

**GAINES, Tomie L. Gaines**

(Abstracted from <http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/31262209/us-armys-last-buffalo-soldier-to-be-laid-to-rest-friday>)  
GREENVILLE, SC - The last Buffalo Soldier from South Carolina to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II was laid to rest Friday in Anderson, according to a news release. Tomie L. Gaines, age 93, died Sunday at McCall Hospice House. Gaines served from March 1943 to December 1945 with the 27th Cavalry, an all-black unit. Funeral services were held at the Watkins, Garrett & Woods Mortuary. Gaines will be buried at M. J. Dolly Cooper Veterans Cemetery in Anderson. Gaines is survived by Clara, his wife of 51 years, and other family members who have lived in the Nicholstown community of Greenville for more than 50 years.

**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.

**GAYETTE, Caine M. Goyette**

(Abstracted from <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesunion-albany/obituary.aspx?n=caine-m-goyette&pid=186231966&fhid=27339>)

Caine M. Goyette died July 10, 2017, while serving our country as a Major in the United States Marine Corps. Caine was born on May 7, 1976, in Troy. He graduated from Waterford-Halfmoon in 1994, and enlisted in the Marine Corps. Reserves, serving at Stewart Air National Guard Base as a calibration technician reaching the rank of Sergeant. He earned a degree in electrical and computer systems engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and commissioned as an active duty officer in 2002. Caine completed flight training at Whiting Field, Corpus Christi, and Cherry Point, ultimately flying the KC-130. His duty stations included Futenma, Okinawa, Syracuse (recruiting), Stewart Air National Guard Base (two) and Bahrain. He flew missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, a Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force in Africa, and a number of humanitarian missions. During his Bahrain tour, Caine served as Senior Air Watch Officer for the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade supporting Operation Inherent Resolve in addition to operations across the Central Command area of responsibility. Most recently, he was serving as operations officer at VMGR-452. Caine was amazingly passionate in everything he did. He was an eternal optimist and mastered any skill he set out to learn, even if it did take him twice as long as he estimated. He would talk to anyone who would listen about honey bees and planned to add to his hives and sell honey in his retirement. Caine enjoyed gourmet food (both preparing and eating) and made his own jams, breads and sweets. It was important to Caine to live as green as possible and to support local when he could. He loved carpentry and wood working; renovating the old farm house his family lives in and designing the addition that he began and planned to finish himself. He was a successful hunter and gardener and was proud he could live off the land, at least in part. Above all else, he loved his family and was absolutely devoted to his wife and his daughters. Anyone who had the pleasure of Caine's friendship will forever remember his easy-going personality, his booming laugh, and his contagious smile. Caine is survived by his wife, Andrea; daughters, Alexandria and Annalise; parents, Cliff and Janice (Agars) Goyette; sister, Alea Goyette; parents-in-law, Todd and Valerie (Ormsbee) Davis; brother and sister-in-law, Stephen and Renee (Davis) Reh and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Caine's family will be forever thankful to their community, friends, family and military family for their thoughts, prayers and generous gifts during this difficult time. Services have been conducted privately.

**GEER, Derek Geer**

(Abstracted from the Callahan-Edfast Mortuary website)

Deputy Derek Geer, age 40, was mortally wounded in the line of duty on Monday, February 8, 2016. A 15 year Mesa County Deputy Sheriff veteran, Derek loved law enforcement and our community. Derek was perfectly suited to law enforcement, always ready to help both his community and his brothers and sisters in law enforcement, and always relating to people in a down-to-earth, sincere way. Derek was born to David Foster Geer, Jr and Sandra Lorraine Geer nee Messing on November 15, 1975 in Okinawa, Japan while his father was stationed at Kadena Air Force Base. They were stationed in Phoenix for the next 10 years, after which they transferred to Soesterberg, Netherlands. Derek loved the four years they spent in the Netherlands,

