

OBITUARIES

DOROTHY D. BALZANO, 96

Dorothy D. Balzano, 96, of Cape May, passed away peacefully Jan. 5, 2021.

Pre-deceased by her beloved husband, Albert; parents; sisters and brother.



BALZANO

Dot is survived by her daughter, Dottie (Frank) Vassallo; granddaughter Jennifer (Patrick) Carr; devoted great-granddaughters Charlie and Chloe Carr; a host of nieces and nephews.

Dorothy was a lover of travel, musical theater, baking and gardening. Dot was a proud Philadelphian and an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan. She was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church of Cape May.

In lieu of flowers, please direct memorials to Cape May Community Food Closet, 500 Hughes St., Cape May NJ 08204, and Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf, 500 Maiden Lane, Rochester NY 14616.

No prior visitation. Interment at the convenience of the family. To share condolences, visit bartolomeo.com.

DARCY BETH EASTMAN

Cape May lost yet another legend. Darcy Beth Eastman (nee Menz) passed away suddenly Jan. 1, 2021, as we ushered in the new year.



EASTMAN

Longtime proprietor of the Inn of Cape May and Aleathea's Restaurant, Beth embodied true grit, hard work and dedication, carrying forward the

values her family instilled in her from a young age.

Beth is survived by her beloved daughter, Keri Eastman Gindville; son-in-law, Terk Gindville; her amazing granddaughter, Ivy Gindville; her step-grandson, Gavin Gindville; her sister, Thea Peterson; her brother, Duck Menz (Carol); her nieces and nephews, Tai (Julie), Ami (Aaron), Phillip, Cody (Ryan), Tori (soon-to-be nephew, Sean); great-niece, Piper, and great-nephew, Henry. Beth was predeceased by her mom and dad, Bob and Doris Menz.

Beth was the epitome of the ethics that her parents and grandparents modeled, one of hard work and determination. To all who knew her, she had a huge heart of gold, which she often tried to hide. To those brave enough to attempt a hug, they would eventually find her enjoying it.

Over the years as "head honcho" of the inn and restaurant, she

literally worked around the clock, making sure the guests could relax and enjoy their stay. Over the 40-plus years as a Cape May hotelier, Beth gained many repeat customers who would quickly become part of her extended family. She often played the role of mom, grandmom, sister, aunt and friend to hundreds of employees.

Often known as a taskmaster, she did so to provide a secure work environment and an enjoyable experience for both guests and her co-workers. To say she will be greatly missed is an understatement.

The family will have big shoes to fill as they strive to continue to keep Beth's legacy alive. A "walk-through" visitation is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at Aleathea's Restaurant, 7 Ocean St. in Cape May.

A Time of Sharing for Beth's immediate family and close friends to share their thoughts and memo-

ries is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. at Aleathea's following the visitation. Due to COVID, the Time of Sharing ceremony after the visitation is strictly by invitation only. We want everyone to be safe. Masks and social distancing will be required and observed.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks to consider donations in Beth's memory to: New Vitae Wellness Foundation, 5201 St. Joseph's Road, Limeport, PA 18060. This longtime business is known as Tri-County to our Inn of Cape May family and any donations will be applied to its Cape May scholarships for residents who wouldn't normally be able to come each year.

Another suggestion for donations is the Cape May Community Food Closet at the First Presbyterian Church of Cape May at 500 Hughes St. in Cape May.

To share condolences, visit spilkerfuneralhome.com.

Van Drew

Continued from Page A1

ahead of the final ratification by Congress of Biden's Electoral College victory. It appeared to be the final step in certifying Biden as president, which was in question for weeks as ballots were counted and, in some cases, recounted. Trump refused to accept defeat and to this day claims the election was stolen.

After the bodies reconvened later in the evening, some, including Van Drew, objected to the Pennsylvania tally but for naught, since it never was likely they would succeed.

