

Gerald Demeusy Dies; Edited Hundred Call

The first editor of *The Hundred Call*, Gerald J. "Jerry" Demeusy, died March 31. He was a reporter for The Hartford Courant from 1949 to 1984.

The founder of The Hundred Club, Anthony Ustjanuskas, asked Mr. Demeusy in 1969 to develop an official publication to keep members informed of the club's activities. Mr. Demeusy wrote the articles and took the photos for every issue until he retired from the position in 1994.

Born in Manchester, he launched his newspaper career with the former Manchester Evening Herald. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific Theatre.

At the Courant he covered major crimes and Superior Court in Hartford. His work won a variety of journalistic awards. He witnessed several executions at the former state prison in Wethersfield and authored a book "Ten Weeks of Terror" which detailed the Taborsky-Columbe killings in the 1950s.

Mr. Demeusy leaves a daughter, Mrs. Aline Scott of Farmington, and two sons, David and Gerald of Cape Cod. n

FUMIATTI (continued from page 1)

eulogy, Mr. DeStefano said that had Mr. Fumiatti died after being shot in 2002 he would have been hailed a hero. By surviving and struggling to overcome his wounds, the New Haven mayor said, "Officer Fumiatti is a hero not because he died, but because of how he endured — because of how he lived."

As the casket bearing Mr. Fumiatti's body was carried into the church hundreds of police officers stood at attention. Dozens of police canines and their handlers were present. Mr. Fumiatti had graduated from the State Police Training Unit with his partner, "Major."

Archbishop Henry Mansell had said Mr. Fumiatti wanted his personal tragedy viewed in a positive light by relating his misfortune to groups of young people to underscore the dangers of guns and illegal drugs.

Mr. Fumiatti is survived by his wife Stacy Neebor Fumiatti and their three children, Madelyn, Caitlin and Vincent Fumiatti. He was the son of Vincent and Marguerite Fumiatti. The elder Fumiatti served 28 years in the New Haven Police Department before his retirement. Mr. Fumiatti also leaves a sister, Debra Powers and a brother, Michael Fumiatti.

Representatives of The Hundred Club have visited the Fumiatti family. n



At the annual ceremony honoring law enforcers who lost their lives in the line of duty, the procession to the speaker's platform was led by Chief (Ret.) William Farrell. He is followed by Atty. General Richard Blumenthal and Atty. Paul Murray of the Chief State's Attorney's office. Mr. Farrell is chairman of the Police Chiefs Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation.

KEANE (continued from page 1)

Mr. Keane died May 22 from injuries he suffered May 19 while riding in a fire truck that collided at an intersection with another fire truck. The vehicles were enroute to a house fire.

The wake for Mr. Keane was held in the foyer of City Hall. Thousands of people, including firefighters from throughout Connecticut plus state and municipal officials paid their respect.

The following morning there was a procession on city streets to the church. Children from schools along the route stood silently as did residents as the entourage passed. Mr. Keane's body was brought to the church in a casket atop a fire truck.

At the conclusion of the Mass more than 2,000 firefighters and police officers in uniform marched in the procession to Calvary Cemetery.

Mr. Keane, secretary of Firefighters Local 1336, was well known in the Capitol where he spoke in behalf of fellow firefighters. Gov. M. Jodi Rell ordered flags flown at half-staff in his honor and a moment of silence was observed in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Keane was born December 18, 1969, the son of the late Dennis and Mary Keane. He leaves his wife, the former Monica DiBenedictus; their two children, Erica Mary, age 10 and John 8; two brothers Dennis of Bridgewater and Bruce of Waterbury; two sisters, JoAnn Bedard and Maura Marinaccio, both of Waterbury. n

31 Dues-Payers

By way of face-to-face meetings and telephone conversations, Anthony Ustjanuskas enlisted 31 dues-paying members for The Hundred Club in 1967. Within a full year, there were 100 full-fledged members. n

Chief Magno Dies

The retired chief of the Bloomfield Police Dept. Anthony C. Magno, died May 26. He was 68 years old.

A lifelong resident of Bloomfield, Mr. Magno served the Police Dept. for 31 years, rising from patrolman to sergeant, captain and chief. He directed the department for 10 years. Following his retirement he served as acting chief of the Coventry and Rocky Hill departments.

Mr. Magno was a past president of the New England Police Chiefs Association, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and the Capitol Region Police Chiefs Association. n

Bridgeport's Guard Claims Distinction

The founder of the Bridgeport Police Department's Honor Guard believes it is the only all-municipal volunteer police guard in the state. Capt. (Ret.) Robert C. Robinson also pointed out that members pay more than \$1,000 for their uniforms.

