

# Area Obituaries



**Robert Klein**  
New Milford

Robert Klein, age 53, died Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at home. Born in Scranton on October 3, 1964, son of the late Robert F. and Yvonne A. (Ensminger) Klein. Robert graduated from Vestal High School, Broome Community College, Binghamton University and Widener University School of Law. His career included VP of Operations for Cherry Tree Vending, Co., Inc., Deputy District Attorney and Assistant District Attorney for Lackawanna County and Susquehanna County District Attorney.

In his younger years, he was an altar server. While in high school, he earned his brown belt from Hidy Ochi-ai's Karate and was a wide receiver on the Vestal High School football team. Robert enjoyed attending his children's high school football games and cheerleading competitions, guiding them with high school and college mock trials, working with his children on remodeling the family home and spending time talking with them about their day. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association. Robert was also a lector for St. Martin of Tours, spent 12 years teaching students legal procedure through mock trials and volunteered for numerous causes. Robert was a man of faith and his greatest joy was his family.

In law school, Widener University selected Robert as the most promising litigator. The awards and recognition he received were many, but those that he considered very special included: The Florence-Midtown United Crime Watch "Night of Helping Hand"; Class Leader of the Year, presented by Leadership Lackawanna; Recognition for his Dedication to the Victims of Juvenile Crime; Recognition by the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service for his Years of Hard Work and Dedicated Service to the Law Enforcement Field; and being elected the Susquehanna County District Attorney.

He is survived by his wife Kelly-Jo (Callahan), son Robert ("RJ"), daughter Olivia and son Nicholas, all of New Milford; brother John and wife Bonnie Lee of Susquehanna; nieces and nephews: John Joseph of Susquehanna; Kirsten, Ryan and Alex Klein, all of Endwell, NY; Hunter, Abby and Emma Lewis, all of Apalachin, NY; mother- and father-in-law, Patricia and John Callahan; brother-in-law, Kevin Callahan; and sisters-in-law, Kimberly Mulvey, Julie Callahan and Jessica Lewis, all of New York State.

Robert was preceded in death by his brother William Klein and his aunt Shirley Ensminger.

Donations to assist with medical and other expenses can be made to [www.GoFundMe.com](http://www.GoFundMe.com) and select The Robert Klein Charitable Account.

Funeral services were Wednesday, January 3, 2018 from the Kearney Funeral Home, Inc., 125 N. Main Ave., Scranton, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Msgr. Thomas Muldowney at St. Peter's Cathedral, 315 Wyoming Ave., in Scranton. Burial followed at the Cathedral Cemetery.

To send flowers or a remembrance gift to the family of Atty. Robert Klein, please visit our Tribute Store.



**Anthony D. Morgantini, Sr.**  
Carbondale

Anthony D. Morgantini, Sr., 79, of Carbondale died Sunday, December 31, 2017 at home. His wife is the former Ellen Berry; the couple was married for 53 years.

Born in Carbondale he was the son of the late Angelo and Celestine Badalato Morgantini. He was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Carbondale and a 1956 graduate of Benjamin Franklin High School, Carbondale. Tony served in the Pennsylvania National Guard Company B, 1st Battalion 109th Infantry, retiring as a sergeant after 20 years of service. Prior to his retirement he worked for Jerry's Sport Center, Vandling; and before that as a foreman for Pizza Crust and Falbo's Dairy, both of Carbondale.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting rabbits, and training his beagles.

He was always our rock when we needed him to be and when we needed a laugh he provided. He was of strong faith and love of his grandchildren and the military.

Also surviving are his children: Ina Lynn Pesavento, Carbondale and her companion Steve Laguzzi; Angelo Morgantini and his husband Robert Branhams; Rhode Island; Allan Morgantini of Virginia; Anthony D. Morgantini, Jr. and wife Belinda, Vandling; and Robert Morgantini and wife Kathleen, Palmyra; 10 grandchildren; a great grandson; a sister: Catherine Morgantini, Carbondale; and several nieces, nephews, sister-in-laws and brother-in-laws.

He was also preceded in death by a brother Herman Morgantini; and five sisters: Mafalda Baldini, Marie Krafchick, Anna Newfrock, Joanne Tierney and Rose Morgantini.

