

## OBITUARIES

## Suburban Collection honors 'unsung heroes'

**Arlene B. Curd**  
Services for Arlene B. Curd, 80, of Farmington, were held Jan. 11 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Andrew Baligian officiating. Burial followed at Glen Eden Memorial Park.

Mrs. Curd was born Oct. 1, 1922 in Canada and died Jan. 8, 2003 in Farmington. She was a homemaker and known by her close friends and family as the "Irish Queen."

She is survived by her husband, John "Uncle Jack," sons, Michael (Carol), John (Susan) and Steven (Patricia); daughter, Patricia (John) Baligian; grandchildren: Michelle (Robert), Sean (Kristen), Elizabeth, Daniel, Andrew, Christopher and Allison; great-grandchildren, Claire, Jack and Olivia; and sister Joyce Dobrick. She is preceded in death by her sister, Dulcie McKehey.

Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice.

**Dr. James E. Remski**  
Services for Dr. James E. Remski, 76, were held Jan. 10 at St. Aidan Church in Livonia. Dr. Remski was born in 1926 and died Jan. 7, 2003 at Providence Hospital in Southfield. He was a Navy Corpsman during World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Mary (Sam) Giordano, Janet (Jeff) Bilfield, Julie LaFata, Jean (Rick) Kelly, James (Kathy), Martha and Jamey (Darryl) Peterson; and 15 grandchildren.

Arrangements made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi.

**Floyd A. Balman**  
Services for Floyd A. Balman, 85, of Farmington, were held Jan. 10 at First United Methodist Church of Farmington with the Rev. Jeffrey Maxwell officiating. Burial followed at Oakland Hills Cemetery in Novi.

Mr. Balman was born Sept. 7, 1917 in Rorel, Kan. and died Jan. 6, 2003 at Angela Hospice

in Livonia. He worked as an engineer for Ford Motor Company. He also worked for Boeing Aircraft in Wichita, Kan. and Ford Aircraft in Kansas City, Mo.

He is survived by his wife, Edith; son, Marshall (Gail); daughters, Carolyn (Terry) Wik and Jo Lynn Balman; brothers, Robert (Nadine) and Bruce (Barbara); three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Farmington Memorial Fund; 33112 Grand River Ave., Farmington, MI 48336.

Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

**Robert J. Crawford**  
Services for Robert Jordan Crawford, 82, of Farmington Hills, were held Jan. 11 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington with the Rev. Ronald Browne officiating.

Burial followed at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mr. Crawford was born Dec. 23, 1920 in Detroit and died Jan. 8, 2003 in Farmington Hills.

He was a member of the Local 636 Pipefitters Union for 55 years and was a World War II Navy veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; sons, Patrick (Joan), Terry (Linda), Kevin (Teresa), Robert (Cheryl), Michael (Barbara) and Brian; brother, Kenneth (Pat); sisters, Rita (Edward) O'Neill and Jean (Spencer) Turner; and grandchildren, Dawn, Tracey, Tim, Jeff, Caitlyn, Krista, Susan, Scott, Josh, Gabe, Nick, Dan, Zack, Mike, Robby, Jordan, Alyssa, Brenna, Jessica, Kay and Kirsten.

Arrangements made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

**Curtis J. Tillman Sr.**  
Services for Curtis J. Tillman Sr., 47, of Farmington, were held Jan. 11 at Lighthouse Cathedral Church in Detroit with the Bishop Charlie Green officiating.

Mr. Tillman was born July 17, 1955 in Detroit and died Jan. 3, 2003. After graduating from Cooley High School in Detroit, he attended Schoolcraft College, WCCC Brown College, Quincy College and Chicago State College on an athletic scholarship for basketball. He worked for Gateway Outdoor Advertising in Ferndale and enjoyed all sports, especially basketball. He was the Kishwaukee College assistant basketball coach from 1981 to 1982.

Mr. Tillman was also an ordained minister and served at Lighthouse Cathedral Church in Detroit.

He is survived by his wife, Sylvia; children, Curtis Jr. and Andre Durand; mother, Martha Tillman; father, Leroy (Donna) Tillman; grandfather, Herman Lindsey; sister, Kim Tillman; mother and father-in-law, Ralph and Cester Lewis; brother-in-law, Roger (Marla); and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

**Gary W. Peterson**  
Gary W. Peterson, 50, of Farmington, died Jan. 8 at Harper Hospital in Detroit.

Born Dec. 20, 1952 at Mt. Carmel Hospital, Mr. Peterson attended Our Lady of Sorrows School for 12 years. He lived across the street from the church and was frequently called upon as an altar server.