learning the language and making lifelong friends. The family finished David's last year of service at Hill Air Force Base in Utah. They eventually found their way back to their hometown of Grand Junction. Derek graduated from Central High School in 1994. He soon enlisted in the Navy and was stationed at Lemoore Naval Air Station. Derek met his wife and best friend, Kate, during the last few months of his service. He was honorably discharged from active duty in October of 1999 and they moved to Grand Junction and married on November 8, 1999. After being married for a year, Derek discovered his passion was to go into law enforcement. Derek attended the Delta-Montrose Technical College where he graduated from the police academy program in April 2001. He was hired at the Mesa County Sheriff's Office soon after, where he spent his entire 15 year career. Derek and Kate were blessed with their children, Ian and Macey. They were the joy of his life and he was the most devoted of fathers. He lived for his time off with his family and they just enjoyed hanging out together. The family also enjoyed hunting and fishing together. Derek and Kate loved to travel and enjoyed finding great dim sum, sushi and other unique restaurants. Derek was among the most honorable of men and a wonderful, doting and loving husband. He was known for his great smile and sense of humor. You could hear his laugh from across a building. He loved teasing all his friends' kids and they loved him for it. He was always trying to find ways to help out the local schools or just walk through and visit with the students. Derek is survived by his wife, Kate, and their two children, Ian (13) and Macey (11). He is survived by his parents, David and Sandra Geer. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces. The family would like to thank the community for the overwhelming outpouring of love. Geer up. Love wins. Services will be held at Canyonview Vineyard Church on Monday, February 15, 2016. A private interment will follow at the Orchard Mesa Veterans Cemetery. If you would like to help support the Geer family, a local account has been set up at Alpine Bank FBO Derek Geer Memorial Fund or through Go Fund Me [www.gofundme.com/3gnysfbg](http://www.gofundme.com/3gnysfbg)

#### **GILBERT, June V. Cole Gilbert**

June V. Cole Gilbert was born 05/08/1926, died 01/04/2002. Interred in Section 13, Site 759 in the Sarasota National Cemetery. Wife of Jack Pittard Gilbert.

#### **GLASSER, David Van Glasser**

(Abstracted from internet sources)

PHOENIX, AZ — A Phoenix police officer is being laid to rest after remembered at a funeral attended by hundreds of mourners. The coffin carrying Officer David Glasser arrived at a north Phoenix cemetery Thursday afternoon following a procession from a Peoria church. Bystanders lined streets and even a freeway overpass to watch the procession and show messages of support for police. Glasser was remembered earlier in the day as a hero with compassion for others. He died May 19, a day after being shot and wounded while responding to a burglary call. Mourners gathered inside a Peoria church Thursday. Glasser will be buried later today a cemetery in north Phoenix. He was shot while responding to a Laveen man's call about his son stealing his guns. Police shot and killed the 19-year-old suspect. Burial at Phoenix Memorial Park and Cemetery in north Phoenix will follow a service at Christ's Church of the Valley. Glasser and his partner had parked behind a car without knowing 19-year-old Israel Santos-Banos was inside. Police say Santos-Banos got out and opened fire. Officers returned fire, killing him.

#### **GLEASON, James Gleason**

(Abstracted from the 2 May 2016 Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA — In the summer of 1925, a woman put her 2-week old son in a shoebox and dropped him off with a neighbor because she couldn't take care of him. James Gleason has been born prematurely, said his daughter, Barbara Korchak. "He wasn't expected to live," Korchak said. But he did, and in summer 1943, he turned 18 during a bloody World War II battle on the island of New Georgia, where he was saving lives as a Navy combat corpsman assigned to a secret unit called the Marine Raiders. Gleason earned the nickname "Doc" during his time with the Raiders. The first U.S. special operations forces, the Raiders were about 8,000 strong, hopping from island to island in the South Pacific, giving the vaunted forces of the Japanese empire their first taste of defeat on the ground. Gleason, who moved to Clearwater in 1974, was believed to be the youngest of the Raiders, having joined them when he was 17. The things Gleason saw caused him lasting mental anguish. And it would be decades before his family knew the extent of what he experienced, after he wrote his account of the Raiders, "Real Blood! Real Guts!" His legacy was so enduring that Marine Gen. Robert Neller invited Gleason to his change of command ceremony when he took over as commandant of the corps last year. As Gleason's life drew to a close, Neller and Mark Clark, a retired major general who ran Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, were among many who stopped to pay their respects. On Friday, Gleason died. He was 90. Lyman and Minnie Gleason were in their 40s when the baby arrived at their doorstep in a shoebox, Korchak said. James Gleason grew up near Youngstown, Ohio, and on his 17th birthday enlisted in the Navy. "Everybody was real patriotic at that particular time," Gleason said in an interview with the Tribune two years ago at his home in Tampa. On Aug. 3, 1942, he was called up, and after boot camp, transferred to the Marines, who didn't have their own medics or chaplains. He volunteered for a newly formed group called the Marine Raiders. There were four Marine Raider battalions and two Raider regiments that saw action in the Pacific between 1942 and 1944 and were formed to conduct amphibious raids and guerrilla operations behind enemy lines. The Raiders went on to participate in campaigns across the Pacific Ocean and earned more than 700 decorations,