The 16 members, 13 men and three women, wear special white shirts, decorative belts which resemble their duty belts, navy blue jackets and slacks which feature light blue stripes.

Mr. Robinson, while still an active duty officer, founded the group in 1993 and continues to be its officer-in-charge. It takes part in funerals of law enforcement officers and parades.

The Honor Guard stands watch at the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington during Police Week ceremonies. It has won state and national honors for its participation in parades. n

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Waterbury Honors Capt. John Keane

"John Keane's life and sacrifice in death put a lien on every one of us here," Archbishop Henry Mansell of Hartford said during the Mass of Christian Burial for the deceased captain of the Waterbury Fire Dept. The ceremony took place May 26th in SS. Peter & Paul Church, Waterbury.

An estimated 2,800 people — 800 inside the church and 2,000 outside — honored the popular firefighter.

Msgr. James Coleman, in his eulogy, declared "He (Capt. Keane) lived his faith. He was concerned about others. Very few can measure the positive impact he had on our city."

Several other priests assisted in the Mass including Rev. John Bevins, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church (Mr. Keane's home parish) and Rev. Ronald Ferraro, the Fire Department chaplain for 40 years.

(continued on page 4)

Annual Golf Day Tuesday, July 31

The Hundred Club's annual day of golf will be Tuesday, July 31, at Tunxis Plantation Country Club, Farmington. There will be two separate tournaments with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Golfers are asked to register at least 30 minutes earlier. The fee for golf, the use of a cart, lunch, the steak dinner and prizes is \$125.

Parties interested in sponsoring a hole should contact Managing Director William E. Sydenham, Jr. at headquarters in Glastonbury. n

Officer Fumiatti Dies; Shot In '02 Drug Raid

Thousands of people paid their respects to New Haven Police Officer Robert V. Fumiatti. The 35-year-old law enforcer died Jan. 10. He had bravely waged a battle against injuries suffered June 13, 2002. Mr. Fumiatti was shot in the face during a drug raid.

At the scene on that fateful day he was the first officer to leave an unmarked police van. The shooter, Arnold Bell, was captured and convicted. He is serving a 45-year sentence. One bullet entered Mr. Fumiatti's cheek, ricocheted off a molar, went downward and cracked a vertebrae before lodging near his spine. Mr. Fumiatti was in cardiac arrest when paramedics arrived.

Following surgery and months of rehabilitation, Mr. Fumiatti made a determined effort to return to duty. Eighteen months after being shot Mr. Fumiatti rejoined the Police Department by reporting to the Narcotics Enforcement Unit Jan. 26, 2004. A bullet remained in his body and a pacemaker had been inserted to keep his heart functioning.

Mayor John DeStefano said that the day Mr. Fumiatti returned to work was "an amazing, terrific and incredible demonstration that characterized Rob Fumiatti's service to the city."

Chief Francisco Ortiz, Jr. called Mr. Fumiatti "a moral compass in many ways."

Law enforcers from throughout the state and beyond visited the funeral home and attended the Mass of Christian Burial in Our Lady of Victory Church, West Haven. In his eulogy,

(continued on page 4)



Officer
Robert V. Fumiatti

Nine Firefighters In South Carolina Hailed for Bravery

Members of the brotherhood of firefighters from throughout the country paid their respects Friday, June 22, to nine courageous "Fallen Heroes." Earlier in the week these men lost their lives while fighting a blaze in Charleston, S.C.

Excluding the terrorists attack Sept. 11, 2001 in New York which claimed the lives of 343 firefighters, the tragedy in Charleston was the deadliest in three decades.

People wishing to assist the families of the brave public servants who gave their all on that fateful night should send donations to:

City of Charleston Firemen's Fund
P.O. Box 304
Charleston, S.C. 29402

The fire at the Sofa Super Store showroom and warehouse started Monday, June 18 at about 6:15 p.m. The flames spread quickly. One witness described the scene as "a 30-foot tornado of flames."

Members of the Charleston Fire Dept. rescued the only employee in the building before the room collapsed. One fire official indicated that some or possibly all nine firefighters lost their lives when the roof fell. Another expressed the belief that the men

(continued on page 2)

Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 30

The Hundred Club's annual meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 30 at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford.

The session will be in the form of a luncheon with a social hour starting at 11:30 a.m. The meeting in 2005 was held at the center. Members and their guests spoke favorably about the format and the location.