The funeral was Thursday, January 4, 2018 from the Brennan and Brennan Funeral Home, Inc., 55 Lincoln Ave. Carbondale, with Mass of Christian Burial Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Carbondale. Interment with military honors at Valley View Memorial Park, Montdale.

Memorial donations may be made to Traditional Hospice, 113 West Drinker Street, Dunmore, PA 18512.

To send online condolences, visit the funeral home's website.

**More Obituaries Appear on Page 4**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING NO LATER THAN 9 A.M. OF THE MONDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION.**

**Funeral Arrangements**



513 Main Street, Forest City, PA  
**570.785.3153**

[lesjackfuneralhome.com](http://lesjackfuneralhome.com)



**Vincent Joseph Novak**  
Forest City

Vincent Joseph Novak, 84, of Forest City, died Thursday, December 21, 2017 at home with family close by. His wife is the former Rosemarie Anne Moken; the couple had been married for over 60 years.

Born in Forest City, son of the late Louis and Nellie Damasevitz Novak, he was a member of Ascension Parish, Forest City. A graduate of Forest City High School, Vince served in the United States Air Force as a B-52 aircraft gunner, from October 1951, until Honorably Discharged, September 1955. He first worked for Kost Tire & Muffler, Forest City, before attending NII Trucking School, Fleetville. Vince, Windy, or Uncs, as he was more commonly known, is a lifetime member of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), where he was a heavy equipment operator for over 40 years. He was also a local coal delivery man with his friend, Dave Kerzic, driving for the late Hank Prince. He also drove school bus for Joe Dovin for a few years, and in most recent years, Uncs could be seen driving the local NAPA delivery van for his nephew, and godchild, Richard Curtis.

A loving husband to his wife, caring father to his children, and a great man and friend to everyone he encountered, if only to tell a joke to make someone's day, and he will be sorely missed by all.

Also surviving are 7 children: David Novak and his wife, Sharon, Deltona, FL; Debra Novak Condello and her husband, Jeff, Windermere, FL; Kathryn Novak Hunt, and her husband, Frank, Archbald; Mark Novak, Forest City; Michael Novak, Forest City; Barbara Novak Berke, and her husband, Marty, Allentown; and Laura Novak, Forest City; 6 grandchildren: Michael Novak, Forest City; Shannon Novak, Clarks Summit; Christopher Condello, Windermere, FL; Daniel Condello, Winter Park, FL; Adam and Brandon Berke, Allentown, 2 great-grandchildren: Michael Novak, Archbald, and Matthew Condello, Windermere, FL; and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his brother, Thomas Novak, of Kissimmee, FL, who died in May 2009.

The funeral was Friday, January 5, 2018 from the Jones & Brennan Funeral Home, 430 Main Street, Forest City, with a Mass of Christian Burial in Saint Joseph's Church, Delaware St., Forest City. Interment with military honors, Saint Anthony's Cemetery, Forest City.

To send online condolences, visit the funeral home website.

**No Charge For Obituaries**

*There are no charges for obituaries placed in The Forest City News. We do reserve the right to edit them to fit our standards and request that only obituaries for people with local connections be submitted. Our deadline is Monday at 9 a.m. You may submit obituaries to [fcnews@nep.net](mailto:fcnews@nep.net) or mail them to 636 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421. Inquiries about In Memoriam advertisements may be made by calling 570-785-3800*



**John Christian Stephens**  
Pleasant Mount

John Christian Stephens, 81, of Pleasant Mount, died Sunday, December 31, 2017 at the Wayne Memorial Hospital, Honesdale after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Joanne Maslar Stephens.

Born in Thompson, son of the late Clayton and Dorothy Marshall Stephens, he attended Preston High School. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1959 as an Aircraft Mechanic. He was a diesel mechanic from 1971 to 1983. He retired from Clarks Summit State Hospital as a PSA in 1996. He was an active member of the Pleasant Mount Fire Company, and a member of the American Legion Post #964, Pleasant Mount. He enjoyed bowling, hunting, fishing, and square dancing. He was a loving son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Also surviving are two daughters: Jean, Pleasant Mount; Joyce and her partner Derek, Harrisburg; a son: John and his wife Georgia, Union Dale; three granddaughters: Amanda, Sarah, and Kayla; two sisters: Judy Stimik, Binghamton, NY; and Alice Sampson and her husband Tom, Pleasant Mount; and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by a brother: Clayton.