including seven Medals of Honor, before being disbanded. Gleason had no idea what he was getting into when he volunteered to join the Raiders. "I didn't even know what the heck the Raiders were," he said. "I volunteered because I wanted a change." He got it. And then some. The battles of the Solomon Island chain were hell on Earth. In addition to a determined enemy, the Raiders had to contend with swarms of flies and mosquitoes, constant dampness, swamps, jungles and sharp coral that cut skin and caused infections. Though they wreaked havoc on the enemy, the Raiders paid a heavy price. By the time of the attack on Bairoko Harbor, on New Georgia Islands, the Raiders were so decimated they were able to muster up less than one full battalion of 900 to 950 men from the two full battalions they started with, Gleason said. The battle to take the harbor began at 10 a.m., July 20, 1943, according to Gleason's book, and continued all day. "With nothing but guts and small infantry weapons, about 800 Raiders attacked the enemy force, who were well emplaced in a series of four parallel ridges with interlocking bunkers and cleverly concealed cross fire machine gun fire lanes," Gleason wrote. It also marked the first time the Navajo Code Talkers were used, Gleason wrote. The enemy was driven back, but at a heavy cost, with more than 250 men killed or wounded and half the remaining men needed to take care of the survivors. Gleason was in the thick of it all, working with doctors and chaplains to save the wounded. "We were pinned down under heavy fire at nightfall," Gleason wrote. "At midnight, the Japanese staged one of their celebrated suicide bayonet charges, screaming like madmen." On July 23, the day Gleason turned 18, the Marines were ordered to retreat down a ridge even though he and others thought they were about to defeat the enemy. "Now at age 18, the order to withdraw when we were 300 yards of victory at Bairoko was a bitter pill for everyone to swallow!" he wrote. "We Raiders contend that we would have taken Bairoko Harbor had we received the air and naval support we asked for." Gleason would be evacuated to Guadalcanal, but said he had few memories of what happened on his birthday. Out of about 900 men, "I was one of about 120 or 130 to come down off the hill, with all the wounded and sick," Gleason said in the interview. He was sent to a hospital, where he was treated for gastritis and diarrhea, and it was there that he saved up pain medications and took them all at once. He survived, but long before the medical community understood or even identified post-traumatic stress disorder, Gleason was diagnosed with "hysteria" as a result of the horror he experienced. He said he struggled the rest of his life with guilt. "I went 40 years, thinking I had been a coward, that I let my guys down," Gleason said in an interview. After getting out of the hospital, Gleason returned to duty, serving aboard several ships, and left the service, only to return during the Korean War, where he "continued to help his Marines," according to Mark Van Trees, who runs Support the Troops, an organization providing toiletries, snacks and other items to deployed troops. When he got out of uniform for good, Gleason had an eclectic life. He was a director of resort development for three firms, owned a bookstore in Virginia, and was a teacher at the College of William and Mary. He also worked as a health inspector for Trumbull County, Ohio. He was embraced by the Marine Raider community. "His love for his fellow Raiders is manifested in his active role at every level with the Raiders Association," Van Trees wrote in an obituary. In 1967, Gleason married the former Nancy Myers, a widow with three daughters who turns 85 Tuesday. He adopted them all, said Barbara Korchak, 60, the middle sister between Marsha Bartholomew, 63, and Connie Robinson, 57. The family moved to Clearwater and later to Tampa in the mid-1980s, and Gleason spent his last days in a Tampa assisted living facility. "He didn't feel worthy of acknowledgement or the label or image of a Marine," Korchak said. "We didn't find out until later what he had been through. But we didn't care. We loved him." Gleason may not have felt worthy of praise, but it was readily offered. "I met Doc Gleason and he is made of the right stuff — a true Fleet Marine," said James Mattis, a retired Marine general and former commander of U.S. Central Command. "Doc," who represented all the character and Gung-Ho that have made our Navy Corpsmen brothers so highly respected in the macho Marine Corps. Doc was a great sailor, fine friend and a true role model for us all. We will miss him terribly." Gleason "was a true brother, friend and Raider to all who knew him," Mark Clark wrote in an email to the Tribune. "His eyes would always get a spark in them when he would talk about the Raiders. That was a touchstone in life for him." One of Gleason's happiest moments, Clark said, seemed to be the announcement that Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, or MARSOC would be adapting the Marine Raider name. "He broke down at the announcement with his dream coming true." A funeral service for Gleason will be May 5, at Oakwood Community Church, 11209 Casey Road in Tampa. He will be buried later at Arlington National Cemetery, Korchak said.