Additional details will appear in the next edition of The Hundred Call. n

Youth — Special Concern of President

The president of The Hundred Club sees the organization as an ideal means of extending a helping hand to youngsters in need of assistance. Christopher C. Cobb is a strong supporter of the club's program designed for the benefit of the offspring of law enforcers, firefighters and correction officers who lose their lives in the line of duty.



Christopher C. Cobb

By way of his full-time professional career Mr. Cobb is acutely aware of the misfortune that often befalls young people in Connecticut. He is a staff attorney in the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Mr. Cobb participates in administrative hearings on cases involving DCF and spends time advising social workers on a variety of issues.

Mr. Cobb does emphasize, "Our main goal is the protection of the kids."

At present he is assigned to DCF's office in New Haven. Previously he operated out of the Bridgeport office which also serves Norwalk and Stamford.

Earlier in his career Mr. Cobb was a part time prosecutor in Juvenile Court, New Britain. After being associated with a large law firm and practicing on his own, he decided that he could best utilize his talents and meet his desire to assist youngsters by joining DCF.

FIREFIGHTERS (continued from page 1)

may have been victims of the intense heat generated by the fire.

The Charleston department, noted nationally for its safety record, is one of the oldest professional fire departments in the country. Its Chief, Russell P. Thomas, a 37-year veteran, said at the scene, "I have lost nine of my best friends."

Immediately, Charleston was a city in mourning. People talked about their relationship and in many cases their friendship with one or possibly more of the firefighters, all of whom were deeply proud of their profession. The memorial ceremony was unlike anything in the city's long history. One hundred fire trucks were driven in procession through the city, past every firehouse where a victim was stationed, and the scene of the fire.

The North Charleston Coliseum was filled to capacity — 10,000 people. And a thousand or more watched events on video screens outside. Inside, on the stage, the nine flag-draped caskets were in a row. A helmet was placed at the head of each and a large photo of the fallen firefighter was

Proud that he is a native of Hartford who continues to live in the Capitol City, Mr. Cobb graduated from Northwest Catholic High School and Fordham University. He earned his law degree at Suffolk Law School, Boston.

While in elementary school he became aware of The Hundred Club. A teacher's automobile bore the club's shield. Later in life he was invited to join the club by a long time friend, Thomas Guerra, the current vice president. From the outset, Mr. Cobb wanted to be more than a member — he sought to make a contribution beyond his membership. "To serve on the board was a wonderful experience. I soon realized that the officers and directors are great people who willingly share their knowledge and experience."

Mr. Cobb is pleased by the influx of new members, many of whom are young and eager to carry on the work of the club. "I'm confident that we will have excellent leadership in the years ahead."

As for the club's programs, he is pleased that the scholarship money has been increased over the years. The availability of computers with access to the Internet for students age seven and older, Mr. Cobb said, has more than proved its worth.

At age 41 Mr. Cobb still enjoys playing basketball and running. He has competed in the Boston Marathon, a race in Dublin, Ireland, and has run the 26.2 mi. event in Hartford. "The real runners in the family were my brother, Michael, and my sister, Mary. I'm just a recreational runner," he said, a further reflection of his modesty. n

hung above.

The loyalty of the brotherhood was exemplified in many ways, including the presence of Capt. Ken Dammand, who worked his shift in Everett, Wash., and went without sleep for 40 hours as he traveled with a colleague to South Carolina.

Gov. Mark Sanford told the gathering that the nine firefighters "walked their walk right into the company of angels and to heaven's gate."

Chief Thomas, who joined the department at 18, while admitting he would have emotional problems as he spoke, managed to tell an anecdote about each firefighter. He recalled the night in 1977 when he was in the same station as James "Earl" Drayton. As he attempted to start the engine, Firefighter Drayton hollered, "Rusty, get this thing going. That's my house on fire."

In addition to Mr. Drayton, the "Fallen Heroes" were Capt. Louis Mulkey, Capt. William Hutchinson, Capt. Mike Benke, Engineer Mark Kelsey, Engineer Bradford Baity, Assistant Engineer Michael French, Firefighter Brandon Thompson and Firefighter Melvin Champaign. n

Humanitarian Work Of Club's Founder Broad in Scope

The founder of The Hundred Club, Anthony Ustjanauskas, was hailed as a humanitarian following his sudden death at age 57. Mr. Ustjanauskas was stricken with a heart attack in 1972, five years after he had launched the organization which since that time has provided more than \$7 million to families of its "Fallen Heroes."