The funeral was Thursday, January 4, 2018 with services in the Jones & Brennan Funeral Home, 430 Main Street, Forest City. Interment, Saint John's Cemetery, Forest City.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's name to Pleasant Mount Emergency Services, 161 Great Bend Turnpike, Pleasant Mount, PA 18453.

To send online condolences, visit the funeral home's website.



**Joan Magalski**  
Forest City

Joan Magalski, 86, of Forest City, died Thursday, December 28, 2017 at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, Rahway, NJ. She was the widow of Francis "Hot Dog" Magalski, who died June 28, 2008.

Born in Vandling, daughter of the late Nicholas and Mary Murnock Warhola, she was a member of Ascension Parish, Forest City. She was a graduate of Vandling High School. Prior to retirement, she was employed as a school teacher in New Jersey, and was employed as a secretary for the Simone Brothers Oil Company, Linden, NJ.

Surviving are a son: Robert Magalski, Carteret, NJ; two grandchildren: Robert Magalski and fiancée Megan Burak; and Jennifer DeFelicia and husband Jonathan; four great grandchildren: Nicholas and Matthew Magalski and Natalie and Robert DeFelicia; two brothers: Thomas Warhola, Toms River, NJ; and Robert Warhola, Richmondale; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a son: Kevin Magalski.

The funeral was Wednesday, January 3, 2018 from the Jones & Brennan Funeral Home, 430 Main Street, Forest City with a Mass of Christian Burial in Saint Joseph's Church, Delaware St., Forest City. Interment, Saint Agnes Cemetery, Forest City.

To send online condolences, visit the funeral home's website.



**Raymond "Ray" W. Ledward**  
Union Dale

Raymond 'Ray' W. Ledward, Jr., 74, of Union Dale and formerly of West Caldwell, New Jersey died Saturday, December 30, 2017 at home. Survived by his wife of 46 years, Donna Dorer Ledward. He was a loving husband and proud father and grandfather that was adored by all and will be deeply missed.

Born in Paterson, NJ, he was the son of the late Raymond W. and Elizabeth Kuzmack Ledward, Sr. He was a graduate of James Caldwell High School Class of 1961.

Raymond's higher education started at the Teterboro School of Aeronautics and continued training in the United States Air Force. After his service, he continued his education achieving an Associate in Science Degree from the County College of Morris, Bachelor of Science in Public Safety and a Triple Masters of Arts in Criminal Research and Planning, Community Affairs, and Urban Education all from William Paterson College.

He served in the United States Air Force enlisting in 1964 training in the aircraft mechanic field. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War, where he earned several medals, including the Presidential Unit Citation and Presidential Personal Citation each with two oak leaf clusters, Good Conduct and Vietnamese Medal and a Bronze Star. He served in the Army National Guard at the Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey from 1989 to 1991.

Raymond retired in rank of Sergeant in 1994 after 26 years with the Fairfield Police Department, Fairfield, NJ. During his employment he served as patrolman, detective and greatly enjoyed being the firearms instructor for the Department for over 14 years which was given the name Fort Ledward. He received two citations for valor in the line of duty in addition to numerous awards. He was known to speak his mind and enjoyed serving alongside his fellow officers. He served as Court Security Officer at the Federal Courthouse in Scranton, until his retirement.

He was a member of the Flying Tigers and Eagle Scout. He enjoyed his involvement with Boy Scout Troup 9 in West Caldwell, New Jersey and Troup 407 in Pleasant Mount, PA with his sons until they earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He enjoyed working on cars and spending time in the garage. He loved laughing with family and creating the memories that we continue to share. He enjoyed hunting, camping and fishing with the kids.

The family would like to thank Dr. Neal Davis and his staff and the staff of the Wilkes-Barre Veterans Administration Hospital for their care of Raymond.