#### **GLOYER, Ryan Allen Gloyer**

(Abstracted from <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/triblive-pittsburgh-tribune-review/obituary.aspx?pid=182808240>)  
Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Allen Gloyer, age 34, of Zelienople, died courageously in battle in Kunduz, Afghanistan Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016, in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel. Born April 6, 1982, in Torrance, CA, a beloved son of Lurene W. Gloyer, of Fountain, CO, and Richard A. Gloyer (Michelle Rossi), of Seven Fields. Ryan is survived by two brothers, Matthew R. (Michelle) Harris Gloyer of Orange, CA, and Justin W. (Marisa) Gloyer of Santee, CA. He was the stepbrother of Michael (Anne) LaButis of Califon, NJ, and Rebecca LaButis of Pittsburgh. Ryan and his family moved to the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh in 1989 when Ryan was six-years-old. At an early age, Ryan demonstrated a vivid imagination and would frequently dress up and pretend to be a frontiersman, cowboy, American Indian chief or soldier. Around the age of 10, Ryan started wearing camouflage shirts and pants. Ryan's mom gave him a hat with "special forces" printed on the front of the hat. Ryan wore that hat almost every day until middle school, when the letters started to chip off. Ryan kept that hat and today it still hangs in his closet. His interest in the military increased every time he visited "Pop" (Ryan's grandfather), who was a World War II veteran and was wounded during the June 1944 invasion of Normandy. Ryan was intrigued with his grandfather's war souvenirs and fascinated by passages