In a news article detailing his activities, The Hartford Courant reported that while living in his native land, Lithuania, Mr. Ustjanauskas was director of the Lithuanian Cooperative Association, a government agency. From 1945 to 1949 he and his wife-



Anthony Ustjanauskas

to-be, the former Ada Genss, worked for the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Agency which aided refugees from World War II.

After coming to the United States he opened the International Super Market in the Frog Hollow section of Hartford. In 1965 he organized the American Friendship Committee for South

Vietnam. During the Christmas season he annually visited Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, and distributed gifts to the wounded servicemen.

He enjoyed helping children and formed the Puerto Rican Sports Club and provided basketball uniforms for its team. Regularly, he visited Camp Courant and sponsored parties for the youngsters.

He had a special feeling for the "little man" and formed the Committee to Support Rubbish Collectors in 1971. He sponsored a picnic for the collectors and their families in Keney Park in 1971 and 1972.

A member of Holy Trinity Lithuanian Church, Hartford and the Lithuanian Officers Association, Mr. Ustjanauskas was an honorary member of several organizations in Connecticut associated with firefighting and law enforcement.

He served as executive secretary of The Hundred Club and was its chief recruiter and promoter. He personally won endorsements for the club from Vice President Hubert Humphrey and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. In Connecticut he had enthusiastic support for the club from Gov. John N. Dempsey and State Police Commissioner Leo J. Mulcahy.

Mrs. Ustjanauskas and members of the family regularly attend the annual membership meeting of the club. n

Officers in Peril, Rilling Asserts At Memorial Event

During the 19th annual memorial ceremony at the Law Enforcement Memorial, Meriden, the 128th name was added to the list of "Fallen Heroes." New Haven Officer Daniel P. Picalgi lost his life in the line of duty Oct. 21, 2006. The event was also marked by a stern warning by a prominent municipal police chief.

The veil covering Mr. Picalgi's name was removed by New Haven Chief Francisco Ortiz while Mrs. Deanna Picalgi and her mother Mrs. Darlene Tamburrino looked on. The widow of the fallen officer had been presented a single long-stemmed red rose by Atty. General Richard Blumenthal.

In his brief remarks Mr. Blumenthal paid tribute to the service provided by Mr. Picalgi and all law enforcers in Connecticut. He noted that he has attended all the services at the memorial and continues to be impressed by the dedication and work of the committee chaired by Chief (Ret.) William Farrell of New Haven.

Mr. Blumenthal told the gathering that it is important — an obligation — to say a public "thank you" to the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice defending the lives and property of the people of Connecticut.

The main speech was delivered by Norwalk Chief Harry Rilling, president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association. He first observed that 17,917 police officers in the country have lost their lives in the line of duty. Of this total, 145 were killed in 2006. Research, he said, shows that one officer is killed every 53 hours.

"We are seeing a very troubling trend of officers being assaulted with greater frequency than ever before. Last year there were 56,290 assaults on officers," he declared. Explaining why men and women embark on a career known for its perils, Mr. Rilling said, "They believe in what is good, what is right and just." He contended that law enforcers respect the law and a desire to uphold it for the good of society.

Mr. Rilling reminded his listeners, "The eyes of the community are always upon them (law enforcers) — They must have the patience of St. Peter, the compassion of Mother Teresa and the wisdom of Solomon."

In a special appeal he asked members of the audience to "Remember the courage and bravery and the sacrifice of all officers who have died serving their communities. We must never forget them; we must never forget their loved ones who now face challenges alone ... We must also never forget the officers who continue to serve."

Brief remarks were also made by Kimberly K. Mertz, special agent in charge of the FBI Bureau of Investigation, New Haven; Public Safety Comsr. John A. Danaher, III, Homeland Comsr. James Thomas and Deputy Chief Paul E. Murray, Chief State's Attorney's office.

Meriden Chief (Ret.) Robert E. Kosienki was master of ceremonies.

The ceremony held Wednesday, May 23, took place at the Law Enforcement Memorial on the grounds of the Connecticut Police Academy, Meriden. n



Mrs. Lisa Satchatello and son, Anthony



Mrs. Deanna Picalgi — Chief Francisco Ortiz



Chief (Ret.) William Farrell — Comsr. John Danaher III



Rhona Bagshaw — Robert Bagshaw — Carol Bagshaw



Chief Harry Rilling



Atty. General Richard Blumenthal



Atty. Paul E. Murray



Justin Agosto — Elizabeth Agosto



Comsr. James Thomas



Mrs. Kim Dingwall