

OBITUARIES

George Lee Trusz

NORTHAMPTON — George Lee Trusz, 78, formerly of Belchertown, passed away December 18, 2025. He was born on January 6, 1947, in Lockhart, Texas, to the late John M. and Vida E. (Sanford) Trusz. George spent his formative years in Ludlow, MA, and graduated from Ludlow High School. As a natural athlete, George had a notable high school football career, one of which he was very proud, and his mother was his greatest supporter and fan.

He furthered his education at UMASS and earned his master's in social work at Smith College. George dedicated his life to helping others and worked as a therapist for Children's Study Home, Greenfield Public Schools, and Baystate Wing Griswold

Center before working in private practice in Northampton. During his career, he made sure to never stop learning and became certified in Hypnotherapy, among other things.

George was an outdoor sports enthusiast. He was an avid cyclist, hiker, tennis player, downhill and cross-country skier, and runner. Above all else, he loved his family, friends, and especially his pets and dogs.

George was preceded in death by his parents. He will be forever missed by his wife, Judy (Reinbold) Trusz; children, George Lee Trusz, Jr. (Debbie Vargo) and Zoë Riley (Kenneth Riley); grand-



daughter, Olivia Grace Trusz; siblings, Stephen Trusz (Sharon Larson), Jana Trusz (Laura Davis), Elizabeth Courtney (Dan), and Stephanie Trusz; as well as many nieces, nephews, and very dear friends.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, December 28, 2025, from 1 to 3 p.m., with a celebration of George's life to begin at 3 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. Burial will be held at the family's convenience. In lieu of flowers, and fulfilling George's love for animals, donations in his memory can be made to Dakin Humane Society by visiting www.dakinhumane.org.

Richard A. Bannister

RICHARD A. Bannister, known to all as Dick, was born on June 27, 1937, in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Robert C. and Ruth (Allen) Bannister, and was raised on Long Island. He died of heart failure on December 18, 2025, after a brief hospitalization at Baystate Wing Memorial.

As a boy, he was totally devoted to the Brooklyn Dodgers; when they left Brooklyn, he moved on to the Mets, and in New England, he added the Red Sox. His knowledge of baseball was total and



inclusive. He could swap stories and stats endlessly with anyone who liked baseball as much as he did.

After he completed his AB and MA degrees at Yale, Columbia, and Hofstra universities, he and his wife, Judy, moved up to Massachusetts where Dick taught at Berkshire Community College before enrolling at UMASS to pursue his PhD in literature. He taught briefly at Holyoke Community College, then began his lifelong career as a stamp specialist, both here and in New York City. He was a scholarly man who loved

reading history and literature. Stamps were his professional interest, and when he wasn't watching baseball, he devoted much of his time to them, too.

Dick was predeceased by his only brother, Robert, who died earlier this year in Florida. He is survived by his wife, the former Judith Tillotson; his son Jared and wife Nancy; and his daughter Cassandra and her husband Bill Fitzpatrick, and their children Brendan, Deirdre Savoie, and Sinead. He was especially proud to be a great-grandfather to Deirdre's children with Cam Savoie, Maggie and Molly.

Dick's family will hold private services.

William "Bill" A. Mont

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of William "Bill" A. Mont, a beloved son, husband, father, and brother, who departed this life on December 24, 2025, at the age of 65.

Born in Worcester, MA, Bill spent his formative years in Springfield, where he cultivated his passions and developed a keen sense of humor that delighted those around him. Bill proudly attained two associate degrees and built a successful career as a Maintenance Technician,



working for various companies, including KidderPress and Coca-Cola, before retiring in 2022.

His work not only included local contributions but took him around the world, allowing him to build connections and friendships that would last a lifetime. He established his home in Belchertown 25 years ago, where he shared a wonderful life with his wife, Diane, whom he adored. They celebrated 25 years of marriage filled with laughter, love, and memorable moments, including their cherished tradition of

hiking every anniversary and enjoying peaceful evenings together by the fire.

Bill was known for his great sense of humor and his ability to light up a room with his goofy antics. He was also a talented artist and musician, having taken art classes at UMass and played bass guitar in several bands, most notably the group "The Memories" for a decade. Music brought him joy, and he often enjoyed it with Diane in their backyard.

Bill also enjoyed watching football and hockey with his wife and cherished the annual winter vacations in VT with Diane, Tommy, Ashley, Kyle, and in-laws, Debbie

and Pete Oyer and nephew, Kyle. They made memories filled with laughter, skiing and time together.

Bill leaves behind a loving family, his mother, Eileen Santer, his wife, Diane, their son, Thomas Mont, stepson David Burnham, and his wife, Danielle as well as stepdaughter, Ashley Burnham and her longtime significant other, Kyle Ray. Bill's memory will also be forever cherished by his brother, George Mont and his wife, Lois, sister Susan Ciantra and her husband, Nick, as well as his step-grandchildren Cameron and Kylee Burnham. His niece, Emily and nephew, Charlie Ciantra

along with brother-in-law, James Lemarier, the Williams family and many other nieces and nephews will also fondly remember him.

He was preceded in death by his father George Mont, stepfather Owen Santer, and sister Jennifer Lemarier.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home, followed by a service to begin at 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Shriners Hospital or the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Bill's memory, honoring his spirit of kindness and generosity.

DEATH NOTICES

Bannister, Richard A.
Died Dec. 18
Services private

Mont, William "Bill" A.
Died Dec. 24
Services Beers & Story, Belchertown

Trusz, George Lee
Died Dec. 18
Services Beer & Story Funeral Home, Belchertown

The Sentinel
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 \$275, 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.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by David Lafleur c/o J & P Engineering Services for the proposed work to construct a single family home and associated facilities at Lot 12 Cold Spring Street (Assessor's Map 260-36) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated

Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 01/01/2026

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(Assessor's Map 260-36) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 01/01/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of January 16, 2026 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 2003 Acura TL
Vin #: 19UUA566603A039534
Color: Red
LKO: Tyler Real
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Belchertown, MA
413-530-3804
01/01, 01/08, 01/15/2026

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