

OBITUARIES

RICHARD E. SMITH

Services for Richard Ernest Smith, 74, of Farmington, were held May 18 at North Congregational Church in Farmington Hills with the Rev. Mark Jensen officiating.

Mr. Smith was born Oct. 24, 1927 in Detroit and died May 16, 2002 at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. He worked as a sergeant-detective for the Detroit Police Department for 25 years and was a World War II U.S. Navy veteran. He was a member of the Detroit Police Officers Association and the Lieutenants-Sergeants Association.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores; sons, John and Tim; daughters, Patricia (Jack) Hamilton, Linda (Dennis) Bidwell and Carolyn (Paul) Schmidhauer; and grandchildren, Heather, Dawn, Kristen, Jillian, Summer, Emma, James and Nicolas.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, Memorial & Tributes Program, Dept. 77-3968, Chicago, IL 60678-3968. Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

MARY L. CUNNINGHAM

Services for Mary L. Cunningham, 89, of Livonia, were held May 18 at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington with the Rev. Gerald McEnhill officiating. Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mrs. Cunningham was born Aug. 15, 1912 in Springfield, Ohio and died May 16, 2002 at Marywood Nursing Center in Livonia. She attended Wayne University now known as Wayne State. She is survived by her sons, James (Gloria) and Dennis (Ellen); grandchildren, Beth, Jim, Laura, Catherine and Cheryl; and great-grandchildren, Ashley and Donnell. She is preceded in death by her husband, William.

Memorial contributions may be made to Marywood Nursing Center, 36975 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154.

Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral

Home in Farmington.

BEATRICE E. SCHUMACHER

Services for Beatrice E. Schumacher, 79, formerly of Farmington, were held May 20 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington.

Mrs. Schumacher was born Aug. 19, 1922 in Toronto, Canada and died May 16, 2002. She was an excellent cook and baker of renowned chocolate chip cookies.

She is survived by her son, Kurt (Sue); grandchildren Julie (Dennis Cotton), Kyle and Jay; sister, Merie; brothers, Ron (Arlene), Bob (Alice) and Bill (Nancy); and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband Frank; son, Mark; sister, Dorothy; and brothers, Jack, Alan and Gordon.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sacred Heart Church of Elk Rapids.

Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

ANNA R. BENEDICT

Services for Anna Roseng Benedict, 97, of Farmington Hills, were held May 21 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Larry Austin officiating. Burial took place at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy.

Mrs. Benedict was born Nov. 18, 1904 in Clear Creek, Utah and died May 18, 2002 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. She worked as an LPN at Grace Hospital until her retirement and also worked as a school teacher in Kansas when she was young. She enjoyed attending senior citizen dances and loved music.

She is survived by her son John (Marge); daughter, Janet (Jim Hayes) Benedict; five grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and many great-great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband John.

Michael Nicola, singing dentist, put a smile on patients' faces



Dr. Michael Nicola

Dr. Michael Nicola's dental patients were far more than just patients.

For the doctor had a smile that lit up a room, and a special way of endearing himself to people. "He was known as the 'Singing Dentist.' Everyone loved to hear him sing while they were in the chair," said his daughter, former hygienist Michele Nicola Kraska of Livonia. "His patients loved him, and he loved them. They were like family, and he never forgot them."

"He was a wonderful, top-notch dentist," she added. "I don't say that just because he was my dad. After working for him, I worked all over the country and I've seen dentists from every place imaginable. He ranked among the very best."

Born April 15, 1927, in Minneapolis, Minn., Dr. Nicola of Livonia died after long-term medical problems May 18, 2002, at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. He was 75.

Not even an amputation could quell Dr. Nicola's lifelong passion for playing golf. "After he

got sick and lost his leg in the late 1980's, he didn't golf for seven years," said his daughter Michele. "But he took lessons and learned to golf again as a handicapped person. He'd play 18 holes."

A favorite course was Redford's Western Golf & Country Club, where the Nicolas were members from 1976-1985. He also played courses throughout Michigan and Florida. He teed off at Pebble Beach, Torre Pines, Hilton Head and at courses in Hawaii and Mexico.

As a young boy, Dr. Nicola moved with his family to Detroit where he attended St. Mary's of Redford and Cooley High School. He joined the Army and was stationed in post-World War II Germany during the occupation.

After the war, Dr. Nicola enrolled at the University of Detroit and was accepted into the University of Detroit School of Dentistry, graduating in 1955.

He married the late Joanne Cruzan, a native of Charleston, W. Va. The couple met in California after their families moved to the west coast. The Nicolas were married Aug. 23, 1952, in California and moved to Detroit.

They raised five children and lived in Redford from 1956-1985. For the last seven years, Dr. Nicola lived in Livonia with his

daughter Michele and her family. He belonged to St. Maurice Catholic Church.

Dr. Nicola's dental career spanned 32 years. He practiced in offices at Schoolcraft and Evergreen and Schoolcraft and Outer Drive in Detroit; and a third office in Livonia. He retired in 1987.

Retirement gave Dr. Nicola the opportunity to pursue other loves. "He dearly loved spending time with his grandchildren, and he loved music, especially playing the uke and banjo," said his daughter.

Preceded in death by his wife, a brother, and a sister, Dr. Nicola is survived by children Dianne (David) Ambrose, Kirk (Laurel), Nancy (Bob) and James "Mickey" (Beth); son-in-law, Robert Kraska; sisters, Emeline Fikany and Elaine (Ray) Hornwick; eight grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

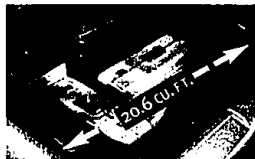
A funeral mass was held May 21 at St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church in Livonia with the Rev. Sidney Eckert and Rev. William Stoba officiating. Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Central High School, 14200 Breakfast Drive, Redford, MI 48239.



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