from his war diaries. In high school, Ryan was a good student and athlete, lettering three years in soccer and track. He participated in three school musicals as a dancer. He sang in the choir and was selected for District Chorus. For his senior project, Ryan taught younger students how to break dance. Throughout his high school days, Ryan developed a charismatic, gregarious, animated and fun-loving personality. He was able to make friends across various social groups by possessing a knack for making them laugh with his singing, dancing, impersonations and antics. Ryan graduated from Seneca Valley High School in May 2000. He continued his education at Thiel College, Greenville, where he graduated with magna cum laude honors and received degrees in psychology and early education. He obtained his Pennsylvania teaching certificate after completing his student teaching at a Greenville elementary school. While at Thiel, Ryan continued to participate in musicals, theater, various clubs and in his senior year, was selected to be a resident assistant. His outside reading interests included American history, military history, survivor and outdoorsman magazines and fantasy series books like Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. He loved all kinds of music, including classical, 40s big band, swing, oldies, contemporary and hip-hop. He loved movies and particularly enjoyed all of the Disney animated films. On Dec. 28, 2004, Ryan enlisted in the Army with orders that would send him to Airborne Jump Qualification School and Special Forces Selection course after graduation from boot camp. He decided on the non-commission officer route rather than OCS, because he wanted to experience all facets of the life of a soldier and believed that the sergeants did the "heavy lifting" and were always in the forefront of the action. From day one of his military career, Ryan had his sights set on becoming a part of an elite unit and had a goal and steadfast determination to be a Green Beret. He wanted to be one of the "best of the best". Ryan possessed unbelievable self-discipline to keep himself in top physical condition throughout his 12-year military career. Although he incurred a couple of setbacks in reaching his goal of being a Green Beret, Ryan did not view them as failures. Instead he viewed them as learning opportunities to improve himself and they strengthened his resolve to achieve his dream. Ryan embraced the concept that anyone can achieve their dream job if they have a strong work ethic to go above and beyond what is required and they possess the self-discipline, courage and fortitude to overcome obstacles and disappointments as well as a never-give-up attitude. In this regard, Ryan was a role model to all in how to achieve what you want in life. Along Ryan's journey to becoming a Green Beret, he went to Ranger School and earned his Ranger Tab in April 2006. He also served with the 82nd Airborne and completed two tours of duty in Afghanistan in 2007 and 2009. During his first 15-month deployment to Afghanistan, Ryan made valorous achievements in support of Operation Enduring Freedom which earned him the Bronze Star Medal with "V" (Valor) device and the Meritorious Service Award. In his second 12-month tour of duty to Afghanistan in 2009, he received the Army Commendation Medal under Task Force Fury. In April 2010, Ryan was selected to be inducted into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club for his dedicated leadership, exemplary professionalism and high standards of excellence. In 2013, Ryan tried a 3rd time to complete the Special Forces Selection Course. This time he completed the course and was accepted into the Special Forces 18-month Special Forces Training Program. After 18 months of intensive training and Russian language instruction, Ryan graduated and finally donned his green beret in September 2014, almost 10 years from his enlistment date. It was the proudest moment of his military career. Upon graduation, Ryan attended the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School to complete Free Fall training. Ryan was then assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group, 2nd Battalion, located at Fort Carson, CO. In May 2015, Ryan deployed to Republic of Congo; in June 2016, he deployed to Afghanistan for the 3rd time and was scheduled to return home at the end of November. Ryan was awarded a Purple Heart and a 2nd Bronze Star for his heroism during the battle that took his life. Although Ryan's life was short, he lived life to the fullest. He was an inspiration to all who knew him from the 4th grade students he taught in Greenville to the soldiers who trained under his leadership. Ryan led by example and set the standard for what a soldier should be. He dedicated himself to be the best he could possibly be in all he did and encouraged and inspired others to continuously to improve themselves. Ryan also taught us how to enjoy life by entertaining us with his animated personality, stories, historical facts and antics. He was always the life of every party. He truly cared about the men he mentored and trained. He made it his personal duty to not only insure that they were combat ready, but also that they were confident within themselves to live a happy life. He loved his "Brothers", and they in turn loved him back. Ryan truly was one of the "Best of the Best". Ryan's awards and medals include: the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Bronze Star with "V" (Valor), two Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tab and Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Medallion. Murphy Funeral Home, 4510 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203 is entrusted with the arrangements. Funeral services will be Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016, at Fort Myer Memorial Chapel, 101 McNair Road, Fort Myer, VA 22211. Burial with full military honors will follow services in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Green Beret Foundation, 14402 Blanco Road, Suite 101, San Antonio, TX 78216.

#### **GODWIN, Vera Corinne Day Godwin**

(Abstracted from <https://www.ancientfaces.com/person/vera-c-godwin/61204698>)

Vera Corinne Day Godwin was born on November 14, 1929. She died at Sarasota, Sarasota County, FL on March 10, 1994 at 64 years old. Interred in Section 8, Site 47 of the Sarasota National Cemetery. Wife of Byron Rowan Godwin.

