

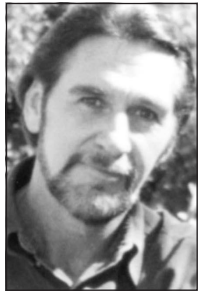
# OBITUARIES

## Richard Allen Cook, 73

SUFFIELD, CT – Richard Allen Cook, 73, passed away Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023 at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford Connecticut.

He was born on Oct. 12, 1949 in Westfield, the son of the late Horace and Pearl (Walker) Cook. Richard grew up in Blandford. He lived in Virginia after being drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War. Later, he moved to Stockton, California where he worked for the Parks Department and also earned his Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts.

Upon moving back to the area he lived in Feeding Hills, Windsor Locks and Suffield, Connecticut. He worked for more than 15 years and retired from Baker Nursery in Suffield. He was an avid reader, but especially enjoyed science fiction. He loved fishing and tinkering (taking things apart and putting them back



together). He enjoyed watching TV; some of his favorite shows; Phineas and Ferb and Charmed. He had several cats over the years and enjoyed their company.

Richard leaves his two daughters: Deanna Patsouris and husband Jeff Brown of Berlin, Vermont and Danielle Clapp and her husband Chris of Brookline; three grandchildren: Dino Patsouris, Alexa Modugno and husband Joey and Isabella Clapp; two great-grandchildren, Leo and Ari

Modugno. He also leaves his two sisters; Nancy Ackley and husband Tom of Blandford and Barbara Bishop of Belchertown; he was predeceased by his brother, James Cook and nephew James Jr. He also leaves six nieces and nephews.

A private funeral service was held at Hill Cemetery in Blandford on Oct. 11, 2023

## Susan E. (Miner) Merrell, 77

MIDDLEFIELD – Susan E. Merrell, 77, of Middlefield, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023, in the loving care of her husband and daughter.

She was born on Feb. 14, 1946, the daughter of Leland and Helen Miner. She attended Belchertown High School and graduated from Fitchburg State College with a BSN degree in nursing.

Susan had a 44-year career as an RN in various settings in New Jersey, Vermont and Massachusetts. She worked primarily in the field of developmental disabilities as a supervising RN and later as a consultant to several local agencies in Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

In her leisure time, Susan loved to travel, especially to Bar Harbor and Sanibel Island, with a one-time detour to Kauai and Maui in Hawaii. She was an avid gardener, who provided food for her family and special flowers for her hummingbirds and butterflies.



She loved animals, especially her grand kitty Gracie, and helped to convert family land into a permanent wildlife sanctuary under the auspices of The Nature Conservancy and Orenda Wildlife Land Trust. She enjoyed driving, particularly small British sports cars with a four speed. She was also a voracious reader, whose Kindle was always within reach.

Susan is survived by her husband of 55 years, Richard S. Merrell, of Middlefield and her daughter Janis L. Merrell, of Belchertown. She is predeceased by her brother, Leland P. Miner, who died on June 28, 2021.

A memorial service for Susan will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023 at 10 a.m. at the Kelly Funeral Home, 3 Main Street, Lee. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to may make a donation in Susan's name to the Dakin Humane Society, P.O. Box 6307, Springfield, MA 01101.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampshire Probate and Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500  
Docket No. HS23P0636EA  
Estate of:  
Charles David Graton  
Date of Death: 09/15/2023  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michelle M. Graton of Huntington, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Michelle M. Graton of Huntington, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written

appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/15/2023.**

This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 05, 2023

**Michael J. Carey**  
Register of Probate  
10/19/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Division  
Docket No. HS23P0622EA  
Estate of:  
Joseph E. Kellam, Sr.  
Also Known As:  
Joe Kellam  
Date of Death:  
May 1, 2023  
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Suzanne Kellam of Huntington, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Suzanne Kellam of Huntington, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from

the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
10/19/2023

**TAX CLASSIFICATION PUBLIC HEARING  
Monday, October 23, 2023,  
7:00 PM at the Town Hall,  
1 South Road**

In accordance with Section 56 of Chapter 40 of the General Law, the Westhampton Selectboard will conduct a public hearing on the question of adoption of percentages of the total tax levy to be borne by each class of real property (residential, open space, commercial, industrial) and personal property for Fiscal Year 2024. The hearing will be held on **Monday, October 23, 2023, 7:00 PM** at the Town Hall, 1 South Road. All interested parties are invited to attend and will be heard.  
10/19/2023

## DEATH NOTICES

**COOK, RICHARD ALLEN**

Died Oct. 7, 2013

**MERRILL, SUSAN E.**

Died Oct. 14, 2023  
Memorial Service Oct. 24 at 10 a.m.  
Kelly Funeral Home, Lee

## Country Journal OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

## OPPORTUNITY

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Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com)



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