He is also survived by five children, Raymond W. Ledward III and wife Wendy, Mendham, NJ; Susan and husband Myke Halchak, Nanticoke; Alison and husband Randy Pevec, Brown Dale; Tracy and husband Jason Orenich, Harding; William Ledward and girlfriend Valerie, Chesapeake Beach, MD; two grandchildren, Michael Pevec and Chloe Halchak, nieces and nephews. He will be especially missed by his beloved dogs, Abby and Lady.

Funeral services with military honors were at the convenience of the family from the Joseph W. Scotchlas Funeral Home, Inc. 621 Main St., Simpson with Pastor Wayne Wolfe.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

For condolences visit: [www.scotchlasfuneralhome.com](http://www.scotchlasfuneralhome.com)



**Paula "Kaz" Kazmierski**  
Clifford Twp.

Paula "Kaz" Kazmierski, 46, of Clifford Twp., died peacefully at home on Friday, December 29, 2017, surrounded by family and friends.

She was a devoted wife and mother who was loved and adored by her husband, Allan Kazmierski, and her two daughters, Alesha and Jordan.

Paula attended Carbondale Area and Mountain View school districts. She was an active member of her community, appreciated by all who had the privilege of meeting her. Paula loved with all her heart, which was shown daily by her generosity to everyone she met.

The family would like to thank all the doctors and nurses of Delta Medix, Thomas Jefferson Hospital, Allied Services Hospice, with special thanks to Dr. Kumaria and the Greenfield Twp. Fire Company for all of their generosity and support. They also want to thank everyone who donated, supported and attended the benefit held for Paula at the Greenfield Twp. Fire Company in July, with a special thank you to all who volunteered at the benefit.

To honor Paula's wishes, she was cremated and a private family memorial will be held on a future date at the family's convenience.

Arrangements were entrusted to Shifler-Parise Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Clifford.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Zitterman/McHale Golf Tournament, c/o Zack McHale, 424 Depew Ave., Mayfield, PA 18433, or to the Paula Kazmierski Fund, 1767 State Route 247, Clifford Twp., PA 18421

To share condolences and photos with Paula's family, visit her book of everlasting memories at [www.parisefuneralhome.com](http://www.parisefuneralhome.com).

**Charles John Ripple**  
Preston Twp.

Charles John Ripple, 63, of Preston Twp., died Monday evening, January 1, 2018 at home. His wife of 43 years is the former Diane Arthur.

Born February 4, 1954 in Deposit, NY, son of the late Jacob and Gertrude Loven Ripple, Sr. He was a graduate of Hancock High School and a member of the United Methodist Church. Prior to retirement, Charlie was Head Maintenance Supervisor at Forest City Regional High School. He enjoyed woodworking and working on antique engines. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Also surviving are three children, Carmen Phillips and husband James, III, West Wyoming, Clara Spangenberg and husband Stanley, Jr., Starucca, and Calvin Ripple and wife Amanda, West Sunbury; Grandchildren, Caitlyn, James, IV, Evan, Jasmine, Jacob, Emma, Alexis, and Addison; sisters Yvonne Dolph, Hancock, and Joyce Wuorio, Hannover Twp., a brother Bill, and wife Coral, Equinunk; nieces and nephews.

The family would like to add a special thank you to Dr. Yeager and staff for all they have done over the years.

Private funeral services were held at the convenience of the family. Cremation is through the Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home, 513 Main Street, Forest City.

Condolences visit [www.lesjackfuneralhome.com](http://www.lesjackfuneralhome.com).

**SEAN P. MCGRAW, ESQ.**

**Attorney-at-law**

**WILLS & ESTATES**

41 North Main St., Suite 415

Carbondale, PA 18407

Telephone: (570) 282-6908 \* Fax: (570) 282-2912

email: [attyspm@aol.com](mailto:attyspm@aol.com)

**Jones & Brennan Funeral Home**  
430 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421  
(570) 785-3500

John P. Brennan, Supervisor Joseph J. Brennan, F.D.  
John P. Brennan, Jr. F.D.

Established 1901 \* OFF-STREET PARKING AVAILABLE

Edward & Anna Howell

**JENKINS - HOWELL FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

Edward Howell 269 Belmont St. PO Box 76  
Funeral Director, Supervisor Waymart, PA 18472  
570-488-6100

[www.JenkinsHowellFuneralHome.com](http://www.JenkinsHowellFuneralHome.com)