#### **GOEKE, Christopher Goeke**

(Abstracted from <http://livinglegendteam.blogspot.com/2010/07/army-1st-lt-christopher-s-goeke.html>)

Army 1st Lt. Christopher S. Goeke, age 23, of Apple Valley, MN was assigned to 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; killed in action July 13, 2010 in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire. As word spread quickly throughout Apple Valley concerning the loss of a local soldier in Afghanistan, the sparse summer staff inside the local high school felt the sudden shock and sorrow. 1st Lieutenant Christopher S. Goeke was a 2004 Apple Valley High School graduate. School administrator Joe Wycoff remembers him well, saying, "This one really hit close to home." Wycoff counseled Goeke when the senior independently entered an American Legion oratorical contest on the meaning of patriotism. Goeke's presentation was so inspiring that he placed third, despite not being enrolled in the speech class. Friday there was a military tribute inside the school to those who, like Goeke, have walked its halls as students and later wore U.S. military uniforms. While the 1st Lieutenant's photograph is absent from the display, his name resonates loudly six years later. "You could tell in 2004 when he graduated that year that this was a kid who exhibited a type of not only excellence in the classroom, but also a form of quiet civility that people were really drawn to," added Wycoff. After Goeke graduated high school he immediately entered the U.S. Army Academy at West Point. In 2008, Goeke finished 6th in his class and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, NC. According to friends he married his wife, Kelsey, just 18 months ago. Goeke then was assigned to Afghanistan as a member of the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne. According to the military, he was killed Tuesday while responding to an attack on an Afghanistan National Army facility in Kandahar City. Peter Buesgens first had Goeke as a student in the sixth grade. "When I got the call two nights ago, the first thing that came to mind was, 'We lost a great one,'" he said. Buesgens says he remembers Goeke as a young man who was constantly challenging himself with his academics, arts and athletics. Goeke's long-time teacher added that it was such a pleasure "to watch him grow as a kid who knew from a young age that he really wanted to be a part of something bigger." That "something bigger" became a noble career and one Goeke delivered with unbridled patriotism. "We're a little less great as a nation without Chris in it," said Buesgens. "He passionately participated in mission work, Sunday school teaching, bible study, jazz band, mock trial, Team Ramrod frisbee and football intramurals. He was a beloved leader among his peers and always brought smiles, laughter and wisdom beyond his years," his family said in a statement. Goeke completed Airborne School, Infantry Officer Basic Course and the Ranger Course at Fort Benning, GA. He was assigned to Fort Bragg, where he joined Company C, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment on May 18, 2009. In September 2009, Goeke deployed with the unit to Afghanistan. "Chris Goeke was one of the finest officers I have had the honor of leading in 20 years of service. His bravery in combat, commitment to his paratroopers, out-of-the-box problem solving and love for his wife and his profession were unparalleled," said Lt. Col. David Oclander, battalion commander of 1-508 PIR. "Chris was respected by his men as a leader and a person. Chris left a legacy with the battalion and on the lives of the men he led. Chris died a hero." Goeke's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachute Badge and Ranger Tab. Goeke is survived by his wife Kelsey, his father Randal Goeke and his mother Pamela Shultz.

#### **GOLIN, Mihail Golin**

(Abstracted from <https://thefallen.militarytimes.com/army-sgt-1st-class-mihail-golin/6568730>)

Army Sgt. 1st Class Mihail Golin, age 34, of Fort Lee, New Jersey, died Jan. 1, 2018 while serving during Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, after being engaged by enemy small arms fire while on a dismounted patrol. Golin was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Carson, Colorado. Golin, who emigrated from Latvia in 2004, enlisted in the Army in early 2005. He served as an infantryman with the 25th Infantry Division in Alaska before graduating from the Special Forces Qualification Course in 2014. He had previously deployed to Iraq and twice to Afghanistan, according to a release from U.S. Army Special Operations Command. His awards include two Purple Hearts, three Army Commendation Medals and three Army Achievement Medals.

#### **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.

### **GRIFFITH, Andy Griffith**

(Abstracted from internet sources)

