

## obituaries

## RUBY BURNS

Mrs. Burns, 74, of Florida, formerly of Farmington, died May 13. Born in Henry County, Ohio, Mrs. Burns was a registered nurse. She was a World War II veteran.

Survivors include her sisters, Lucille Burmeister, Inez Merchessault, Ann Tipton and Pearl Robinson; brother, Don Robinson.

Services were May 19 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Brian Tweedie of Ward Presbyterian Church officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

## MATT KIILUNEN

Mr. Kiilunen, 84, of Brighton died May 15 in McPherson Hospital, Howell.

Born in Atlantic Mine, Mich., Mr. Kiilunen was the owner of Weld Mold Co.

Survivors include his sons, Matt of Brighton and Peter of Farmington Hills; daughters, Martha Kowall and Gladys Hammock; sister, Hulda Kauppi; 19 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren.

Services were May 17 at First Apostolic Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills, with John Tulkki officiating. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Brighton.

## RICHARD DOUGLAS LANGE

Mr. Lange, 37, of Farmington Hills died May 16.

Born in Pontiac, Mr. Lange was self-employed.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara; sons, Michael and Brian; a daughter, Christy; parents, George (stepfather) and Sue Jenkins; brothers,

Dan and Charles; sisters, Linda Keen, Corrine Lange and Nancy Enns.

Services were May 19 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Victor Halboth of Grace Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

## DOROTHY MAE AYERS

Mrs. Ayers, 61, of Farmington Hills died May 16 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

Born in Crab Orchard, Ky., Mrs. Ayers was a dietary aide at Oak Hill Care Center.

Survivors include her husband, Johnny; son, Marvin Teeple; daughters, Brenda Hayes, Ann Ayers and Theresa Minshew; sisters, Nancy Hopkins, Georgia Driggers, Lena Maupin and Tula Flaherty; brother, Arthur Maupin; four grandchildren.

Services were May 19 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Bill Gross and the Rev. James Shackelford of Missionary Baptist Church of Farmington officiating. Burial was in Old Redford Cemetery.

## MAGGIE LEE WADE

Mrs. Wade, 83, of Farmington Hills died May 17 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Cleveland, Ga., Mrs. Wade was a homemaker.

Survivors include her son, William; daughters, Mary Wade, Margaret Sweeney and Betty MacDonald.

Services were May 21 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Dr. William Rittler of Nardin United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery, Flat Rock.

By Marshall B. Wilkins  
special writer

The huge helicopter casts an even larger shadow, as it hovers above two soldiers who are loading supplies on a pallet.

The machine's twin "egg beaters" slice viciously through the air while the men connect steel cables to the belly of the bird. The Army Chinook helicopter roars off, its load in tow, like some prehistoric winged beast taking home its conquered prey.

The copter's destination is a Marine Corps engineer base camp nestled high in the hills on one of the rugged brown and green mountain ranges bordering Soto Cano Air Base. The soldiers and Marines are American service members assigned to Joint Task Force Bravo, 35 miles northwest of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Michael B. Witt, 22, son of Robert Witt of Farmington Hills and Sally Witt of Howell, is a member of the task force. The fire protection specialist was sent to Honduras from his hometown, 317th Civil Engineering Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

THE TASK force in Soto Cano is the command and control headquarters for U.S. military forces operating in Honduras and providing humanitarian assistance such as medi-

cal and veterinary care.

"When I found out the Air Force was sending me here I was excited about coming to a place where I could be warm during the winter," said the 1985 graduate of Howell High School.

"I've been responding to Honduran and American aircraft emergencies. The firemen and I provided safety for the crews in each emergency. Each situation has ended without damage or injury."

FACES CHANGE rapidly around the task force because most of the service members are assigned here only for four to six months, when they're replaced by another soldier, sailor, airman or Marine.

Central America has been under a threatening cloud of discontent caused by economic and political instability and the resulting threat of terrorism.

But with the success of Operation Just Cause in Panama and President Violeta Chamorro's victory over Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, new hope is in this region for economic development and democracy. The task force is doing its part to turn this into reality.

"Soto Cano gives the task force and America a vital link from which activity in Central America can be monitored and humanitarian assistance can be rendered."



JOHN A. BOHMER

Airman 1st Class Michael Witt dons his asbestos firefighting suit at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.

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regretfully announces  
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of the American Eye Institute

have assumed eyecare responsibilities  
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