The Senate voted 93-6 against objections to Arizona's vote certification and 92-7 against the objection to Pennsylvania's vote.

The Senate term of former Republican Sen. David Perdue — who lost in the Georgia runoff this week to Jon Ossoff — ended Jan. 3, leaving 99 voters.

In the House, 121 Republicans voted in favor of the Arizona objection, including Van Drew, and 303 voted against it. Early Thursday morning, the objection to Pennsylvania's vote failed 282-138.

Atlantic County Democratic Party Chairman Michael Suleiman said he found it astounding that Van Drew continued with his objection. "I always knew Jeff was

a political opportunist and I always knew Jeff was an ambitious guy, but a small part of me thought 'OK, you saw how some members of Congress kind of backtracked after that violence.' Even (Georgia Republican Kelly) Loeffler, I was surprised, voted to accept the results. For this guy still not to do it is ... what little respect I had for the guy just went out the window," Suleiman said.

"I will give Jeff Van Drew credit, when he said undying support he was not kidding and frankly I think the guy shouldn't be in Congress."

Atlantic County Republican Party Chairman Keith Davis backed Van Drew's efforts in favor of election reform.

"I support his efforts and I've been consistent in being concerned about how our elections are run, not only nationally but here in the state of New Jersey," he said, using the Third District Commission race between Andrew Parker and Thelma Witherspoon as an example.

"Our county clerk mailed out hundreds of ballots that were wrong, that didn't include the race, and it led to a superior court judge determining that those voters were disenfranchised as a result of Ed McGettigan, the county clerk's actions," Davis said. "Yet the Democrats here locally say nothing and

continue to nominate this man instead of standing up to him and saying 'We need to have accurate and fair elections in Atlantic County.'

"So whether it is something happening in Georgia, Pennsylvania or Wisconsin, something happening here in Atlantic County, I have been very strong in saying we need to have election reform in our country to make sure every vote is counted."

He claimed Van Drew was not trying to overturn the election result as much as he was making a point that the system is flawed.

"At the end of the day, I don't think that votes that are questionable change the result, and that's why President-elect Biden's victory was affirmed. But the point that Congressman Van Drew is raising is a critically important one or it is going to happen again," Davis said.

Van Drew did not return a call seeking further comment.

Cape May County Democratic Party Chairman Brendan Sciarra said he felt Van Drew would have opted not to object to the vote count when Congress reconvened following the violence.

"I thought he would have had a change of mind. He's always been his own person, a maverick, and I always thought that Jeff understood what's right and wrong. I'm disappointed and I think people are really upset."

In a letter from the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, former Second Congressional District candidate Amy Kennedy, who lost to Van Drew in the November election, wrote that "even after the disgusting spectacle we all watched in horror, Rep. Jeff Van Drew still joined a handful of radical conservatives and refused to accept the results of a free and fair election."

"Sadly, he has chosen to engage in more political theater instead of doing what he promised the people of South Jersey he would do — roll up his sleeves and get things done. What's even worse is that he is choosing to throw his lot in with a fringe group who refuse to concede that Joe Biden is the president-elect even when Trump's staunchest supporters like Mitch McConnell and Lindsey Graham acknowledge the process has run its course," she added.

"Jeff Van Drew has chosen to fan the flames and support phony conspiracy theories that threaten to do permanent damage to our democracy and our country," Kennedy wrote.

Vaccine

Continued from Page A1

second mega-site at Rowan University Monday morning that will be capable of vaccinating 2,000 individuals a day, but the limiting factor remains the supply of the vaccine.

Right now, the state is vaccinating individuals in Phase 1A, staff in health care settings who have the potential for direct and indirect exposure to patients or infected materials along with staff and patients at long-term care facilities.

The state also has started vaccinating individuals in Phase 1B, which includes law enforcement, fire personnel and other first responders.

Of those who have registered for the vaccine, 7 percent are in the 1A group, 31 percent are in 1B, 43 percent in 1C and 20 percent in Phase 2, Persichilli reported.