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) - Andy Griffith, who made homespun Southern wisdom his trademark as the wise sheriff in "The Andy Griffith Show" and the rumpus defense lawyer in "Matlock," died Tuesday, July 3, 2012. He was 86. Griffith died at his coastal home, Dare County Sheriff Doug Doughtie said in a statement. "Mr. Griffith passed away this morning at his home peacefully and has been laid to rest on his beloved Roanoke Island," Doughtie told The Associated Press, reading from a family statement. The family will release further information, the sheriff said. He had suffered a heart attack and underwent quadruple bypass surgery in 2000. Griffith's career spanned more than a half-century on stage, film and television, but he would 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, NC. Griffith set the show in the fictional town of Mayberry, NC, where Sheriff Taylor was the dutiful nephew who ate pickles that tasted like kerosene because they were made by his loving Aunt Bee, played by the late Frances Bavier. He was a widowed father who offered gentle guidance to son Opie, played by Ron Howard. Griffith's "pursuit of excellence and the joy he took in creating served generations and shaped my life," Howard tweeted. "I'm forever grateful." Don Knotts was the goofy Deputy Barney Fife, while Jim Nabors joined the show as Gomer Pyle, the unworldly, lovable gas pumper. On "Matlock," which aired from 1986 through 1995, Griffith played a cagey Harvard-educated defense attorney who was Southern-bred and -mannered with a practice in Atlanta. In his rumpus seersucker suit in a steamy courtroom (air conditioning would have spoiled the mood), Matlock could toy with a witness and tease out a confession like a folksy Perry Mason. The character - law-abiding, fatherly and lovable - was much like Sheriff Andy Taylor with silver hair and a shingle. In a 2007 interview with The Associated Press, 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 1985-86 season. "The Andy Griffith Show" was a loving portrait of the town where few grew up but many wished they did - a place where all foibles are forgiven and friendships are forever. Villains came through town and moved on, usually changed by their stay in Mayberry. That was all a credit to Griffith, said Craig Fincannon, who met Griffith in 1974. "I see so many TV shows about the South where the creative powers behind it have no life experience in the South," Fincannon said. "What made 'The Andy Griffith Show' work was Andy Griffith himself - the fact that he was of this dirt and had such deep respect for the people and places of his childhood. A character might be broadly eccentric, but the character had an ethical and moral base that allowed us to laugh with them and not at them. And Andy Griffith's the reason for that." Richard O. Linke, producer of the "The Andy Griffith Show," said the show was "all Andy Griffith." "We knew we had something. We knew there were other areas other than New York, Chicago and L.A. We knew that the vast land of America, that this is what they would like," Linke said. "I used to say: If he's a hillbilly, he's the hippest hillbilly I ever met." Griffith's career included stints on Broadway, notably "No Time for Sergeants"; movies such as Elia Kazan's "A Face in the Crowd"; and records. 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. "The Andy Griffith Show" was one of only three series in TV history to bow out at the top of the ratings. (The others were "I Love Lucy" and "Seinfeld.") Griffith said he decided to end it "because I thought it was slipping, and I didn't want it to go down further." When asked in 2007 to name his favorite episodes, the ones atop Griffith's list were the shows that emphasized Knotts' character. Griffith and Knotts had become friends while performing in "No Time for Sergeants," and remained so until Knotts' death in 2006 at 81. Knotts' widow, Francey Yarborough Knotts, said in a statement Griffith was in good spirits when she spoke with him June 1, his birthday. "Don and I loved Andy very much," she said. "Andy and Don had a great friendship and a great creative partnership. Throughout their lives, they continued to have fun together and discuss the art of comedy and acting." "The second episode that we shot, I knew Don should be funny and I should play straight for him,"

