

GARRETT, Clara Payne Garrett

(Abstracted from the Griffin (GA) Daily News, The (GA), Thursday, December 4, 2014 - Clara was related to Elmer) July 10, 1945—Dec. 2, 2014

Clara Garrett, age 69, beloved mom, grandma, sister, aunt, and friend, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014 in Brooks, GA. Clara was born to John Henry Payne and Opal Hightower Payne, July 10, 1945 in Alabama. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Thomas Payne. Clara was a truck driver for 52 years and in all her travels, rarely met a stranger that didn't become a friend. With a patriotic spirit and many stories to tell, she truly loved what she did. Clara was proud to be a Payne and loved her family dearly. She is survived by her only son, Charles "Charlie" Cromer and daughter-in-law Paige of Fort Worth, TX; 7 Grandchildren: Brandon, Brittany, Chase, Colton, Joshua, Nathan, and Madeleine; her siblings, John Payne of Alabama, Jerry (Darcel) Payne of Georgia, David Payne of Georgia, Ann Payne Miller of Alabama, Sarah Payne Denton of Alabama, Martha Payne (Dean) Hewitt of Georgia; 4 great-grandchildren, Brody, Gavin, Caiden, and Adalynn; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews; and hundreds across the country in her truck driver family. Memorial service will be held at the Berean Baptist Church, Griffin, on Jan. 17, 2015.

GORME, Eydie Gorme

(Abstracted from several wire sources)

Eydie Gorme will be buried among great company today at a Los Angeles cemetery. A private ceremony is scheduled at Hillside Memorial Park, the final resting place for many of the biggest names in entertainment. Gorme, 84, died Saturday at Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center in Las Vegas after a brief illness. Edith Gormezano was born Aug. 16, 1928, in the Bronx to immigrant parents. After graduating from high school, she worked as a Spanish interpreter during the day and attended the City College of New York at night. On weekends, she pursued her musical ambitions as a singer. Longtime headliners, Gorme and her husband, Steve Lawrence, teamed up to become "the sweethearts of mid-20th century American pop music," according to the New York Times. They had been full-time Las Vegas residents since 2006, when they moved into the Las Vegas Country Club. Gorme's greatest hit, "Blame It on the Bossa Nova," came in 1963. The couple celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in December. They married Dec. 29, 1957, at the El Rancho Hotel, where Gorme was a popular opening act. They went on to win a Grammy in 1960 as best pop duo and an Emmy in 1979 in the outstanding comedy-variety or music program for "Steve and Eydie Celebrate Irving Berlin." Gorme's 85th birthday would have been Friday. At Hillside, Gorme will be buried among such greats as Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, George Jessel, Cyd Charisse and Jack Benny. The couple's son Michael also is buried there. He died at age 23 of a heart condition in 1986. Besides her husband of 56 years, survivors include a son, David, and a granddaughter.

GRIFFITH, Andy Griffith

(Abstracted from about 20 different stories)

Andy Griffith, died Tuesday July 3, 2012. He was 86. Griffith died about 7 a.m. at home, Dare County, NC Sheriff Doughtie said in a statement. He was interred at Roanoke Island. He will always be best known as Sheriff Andy Taylor in the television show set in a North Carolina town not too different from Griffith's own hometown of Mount Airy, North Carolina. In a 2007 interview, Griffith said "The Andy Griffith Show," which initially aired from 1960 to 1968, was seen somewhere in the world every day. A reunion movie, "Return to Mayberry," was the top-rated TV movie of the 1986. He was inducted into the Academy of Television Arts Hall of Fame in 1992 and in 2005, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the country's highest civilian honors. Griffith was born June 1, 1926 in Mount Airy and as a child sang and played slide trombone. He studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He eventually got a job teaching high school music in Goldsboro. He and his first wife, Barbara Edwards, had two children, Sam, who died in 1996, and Dixie. His second wife was Solica Cassuto. Both marriages ended in divorce. He married his third wife, Cindi Knight Griffith, in 1983.

GROSS, Sam Gross

(Abstracted from St. Petersburg Times October 7, 2004)

Developer Sam Gross, 78, a survivor of two Nazi concentration camps, died at his Bayshore Boulevard home Tuesday afternoon of complications resulting from a stroke. Until a decade or so ago, Mr. Gross rarely spoke of the horrors inflicted on him and millions of others in German concentration camps. "I asked him to share his experiences," said Rabbi Richard Birnholz of Congregation Schaarai Zedek. "He told me he had never done that - not even with his wife or children - but that he would be willing to try. From that point on, he never said no. He stirred audiences literally beyond words." As difficult as it was to relive the memories, Mr. Gross told a Times reporter, "Once we (survivors) are all gone, a lot of people will come out and say it never happened." That was his motivation to talk to hundreds of students and community groups, a few thousand people in all. "It wasn't just about what happened to him. He really tried to make the message about tolerance of all people," said his daughter Rochelle Gross. In 1944, when he was 18, German soldiers rounded up the residents of his village, Palanok, Czechoslovakia, including his mother, father, sister and five brothers. His father died the day he arrived at Auschwitz; his mother, three months later. In January 1945, he and many other Jews were shipped in cattle cars to Buchenwald, another death camp. There, he and a brother hid beneath a pile of corpses. At night, they slept under a building. Mr. Gross described it as "like hell." After

