

The Day



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Pandemic deaths leave an unfillable void

Connecticut reported its first case of COVID-19 on March 8, 2020. In the year since, we've lost grandparents, mothers, fathers, siblings and friends. They loved to dance, listen to music, garden, socialize and spend time with their families. They were dedicated and accomplished workers, decorated soldiers and talented artists. They were voracious readers, collectors, travelers, cooks and animal lovers. They liked what the Nutmeg State and this coastal area had to offer — from UConn women's basketball to the tall ships seen from the shores of southeastern Connecticut. Their lives were filled with joy and humor, and sometimes tragedy. ■ **The 397 people below share at least one thing** in common: a deadly pandemic that has taken them from their loved ones. This is by no means a comprehensive list of everyone who has died, but it reflects the majority of New London County residents whose deaths the state has linked to COVID-19. ■ **To us, they have always been more than numbers. Here's who they were.**

— Julia Bergman

Leo Accede, Griswold ■ **Viola L. Allain**, Montville ■ **Edward Allen**, 74, Groton ■ **Angela Alvarado**, 78, Norwich, enjoyed an instrument called the guiro in Spanish ■ **Linda Anderson**, 76, Waterford, had an incredible sense of humor, loved spontaneous dance parties, and Motown ■ **Clinton Anderson, Jr.**, Norwich ■ **Lauren Anton**, 61, Old Lyme, enjoyed gardening at her home, spending time with her grandchildren and was fond of her dogs ■ **Laura Jean Arcusa**, Norwich ■ **Josefina D. Argarin**, 85, New London, had an active social life being part of both Filipino-American and St. Joseph School and Church communities in New London ■ **Walter P. Arnold Sr.**, 76, Groton, best known for his amazing clam chowder ■ **Marilyn C. Arsenault**, 87, Montville, loved to knit and roller-skate with her husband ■ **Richard Albert Arsenault**, 78, Colchester, earned several distinguished marksmanship awards in his favorite hobby of target shooting, achieving a perfect score of 100 on a few occasions ■ **Damaen Anthony Askari**, Waterford ■ **Dolores S. Atwood**, 84, Groton, a feisty and independent little Portuguese woman who could accomplish anything that she set her mind to ■ **Patricia Aubrey**, 71, East Lyme, her favorite job, above all else, was being Mom and Meme ■ **Charles T. Baker**, 96, Stonington, a lifelong woodworker, he also loved history, especially military history and genealogy, sailing, skiing, and the UConn Women's Basketball Team ■ **Robert Eugene Barkman**, 90, Salem ■ **Joyce E. Batchelder**, 84, Montville, loved square dancing and enjoyed attending the Grace Fellowship Church in North Stonington ■ **Virginia G. Bates**, 82, East Lyme, loved working as a labor and delivery nurse at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital before retiring in 1997 ■ **Alicia T. Bauer**, 80, Groton, a beloved and active member of Temple Emanu-El in Waterford ■ **Bettye Beard**, 81, Groton, loved butterflies ■ **Joanne T. Beausoleil**, 77, Griswold, enjoyed being with her family, vacationing in Cape Cod and adored animals ■ **Donald Beck**, 92, Ledyard, was an accomplished photographer and fulfilled his dream of obtaining his pilot's license and publishing a novel ■ **Deborah Ellen Benoit**, 71, of New London, was happiest walking on the pier when the tall ships would be at port ■ **Genevieve May Bentley**, 85, North Franklin, was an avid gardener and a voracious reader ■ **Sidney H. Berson**, 95, Niantic, served in WWII, Battle of the Bulge and was awarded a Purple Heart ■ **Stanley E. Bielski**, 82, Old Lyme, was always curious and a lifelong learner ■ **Alton G. Bigelow**, New London ■ **Richard A. Black**, 83, Preston, was a collector of many things, and loved to putter around ■ **Catherine Blacker**, 73, North Stonington, was the founder of SCAT (Southern Connecticut Animal Trust) ■ **Muriel Blair**, Stonington ■ **Thomas W. Bly**, Waterford, 87, applied wallpaper so precisely that the seams were invisible ■ **David Charles Boardman**, Waterford ■ **Robert P. Boisvert**, 80, Montville, was employed for 40 years as a painter at Electric Boat in Groton ■ **Earl Rayne Bond**, 86, lived in North Stonington for almost 60 years. ■ **Theresa Camille Bonita**, Montville ■ **Margaret Lucia Immaculata Booth**, 82, Groton, was a teacher's assistant in the Groton Public Schools for nearly two decades ■ **Albert Romelus Bordeleau**, 96, Griswold, was an avid UConn women's basketball fan ■ **Dennis Borkman**, Groton ■ **Edward Bostick**, 87, New London, worked for decades for the City of New London Public Works Dept. ■ **Brian William Boudreau**, Montville ■ **Simone A. Bourdon**, 76, Lisbon, ran the fall tag sale at St. Joseph Church ■ **Jules Boutin**, 94, Bozrah ■ **John T. Brachas**, 82, Groton, loved motorcycles, Motown and singing with his daughter ■ **Joanne Eck Brennan**, Groton ■ **Frank Donald Brigham Jr.**, 87, Stonington, was a Princeton University rugby player and Navy veteran who went on to become the treasurer and vice president of National Distillers and Chemical Corporation ■ **Howard F. Brigner**, 80, Norwich ■ **Paul Vincent Brockett Sr.**, 79, East Lyme, was a fishing boat captain with more than a half century on the water ■ **Stamos Cyrus Brockway**, Norwich ■ **Wendy Louise Brodaski**, 65, Norwich, enjoyed forests and freshwater lakes ■ **Arthur F. Brooks**, 87, Montville, was an avid fisherman, boater, hunter, landscaper, gardener and Boy Scout leader ■ **Madolyn May Bryant**, Colchester ■ **Roger Montagu Bryce-Heap**, 93, Lyme, served in the Army Air Corps in 1944 during World War II. ■ **Elaine Sharon Buhler**, 69, Stonington, worked as a welder, healthcare professional and in security ■ **Janet S. Burgess**, 95, Groton, spent most of her almost 72 years of married life on Whalehead Road in Ledyard ■ **Roger Burt**, Norwich ■ **Margaret Busha**, 89, Groton, worked as a CNA at Greentree Manor in Waterford for more than 25 years, where she was known to stay awake on the night shift because she didn't want anyone to die alone if other staff members were sneaking off for naps. ■ **Arthur Albert Cabral Jr.**, 54, Waterford, was a diehard Pittsburgh Steelers fan and he served on the Ten Pin Bowling Association at the state and local level. ■ **Lewis Camby Jr.**, 72, Norwich, was a Vietnam veteran who loved the Boston Red Sox and a good game of pool ■ **John Stephen Cantwell Sr.** of Groton ■ **Anne Carbone**, 89, Waterford, received the Nightingale Award for nursing ■ **Mildred E. Cardoza**, 100, Norwich was a native of the Cape Verde Islands and was presented with a Congressional proclamation on her 100th birthday by U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney ■ **Pedro Carrillo**, 66, New London, was a beloved husband ■ **Carleton Case**, 78, Groton, lived his whole life in the New London-Groton area ■ **Constance Castagna**, 88, Groton, loved Ridgewood Park and Ocean Beach ■ **Juan M. Castro Romero**, Norwich ■ **Edna F. Chapman**, 87, Stonington, was a generous caregiver and animal lover ■ **Leslie Raymond Chappel**, 67, Norwich, was a Norwich native ■ **Xing Chen**, Groton ■ **Samuel J. Chinigo**, 88, Norwich, was a U.S. veteran of the Korean War with a twinkle in his eye and sharp wit ■ **William Sperry Christenson**, 78, Colchester, loved taking buses and trains to travel the country ■ **Marilyn Christo**, 91, Waterford, was a beloved wife who worked in the supply department of the U.S. Naval Base in Groton ■ **Joseph J. Clang**, 85, Colchester, was a Norwich native ■ **Mary Jane Cleare**, 90, Stonington, earned doctoral degrees in organizational development and clinical psychology ■ **Mamie Cluny**, Waterford ■ **Sharon Gene Coates**, Groton ■ **Betty Jean Colburn**, 82, Norwich, brought joy to others ■ **Louise E. Colburn**, 74, Norwich was kind, loving, honest and caring ■ **Beatrice E. Coleman**, 78, Preston, raised a family and had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren ■ **Richard T. Connell**, 69, Montville, was a gentle soul who loved to talk with everyone ■ **Charles Ray Corn**, 83, Stonington, was a U.S. Navy Veteran who wrote songs and made ice cream to enjoy at summer barbecues. ■ **June P. Criscuolo**, 91, Colchester, was Miss New York State and a storyteller who toured with the trumpet-playing love of her life ■ **Rhonda I. Curzi**, Waterford ■ **Doloros Cydylo**, Colchester, 82, was