, serving as a Eucharistic Minister at both churches. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, serving as a Grand Knight in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and as a Fourth Degree Knight in Council 14222, St. Paul the First Hermit Council. Chick and his wife, Eleanor moved to The Villages from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, in 2013. He enjoyed golf, loved his friends, was a "foodie" as well as Eleanor's sous-chef extraordinaire. To his family and friend, he was known as "Mr. Sunshine."

Chick leaves his beloved wife of 51 years Eleanor M. (Arena) Perrotto; and daughter Susan Perrotto of Los Angeles, California. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held in St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, Summerfield on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 10:00 AM. Memorial contributions in Chick's memory may be made to The Villagers for Hospice 11962 CR 101 Ste 302-27, The Villages, FL 32162 or to Cornerstone Hospice 601 Casa Bella, The Villages, Florida, 32162.

Arrangements entrusted with HIERS-BAXLEY Funeral & Cremation Life Event Center, 3975 Wedgewood Lane, The Villages, FL 32162. Sentiments may be left online at www.hiers-baxley.com.



NOTABLE DEATH

Reg E Cathey, Known for 'House of Cards,' Dead at 59 Years Old

NEW YORK

Emmy-winning actor Reg E. Cathey, best known for "House of Cards" and "The Wire," has died.

Cathey died at age 59, according to a statement from Netflix published in numerous reports. No other details were given.

"The Wire" creator David Simon, announcing his death in a tweet on Friday, called him a "fine, masterful actor" and "delightful" person. Samuel L. Jackson and Chris Rock also tweeted tributes.

The Huntsville, Alabama native was known for his deep voice and down to earth characters. Cathey's portrayal of barbecue joint owner Freddy Hayes in "House of Cards" brought him three Emmy nominations and one win, in 2015. His other credits included "Inside Amy Schumer" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

—The Associated Press

Donald C. Polk



Donald C. Polk, 80, of The Villages, Florida passed away Friday, February 9, 2018 at home, surrounded by his family.

Donald was born December 2, 1937 in Miami, Florida. He graduated from High Springs HS in 1955; joining the US Navy upon graduating. On April 24, 1956, he married Miss Charlotte Wynelle Fowler. Donald was a cryptologic technician in the Navy and excelled to the rank of Senior Chief, earning numerous citations and awards throughout his career. For a period, Donald got out of the Navy and was employed by Copeland Sausage Company - the man knew his sausage. After traveling the world, he retired from the Navy but continued training his beloved sailors working for two Government (circus) contractors, SWL followed by TRW. He liked to brag he got his job at TRW while he was sleeping.

Donald was a larger than life, masterful story teller, a prankster extraordinaire but above all, a family man. He had a name for everyone, even if he didn't, "Bud" or "Sapsucker" worked, as he never met a stranger. An avid golfer, he spent many days and more dollars in pursuit of the elusive hole in one. On June 15, 2004, he hacked his way to an Eagle.

Donald is survived by his wife, C. Wynelle Polk, his daughters: Terri Johnson (Mike), Trinity, FL; Donna Branham (Sid), Wilmington, NC; and Charlene Polk of Williamsburg, VA; 6 grandchildren, Jennifer Rollins (Jason); Heather Sigafosse (Steve); Danielle Baccante (Collin); Rachel Claire (Sean); Jenna Gates (Drew); and Brady Polk; 6 Great-Grandchildren; twin brother Dennis Polk; sister, Caroline Johnson; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Jessie Baker Polk, sister, Janet Lamb, and granddaughter, Ashley Brockett.

Fair Winds and Following Seas - Rest in Peace Shipmate - "Be different, Be Good"

A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at the Village Church of Christ, 1421 Oak Street, Lady Lake, FL 32158.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Cornerstone Hospice, 2445 Lane Park Road, Tavares, FL., 32778 / donate@cshospice.org or to the Village Church of Christ, PO Box 1051, Lady Lake, FL 32158.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Lady Lake, FL Online condolences may be left at www.BeyersFuneralHome.com



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Submitted photo

L.A. Theatre Works and Susan Albert Loewenberg, Producing Director, present "The Mountaintop," by Katori Hall, starring Gilbert Glenn Brown as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Karen Malina White as Camae.

See Martin Luther King Jr. As He's Never Been Seen Before

L.A. Theatre Works presents play titled "The Mountaintop" by Katori Hall at 7 p.m. Feb. 26.

By KRISTEN FIORE
Daily Sun Staff Writer

An opportunity to honor and recognize Black History Month and one of its significant historical figures is coming to the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

"The Mountaintop" is an upcoming play about the last night of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, as imagined by playwright Katori Hall.

The entirety of the play takes place in Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel after King's famous "I've been to the mountaintop" speech and on the eve of his assassination in 1968.

At the hotel, King meets Camae, a maid, and the two engage in a fruitful dialogue.

"Katori Hall sets up a highly imaginative plot and uses that plot to engage us in his persona in a way that is humorous, touching and heart-stopping in the end," L.A. Theatre Works producing director Susan Loewenberg said.

Loewenberg said the way the story is told keeps the audience off kilter.

"She didn't want to write a typical kind of sanctimonious piece about Martin Luther King," Loewenberg said. "In this story, we get who this man was in all his colors. He was a great man with brilliant ideas, but he was also a human being."

Loewenberg said she hopes audiences come away with a deeper understanding of who King was and what he stood for.

"It's a terrific theatrical experience," she said. "It's engaging, it's interesting, it's funny, it's inspiring. It's all of the things you wish for when you go to the theater. It's a 90-minute thrilling journey that you take with one of the great figures of

American history."

It is also a multidimensional journey, according to "The Mountaintop" director, Shirley Jo Finney.

Because the whole play takes place in a hotel room, videos and projections accompany the storytelling.

"You're going into a meta-physical world supported by visuals," Finney said.

Loewenberg said touring the production has been a terrific experience.

"We don't just tour to big cities," she said. "We go to a little town in Michigan, somewhere you maybe never heard of in Minnesota. We're going to the heartland of the United States and experiencing great audiences who are wonderful and intelligent."

Every stop along the way has been overwhelming, according to Loewenberg and Finney.

"It's inspirational, emotional and it begs you to reflect upon where you stand in the world and what you stand for, which I think is really important," Finney said. "It's a healing piece. I think the audience will be and has been engaged and inspired."

Loewenberg said the most challenging part about the play is that there are only two characters, and they must carry the whole show.

"But when we did the auditions, I realized I didn't have to worry," she said.

King is played by Gilbert Glenn Brown and Camae is played by Karen Malina White.

"The Mountaintop" will be performed at 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at The Sharon.

Tickets, which range in price from \$25 to \$45, can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

"This is our small contribution to King's legacy, and we're very proud to have made it," Loewenberg said.

Kristen Fiore is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

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