He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Michigan with a degree in civil engineering and subsequently earned a master's of science in engineering and a master's in business administration. In 1976, Mr. Peterson joined Zelniet/Wozniak and Associates, a civil engineering and surveying consulting firm, and was promoted to junior partner in 1982.

His career with

Zelniet/Wozniak lasted 27 years. He designed many award-winning projects including Chelsea Park in West Bloomfield, Henry Ford Retirement Village in Dearborn, numerous Village Green apartment complexes throughout the metro area and Autumn Glen in White Lake Township.

Mr. Peterson was an auto-racing enthusiast and a long-time hockey player and Red Wing fan.

He is survived by his wife, Martha; children, Elizabeth and Caroline; mother, Eleanor Peterson; and sisters, Kathleen (James) Grant and Carol (Patrick) McElroy.

He is preceded in death by his father Westcott "Pete" Peterson, longtime engineer for the City of Southfield, and brother, James.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Foundation, the Gary W. Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund at the University of Michigan or Our Lady of Sorrows School.

**Elizabeth M. Pala**  
Services for Elizabeth Marie Pala, 86, of Farmington, were held Jan. 11 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Paul Bersche officiating. Burial followed at Oakwood Cemetery in Farmington.

Mrs. Pala was born July 13, 1916 in Detroit and died Jan. 8, 2003 at Danto Health Care in West Bloomfield. She worked as a cashier for Great Scott's Grocery Store and also owned and operated Betty's Confectionery in 1940.

She is survived by her daughters, Mary Lou Pala, Elizabeth (Marvin) Tyghem and JoAnn (James) McCready; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Alex.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Book of Life International, 3111 SW 10th Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33069.

Calling teachers "unsung heroes," Michigan's largest automotive dealership group has decided to offer a reward, at its own expense, to Farmington Hills' top teacher this year.

The Suburban Collection, which owns Suburban Acura and Suburban Honda, will give one Farmington/Farmington Hills teacher the use of a car free for one year.

The program has been successful at dealerships under the same ownership in Waterford and Clarkston and is being expanded this year to Troy, Birmingham, Novi and Farmington Hills.

"Every year we talked about ways to get involved in the community and things to do," said David Fischer Jr., general manager of the Suburban Collection. "Out of all the things we do, that was the most successful."

School districts manage the teacher selection process. Typically, Fischer said, on the day the winner is announced, he or she is brought in to the local dealership where a row of pre-selected cars is waiting. The teacher gets to pick from among them.

"From the school districts there seemed to be a lot of enthusiasm," Fischer said. "It's just a wonderful thing to do for the community."

He hopes the program will expand to other communities across the state where The Suburban Collection does business.

The Farmington School District is inviting parents, students, former students, teachers and administrators to nominate teachers for the 2002-03 Outstanding Teacher Award. The program, coordinated by Oakland School, recognizes teachers in the metropolitan Detroit area for their achievements.

Certified, full-time teachers in grades kindergarten through 12 with a minimum of three years of teaching experience are eligible to be nominated.

The winners must have achieved the highest standard

of excellence in their profession.

These teachers will become the district's nominees for countywide honors. In addition to the Oakland Schools honor, one of Farmington's finalists will receive the car from The Suburban Collection.

Founded in 1948 and based in Troy, The Suburban Collection encompasses 16 dealerships across 19 domestic and import brands throughout Michigan as well as two body/refinishing facilities.

"Supporting the Teacher of the Year program is our way of giving something back to the men and women who have contributed so much to the success of our community," said David Fischer Sr., president and CEO of The Suburban Collection.

"We want to acknowledge their outstanding commitment to the development and accomplishment of our children."

Farmington Schools will honor a high school, middle school and elementary teacher of the year, as has been done in the past, said Director of School/Community Relations Diane Bauman. To award the automobile, a drawing will be held at a board meeting after the honorees are selected.

District nomination forms, accompanied by criteria for making nominations, are available at school offices.

Anyone can nominate a teacher.

Criteria for nomination include: full-time status with three years' teaching experience; ability to excite students to appreciate and seek learning and to attain their maximum potential; understanding of individual needs of students and the ability to reach students in ways which contribute to their increased knowledge, talents and self-esteem; thorough knowledge of their subject area; classroom management skills, including punctuality, preparation and control; sound relationships with colleagues and parents; and the ability to lead by example.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, Jan. 24.

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## Farmington Hills

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