a devout Catholic who drove a box truck for a time as a mail carrier ■ **Joao D'Oliveira Lopes**, 81, of Norwich was born Brave, Cape Verde ■ **Alice E. Daggett**, 94, Colchester, was the co-owner of and vice president of Colchester Tool & Die. ■ **Camilla W. Dahl**, 89, Stonington, had a sweet personality and spent summers at Groton Long Point ■ **Origen L. Daniels**, 95, Niantic, was a model enthusiast and businesses owner who also was a violinist who performed with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony ■ **Leahdell Lehr Davis**, 90, East Lyme, loved playing cards and bowling with her husband Jerry ■ **Jack Desilva**, 76, Mystic, was born in Portugal, served in the Portuguese Army and settled in Stonington Borough in 1966 ■ **Dolores "Dee" Davidsson**, 74, Lisbon, was a guitar player and singer who played stunning versions of "Blue Bayou" and "Crazy" ■ **Margaret E. "Pinky" DeBarros**, 67, New London, worked for more than 30 years at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in New London ■ **Marlene Joan Goss DeGray**, 85, East Lyme, was known as the greatest stay-at-home mom in history and had a PhD (projects half done) in knitting ■ **Loretta Dejadon**, Waterford ■ **Nancy A. Demarinis**, 90, Groton, served four terms as the 40th District State Representative ■ **Robert D. Dennis**, Norwich ■ **Isabel DePina**, 86, Norwich, was born and raised in Cape Verde ■ **Ann Louise Blanchard DeRosa**, 93, Waterford, enjoyed sailing and traveling the country in a motorhome with her husband ■ **Thomas "Tom" DiCandia**, 97, Mystic, was seriously injured when a mortar hit his fox hole outside of Normandy, France ■ **John L. DiFederico**, 82, Waterford, served as an officer in the U.S. Navy ■ **Ilse Dillon**, New London ■ **Sofiya Dineralter**, 72, New London, was born in Radomyshl, Ukraine ■ **Arlene Florence "Sally" Donahue**, 91, North Stonington, was a longtime parishioner of St. Thomas More Church ■ **Robert Allen Gale**, 77, Montville, worked at Electric Boat as a shipfitter ■ **Rosemarie Driscoll**, 87, New London, earned her doctorate from UConn where she studied the differences between traditional and computer assisted learning ■ **Joanne Dupont**, 76, Montville, loved to shop, clip coupons and watch soap operas ■ **Barbara Durand**, Colchester ■ **Edith "Renie" Dyer**, 86, Groton was retired from her career as a social worker with the Town of Ledyard and volunteered helping the homeless ■ **Judith Ebbinghaus**, 69, Groton, worked in Groton Public Schools for 38 years as a second-grade teacher and literacy specialist and was honored in the Groton Educators Hall of Fame ■ **Vicky Elgin**, 49, Griswold, was a lifelong member of the Arkansas City Baptist Church in Arkansas City, Arkansas ■ **Anne English**, 84, Norwich, was a school nurse who loved walking, skiing and fashion, especially spring hats ■ **Thomas Evans Jr.**, 91, Groton, loved to travel, especially to Bermuda and was retired from the United States Navy Submarine Service and from Pfizer ■ **Jason Fabrizio**, 48, New London was raised in Bristol and had three children and two grandchildren ■ **Doris Fidrych**, 95, Norwich, was married 46 years and had two children and five grandchildren ■ **Helen Finnance**, Groton, 95, often said her grandchildren were her greatest blessing. ■ **Mary Fisher**, Groton ■ **Marcia Flete de Osorio**, New London ■ **Jean "Jeannie" Fowler**, 79, Preston, was known as a "prankster princess" and a great storyteller who loved to read ■ **James Fowler Jr.**, 85, Norwich, served 30 years with the U.S. Navy Seabees and worked on submarines at Electric Boat for 19 years, he loved sports and fishing ■ **Robert Allen Gale**, 77, Montville, attended schools in California and Hawaii, joined the Air Force and worked at Electric Boat as a shipfitter ■ **William J. Gannon**, 99, Groton, headlined The Billy Gannon Trio and for years played drums with the steamboat Sabino's Dixieland band ■ **Helen Vel Garbati**, 76, Montville, was a successful businesswoman and motivational speaker ■ **Shirley Wallace Gebhard**, 91, Groton, enjoyed sailing and camping ■ **Richard Thomas Geikie**, Lebanon ■ **Anne Elizabeth Gilbert**, Groton ■ **Charles E. Gilbert**, 82, East Lyme, loved writing stories and poems ■ **Robert Arnold Girouard**, Groton ■ **James Arthur Glover**, Montville ■ **Lisa Illene Glover**, Waterford ■ **Sybylle Gonyo**, 75, East Lyme, loved country music, lobsters and traveling back home to see her four sisters ■ **Pascual Gonzalez**, New London ■ **Juan Gonzalez Jr.