

Northeast Ohio Deaths

Cuyahoga

Ronald Edward Alexander, 49, of Cleveland, factory press operator, died Friday. Services tomorrow. — Cummings and Davis, East Cleveland.

Hubert Jeffrey, 87, of Cleveland, died Monday. Services tomorrow. — Strouwer's, Cleveland.

Richard Henry Palmer, 79, of Perry, accountant for IRC Fibers, died Tuesday. Services Tuesday. — Behm, Madison.

Adeline T. Sarnowski, 70, of Concord Township, died Dec. 20. Services Saturday. — Jakubs-Danaher, Eastlake.

Joe Carroccio, led AIDS activists group

ALANA BARANICK Plain Dealer Reporter



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS — Joe Carroccio, leader of the Cleveland Chapter of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, spent the final decade of his life educating the public about the immunodeficiency virus, lobbying for research on AIDS treatment and giving away clean syringes and condoms.

The 45-year-old Cleveland Heights resident, who had full-blown AIDS, died Friday at University Hospitals. The cause of death was heart failure due to complications from hepatitis and cirrhosis.

Carroccio co-founded the Cleveland chapter of the coalition, which is known by the acronym ACT-UP, and helped plan the first World AIDS Day March in Cleveland in 1993.

He represented ACT-UP on local and national television programs, including Connie Chung's former show, "Eye to Eye."

He was active in several other AIDS activists groups. He was program manager of the Living Room HIV/AIDS Drop-in Center, a counseling service of the Lesbian-Gay Community Service Center of Greater Cleveland. He chaired the AIDS Clinical Trial

Unit's Community Advisory Board at University Hospitals.

Carroccio acted as a watchdog at City Council meetings on behalf of the AIDS-affected community and led public demonstrations to dramatize the gravity of his mission.

In 1994, he and some fellow crusaders handcuffed themselves to the doors of Cleveland City Hall to protest the city's procrastination in funding AIDS education.

"I was so impressed with Joe's commitment, passion, energy — even now, years later, I can visualize that scene down to the smallest details," said Earl Pike, executive director of the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland.

"He always had fabulous ideas and a keen sense of what needed to be tackled. I always loved Joe's slightly manic style. He was a working class intellectual — one of those people who knew as much as his physician about treatment and understood the issues — like the fact that not providing clean syringes to drug users was tantamount to a kind of genocide."

A gay man and recovering intrave-

nous drug user, Carroccio served on the board of the Xchange Point, a non-profit organization that exchanged used syringes for clean ones and distributed condoms and information about safe sex.

The Cleveland native grew up in Parma and graduated from Valley Forge High School. He later took courses at John Carroll University and Cuyahoga Community College.

Carroccio had worked as a salesman for Weiss Furs in Beachwood and for Realty One in Shaker Heights. He also had been a cosmetologist.

Survivors include his partner, James Campbell; parents, Margaret and Benjamin Sr. of Parma; and brothers, Benjamin Jr. of Westlake and James of Parma.

Memorial services are planned for February.

Donations may be made to the John T. Carey Special Immunology Unit, University Hospitals, 11100 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44106.

DiCiccio & Sons Funeral Home of Mayfield Heights is in charge of arrangements.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter: abaranick@plaind.com, 216-999-4828

Garfield Hooper Jr., VFW commander

RICHARD M. PEERY Plain Dealer Reporter

CLEVELAND — Services for Garfield Warren Hooper Jr., 91, a Veterans of Foreign Wars leader for many years, will be at 11:30 a.m. today at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman.

Hooper, active in the VFW for more than 50 years, became the first black member to command the Cuyahoga County Council of VFW, in 1964. He also was Ohio Grand Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie, a VFW auxiliary.

He was born in Jersey City, N.J. He learned to load ships while working as

a longshoreman in New York City before he moved to Cleveland, where he was drafted into the Army during World War II. He was assigned to the Transportation Corps, where he used his cargo-balancing skills to load military ships. Because his commanding officers did not have his expertise in cargo loading, Hooper supervised both American soldiers and German prisoners of war. He served in Europe and in the Philippines. He retired from the Army Reserves as a captain.