Griffith said. "That opened up the whole series because I could play straight for everybody else. And I didn't have to be funny. I just let them be funny." Letting others get the laughs was something of a role reversal for Griffith, whose career took off after he recorded the comedic monologue "What It Was, Was Football." That led to his first national television exposure on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1954, and the stage and screen versions as the bumbling draftee in "No Time for Sergeants." In the drama "A Face in the Crowd," he starred as Larry "Lonesome" Rhodes, a local jailbird and amateur singer who becomes a homespun philosopher on national television. As his influence rises, his drinking, womanizing and lust for power are hidden by his handlers. "Mr. Griffith plays him with thunderous vigor," The New York Times wrote. Said The Washington Post: "He seems to have one of those personalities that sets film blazing." Griffith said Kazan led him through his role, and it was all a bit overwhelming for someone with, as he put it, just "one little acting course in college." "Lonesome Rhodes had wild mood swings. He'd be very happy, he'd be very sad, he'd be very angry, very depressed," he said. "And I had to pull all of these emotions out of myself. And it wasn't easy." His role as Sheriff Taylor seemingly obliterated Hollywood's memory of Griffith as a bad guy. But then, after that show ended, he found roles scarce until he landed a bad-guy role in "Pray for the Wildcats." Hollywood's memory bank dried up again, he said. "I couldn't get anything but heavies. It's funny how that town is out there. They see you one way." More recently, Griffith won a Grammy in 1997 for his album of gospel music "I Love to Tell the Story - 25 Timeless Hymns." In 2007, he appeared in the independent film "Waitress," playing the boss at the diner. The next year, he appeared in Brad Paisley's award-winning music video "Waitin' on a Woman." Griffith was born in 1926 in Mount Airy and as a child sang and played slide trombone in the band at Grace Moravian Church. He studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and for a time contemplated a career in the ministry. But he eventually got a job teaching high school music in Goldsboro. His acting career began with the role of Sir Walter Raleigh in Paul Green's outdoor pageant, "The Lost Colony," in Manteo. And he remained in the area even after superstardom knocked at his door. Griffith protected his privacy by building a circle of friends who revealed little to nothing about him. Strangers who asked where Griffith lived in Manteo would receive circular directions that took them to the beach, said William Ivey Long, the Tony Award-winning costume designer whose parents were friends with Griffith and his first wife, Barbara. Griffith helped Long's father build the house where the family lived in a community of bohemian artists with little money, sharing quart jars of homemade vegetable soup with each other. Both Long and Fincannon recalled Griffith's sneaky tendency to show up unexpectedly - sneaking into the choir at "The Lost Colony," or driving the grand marshals of the local Christmas parade incognito in his 1932 roadster convertible. Fincannon described Griffith as the symbol of North Carolina, a role that "put heavy pressure on him because everyone felt like he was their best friend. With great grace, he handled the constant barrage of people wanting to talk to Andy Taylor." 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. "She and I are not only married, we're partners," Griffith said in 2007. "And she helps me very much with everything." When asked if the real Griffith was more wise like Sheriff Taylor or cranky like Joe, the diner owner in "Waitress," Griffith said he was a bit of both, and then some. "I'm not really wise. But I can be cranky," he said. "I can be a lot like Joe. But I'm lot like Andy Taylor, too. And I'm some Lonesome Rhodes."

### **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.

### **GROSSO, Bryan Grosso**

(Abstracted from <http://weartv.com/news/local/family-grieves-loss-of-pensacola-sailor>)

PENSACOLA, FL — Flags are now at half-staff in Florida to honor the two Floridian sailors that are presumed dead after their plane crashed in the Philippine Sea. One of those sailors, [Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Apprentice Bryan Grosso was from Pensacola](#). His parents, Jeff and Kim Grosso, invited us into their home Monday to share memories of their son. They told us 18-year-old Bryan wanted to be in the military ever since he was a little boy. He had the "Sailor's Creed" hung up in his bedroom. This dream for him started from birth. He was following in his father footsteps. His father, a former NASP Command Master Chief, had a decorated career in the Navy. Bryan joined as soon as he could. He graduated from West Florida High School in May and went to boot camp in Illinois in July. After graduation, he was sent to Aviation Ordnance School in Pensacola. He left in early November for Japan. The plan was for him to be stationed on the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan for four years. The plane that was taking Bryan and 10 others to the ship went down in the Philippine Sea. Eight people were rescued, but the other three, including Bryan, were never found. The cause is still under investigation. His parents told us Bryan had a personality that would light up a room. He was involved in West Florida with the lacrosse team and was in the Aerospace Engineering Career Academy. He will be missed by his family, friends, and girlfriend. His friends lined his home with dozens of miniature flags in his honor. The school also held a moment of silence for him on Monday and provided counselors to any students that may need to talk. The Grossos are planning to have a military funeral for him at Barrancas National Cemetery with full honors, but they are still working out the details. NAS Public Affairs Spokesman Patrick Nichols released this statement: NAS Pensacola expresses our most sincere condolences to the Grosso family and the families of the sailors lost in last week's crash. We are supporting and standing by to assist in any way possible.

### **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.