**, 73, Stonington, was born in Lares, Puerto Rico. ■ **Isabelle K. Gorman**, Ledyard ■ **Evelyn Graham**, 83, New London, was known for being a tell-it-like-it-is woman and her triple-layer coconut cake ■ **Elva Graveline**, 52, North Stonington, was a certified nursing assistant who treated the patients on her unit like family ■ **Ida Mary Grecki**, 93, Norwich, met her husband Stanley when she was 16 at a rolling skating rink in New Britain and they married when she was 21 ■ **Georgette Florence Grenier**, 83, Griswold, was active in Voluntown politics for many years ■ **Richard A. Hall**, 77, Norwich, served in the Navy from 1960 to 1964 and was employed at Pfizer for 33 years ■ **Alice D. Hammond**, Norwich. **Olympia Hancin**, 95, Griswold, a polio survivor, loved cooking and baking desserts for the annual Grecian Food Festival in Norwich ■ **Theresa Hanson**, 69, Lebanon, was an award-winning business entrepreneur who was most proud of her work with animals ■ **Chris Lee Hanssen**, 66, Stonington, was an avid golfer and devoted fan of the New York Yankees and New York Giants ■ **Donald Frank Hargreaves**, 87, Norwich, was long-time moderator and deacon emeritus at the Central Baptist Church in Norwich ■ **Dolores Ruth "Dee" Harrell**, 95, Groton, enjoyed the annual winter polar bear plunge off the Groton coast into her 70s ■ **Ethel Harrington**, Waterford ■ **Carl M. Hassler**, Colchester ■ **William H. "Bill" Haynes**, Waterford, lived most of his life in New London ■ **Gloria Henderson**, 71, Colchester, enjoyed bowling and watching sports with her family ■ **Carol M. Heron**, 94, Mystic, launched and led a successful interior design business ■ **Ann Martha Herrick**, 59, Waterford, grew up in Groton and graduated from Fitch Senior High School ■ **David Graham Hersant**, 75, Stonington was an international financial consultant and traveled extensively throughout Europe ■ **Theresa Helen Herz**, 94, Stonington loved to dance and performed tap dance in musical programs whenever she could ■ **Catherine Hill**, Stonington ■ **Helen Tappan Hine**, 99, Old Lyme, had "an irrepressible" sense of humor ■ **Otto Albert Hollstein**, 84, Mystic, retired as a Connecticut state trooper and a detective specializing in organized crime investigations ■ **Kenneth Hopkins Sr.**, 91, Groton, kept active in retirement by walking his beloved Norwegian elkounds at Bluff Point State Park ■ **Laura Elizabeth Howard**, 80, New London, enjoyed crocheting and

SEE PANDEMIC'S PAGE A6



It's been more than 12 months since we first got word that a deadly new strain of coronavirus was emerging on the other side of the world. Within days our lives were upended, even as — incredibly — scientists managed to develop, test and roll out vaccines in record time. As life seems poised to slowly return to normal, The Day this week looks back at what we've been through, and what the future might look like.

INSIDE TODAY

SPORTS

The ping of a cellphone is how most athletes and coaches learned that the winter season had become an immediate victim to the COVID-19 pandemic last March. **E1**

NEWS

For southeastern Connecticut, the road back to normal was anything but smooth when the last pandemic ravaged the region in 1918. **D1**

OPINION

The Pandemic of 2020 taught us how quickly the thin veneer of "normal" can be stripped away. We will not be the same for having experienced it. **B4**

THIS WEEK

NEWS

In a weeklong series, we check in with students of all ages, those working from home, the unemployed and nursing home residents to see how they're faring one year after COVID-19 hit. We also look at how the pandemic has changed us going forward.

THEDAY.COM

As always, additional coverage can be found at theday.com, including a reading of names of some of those lost.

WEATHER

Today, sunny and chilly. High 37. Monday, sunny and very cool. High 38. Milder on Tuesday. High 50. **E6**

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