After he left the service, Hooper became commander of the John Fulton VFW Post. His service to veterans resulted in praise from Cleveland mayors and other local and state officials.

He worked for the Post Office and was a mail carrier in Cleveland Heights when he retired in 1973. He volunteered as a scoutmaster for more than 20 years.

Hooper is survived by a daughter, Yvette of Warrensville Heights; a stepdaughter, Rene Scott of Euclid; stepsons, Dwight and Steven Usher, both of Cleveland, and Alan Usher of Cleveland Heights; a grandchild; a sister; and a brother.

Arrangements are by the E.F. Boyd & Son Funeral Home of Warrensville Heights.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter: dpeery@plaind.com, 216-999-4807

Death Notices

RUBNER MARY D. RUBNER (nee Day), beloved wife of Henry "Hank" ...

Death Notices

SARNOWSKI ADELINTE T. SARNOWSKI, age 70, beloved wife of Anthony Castellotti ...

Death Notices

SICARAS PENNELOPE SICARAS (nee Demas), beloved wife of the late Tass G. ...

Death Notices

STEWART DAVID T. STEWART, JR., passed away on Jan. 4, 2003. ...

Death Notices

VanVLIET BETTY A. VanVLIET (nee Hultal), Registered Nurse, graduate of St. John's School of Nursing ...

Death Notices

WALLACE DONNA S. WALLACE, beloved mother of Linda Wallace; grandmother of Tara; daughter of LaVerne De Shazo ...

Death Notices

WEIDENKOPF ROBERT J. WEIDENKOPF, age 70, beloved husband of the late Shirley A. (nee Khatz) ...

Death Notices

WOOD MARGARET B. WOOD (nee Burkland), wife of the late James R. ...

Death Notices

YEAGER HARRIET M. YEAGER (nee Boza), beloved wife of the late Merton; dear daughter of the late Josephine ...

In Memoriam

HUISMAN Carmella R. Huisman (nee Boza), beloved wife of the late Merton; dear daughter of our mother, grandmother ...

Death Notices

RUTHENBURG EDITH L. RUTHENBURG, daughter of the late Herman and Edith M. ...

Death Notices

SEMAR SEE KOLEASAR Notice.

Death Notices

SERCEL MARGARET A. "PEG" SERCEL, age 70, of Mentor-on-the-Lake since 1959 ...

Death Notices

STUPKA BERNADETTE H. STUPKA (nee Wehn), age 68, beloved wife of James Sr. ...

Death Notices

VELIKONYA HELEN A. VELIKONYA (nee Lekuts) 78, beloved wife of the late Paul P. ...

Death Notices

WATSON RALPH WATSON, dear brother of Ernest W. Watson; and a host of other relatives and friends ...

Death Notices

WIECHOWSKI JOSEPH L. WIECHOWSKI, age 75, beloved brother of Stanley ...

Death Notices

WOODS JEWELL L. WOODS (nee Sawel), age 76, passed away Jan. 7, 2003 ...

Death Notices

ZUPANCIC JOSEPH J. ZUPANCIC, SR., beloved husband of Eva M. ...

Death Notices

WRABEL EUGENE J. WRABEL, age 82, beloved husband of the late Mary T. ...

Death Notices

SHAFER HELEN L. SHAFER (nee Hatemister), age 88, beloved wife of the late Raymond E. ...

Death Notices

SHIELDS JANET C. SHIELDS (nee Churchill), age 77, of Gates Mills ...

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SOLOMON BETTY V. SOLOMON, age 41 of Maple Hills ...

Death Notices

STEFFENS LEONARD L. STEFFENS, age 90, beloved husband of the late Marjory J. ...

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THOMSON SEE BURT Notice.

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TURAN ROZANNE L. VANNELLO (nee Valent), age 59, beloved wife of Anthony ...

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WALKER RUTH BISHOP WALKER, 67, of Shaker Hts. ...

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WEAVER WILLIAM S. WEAVER JR., passed Jan. 3. Devoted husband of Beverly ...

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