being liberated by American troops, Mr. Gross was recruited to Palestine to fight with the Stern Gang, a militant underground group, before Israel was formed in 1948. He later served in the Israeli Navy, earning a commendation for jumping overboard to rescue a Palestinian man from drowning. In 1956, with 17 cents in his pocket, he came to the United States. His siblings had all survived the Holocaust. He and two brothers started Albee Homes, a construction company specializing in precut homes, in Youngstown, OH, that eventually had offices in 16 states. By the late 1960s, he was supplying modular housing to six United States Air Force bases. He moved to Tampa in 1982 to develop residential and commercial projects. In recent years, he and his wife formed Roal Group to rehabilitate historic properties. Rabbi Birnholz recalled the time Mr. Gross took note of hot, tired students washing cars in the temple parking lot for a youth group fundraiser. When they finished his car, he drove off, quickly returning with ice cream for everyone. "He said he remembered dreaming about ice cream when he was in the camps," said Birnholz. Mr. Gross served on numerous boards, including United Way, Hillsborough Tomorrow and the Hillsborough Association of Retarded Citizens. He was a devoted member of his synagogue, Schaarai Zedek, and the boards of Tampa Jewish Family Services, Jewish Federation and the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, where he was a founding member. Gov. Jeb Bush presented him a Points of Light Award in 2001. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Alyce; brothers Philip of Canada and Bernard and Alex of Miami; a sister, Rosalyn Haber of Miami; daughter Rochelle Gross; sons Hugh (Robyn), of Tampa, and Michael (Jenny Glantz), of Louisville, KY, and three grandchildren. The funeral will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Congregation Schaarai Zedek, 3303 W Swann Ave., Tampa. Interment will follow. Contributions may be made to the Florida Holocaust Museum.

GUINDON, Ashley Marie Guindon

(Abstracted from the Agawam Funeral Home website)

Police Officer Ashley Marie Guindon, age 28, of Woodbridge, VA, formerly of Merrimack, NH, was killed in the line of duty on Saturday, February 27, 2016. Adored daughter of Sharon Nowak Guindon and the late David Guindon. Cherished granddaughter of her paternal grandparents; Dorothy Guindon and the late C. Edward Guindon; as well as her maternal grandparents, the late Walter and Stella Nowak, Sr. Beloved niece of Deborah (Richard) B'Shara, Christine (late Paul) Munzert, Mark (Stephanie) Guindon, Tom (Joanna) Guindon, and Walter (Michele) Nowak. Her uncle Peter Guindon predeceased her in 2007. Loving goddaughter and niece of Maryanne and David Scibelli. Also survived by her many nieces, nephews, cousins, and other extended family. Ashley began her career May 27, 2012 with the Prince William County, VA Police Department as an intern with the Special Victims Unit and graduated with honors from the Police Academy in June of 2015. After taking a short leave of absence, Ashley returned to the PW Police Department and was sworn in February 26, 2016. As a young girl, Ashley was an avid dancer and ultimately became a beloved cheerleader in high school. Serving the community was a passion early in Ashley's life, as she participated in the Jr. ROTC program at Merrimack High School, where she graduated in 2005. Ashley went onto Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the world's largest fully accredited academy specializing in aviation and aerospace. After her graduation from Embry-Riddle in 2011, Ashley and her mom had an experience of a life time as they traveled from Florida to Virginia. It became a memorable mother-daughter bonding road trip. Ashley fulfilled a dream as she was able to pilot a helicopter during her six-year duty with the Marine Corps Reserves. Although flying was her ultimate highlight, Ashley was involved in other aeronautical endeavors during her time as a reservist. During this time of her life, Ashley also assisted with the Mortuary Affairs Office; her warmth and compassion toward others made her a stand-out to those around her. Ashley's life outside of her career as an officer was filled with a variety of loves, such as those for birds and animals or "God's Creatures" as she would call them. She especially had a fondness for her furry friend: "Scout," the family Pug. Ashley's mom, Sharon, reports that Ashley would call her all the time to check in on Scout, who happens to still be "going strong" at 13 years old. In her spare time, Ashley was a nanny for the Carrera family which ultimately developed into a strong, loving relationship with the children and parents. No longer was Ashley just the "Nanny", she was a part of their family. Ashley was always there for her community, volunteering with the Suicide Prevention Program, and serving at the local Soup Kitchen on Thanksgiving. Where ever a helping hand was needed, Ashley was there. Lastly, although the pictures circulated across the country show Ashley in Police Class A uniform, according to her family and friends, she was a definitive fashionista! Her personality and love of fashion was an integral part of Ashley's personality. The public is asked to meet for the Mass of Christian Burial, which will be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 395 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 01104 on Monday March 7, 2016. Interment with Police Honors will follow at the Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Cemetery, 420 Kings Highway, West Springfield, MA. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to Prince William County Police Department's Benevolent Fund or the Virginia Chapter of COPS. The family has entrusted Agawam Funeral Home, 184 Main St, Agawam, MA 01001 with the arrangements.