There are about 650,000 health care workers and 50,000 first responders in New Jersey, she said.

To sign up, visit covid-vaccine.nj.gov.

No documentation

Persichilli said no one is required to provide proof they are in a specific category, either by age or profession. Questioned about whether that would allow for people to "jump the line" by lying about their eligibility, the commissioner said state officials want

the vaccination process to be a positive experience and she expected people to self-report accurately.

If people have to show identification and proof of profession, it would cause delays in the process of getting people vaccinated.

"Everyone will get vaccinated who wants to get vaccinated," Persichilli said. "We don't see any reason for further mandates for identification."

U.K. strain

State Epidemiologist Dr. Amy Tan said New Jersey hasn't identified any of the U.K. strain of the coronavirus that spreads more quickly, but noted it has appeared in 60 cases in eight states, including some that neighbor New Jersey. She said she wouldn't be surprised if it were here in the state.

Although the variant spreads more quickly, it isn't more dangerous, she said. However, because of the easier spread, residents need to keep their guard up and be vigilant about wearing masks, social distancing and washing their hands.

No graduation assessment test

Gov. Phil Murphy said Monday that he signed an executive order to waive graduation assessment test requirement for all seniors who have satis-

fied all other statutory graduation requirements; to remove Student Growth Objectives from educator evaluations for the 2020-21 school year; and to extend the time in which certified substitute teachers can serve in a single district as long as the state of emergency in New Jersey continues.

Murphy said he is making the changes because "this is not a normal school year. We have to be more flexible and more understanding."

COVID trends

The state's rate of transmission edged up to 1.09 and as of Monday there were 3,653 patients in state hospitals being treated for COVID-19. He pointed out that at the greatest peak during the pandemic, there were 8,270 hospitalizations and that the state hopes to keep the numbers where they are now or lower so the health care system is not overrun and forced back into crisis.

As of Monday, the state has seen 532,959 positive PCR tests for COVID-19 and another 57,206 positive antigen tests for the virus.

There have been 17,873 residents who have died of causes related to COVID-19 and another 2,059 probable related deaths.

Fifty-one New Jersey residents were reported dead because of the virus on Monday.

Security

Continued from Page A1

tion outside as insurrectionists scaled the walls and stairs and forced their way into the Capitol Rotunda.

Eventually backup arrived in the form of the National Guard, local police and FBI agents. Mayor Muriel Bowser instituted a 6 p.m. curfew that many of the insurrectionists ignored.

News footage included video of rioters smashing windows to enter the Capitol, wandering about in the House and Senate chambers and even posing for photos in Pence's chair.

Among those facing charges following the riots is Leonard Guthrie of Cape May, who was arrested by U.S. Capitol police for unlawful entry of a federal building. He was one of 82 initially arrested.

One rioter was shot dead, three people died of medical conditions and two officers, including Brian Sicknick of the U.S. Capitol Police, died of injuries

suffered during the riot. More than 50 other law enforcement officers suffered injuries.

Atlantic County Democratic Party Chairman Michael Suleiman said the situation was a failure of security and saw a distinct difference between how this mob was treated as opposed to those participating in the Black Lives Matter protests across the nation this past summer.

"I shudder to think what would have happened if these were Black Lives Matter protesters — tear gas and rubber bullets all over the place," Suleiman said. "What is frightening is that apparently it's harder to storm on the field at an Eagles game than it is to break into Congress."

Cape May County Republican Party Chairman Michael Donohue questioned why police failed to keep the rioters out of the Capitol building but defended their right to be there.

"To go to the nation's capital, to stand on the

steps of the Capitol to protest things that were happening in our political processes in our government, is the greatest of American traditions," he said, asking why they were there in the first place and who roused the group of rioters to try to take over the Capitol.

President Donald Trump spoke to his supporters at a rally Wednesday morning and encouraged them to march to the Capitol, vowing he would never concede and repeating his consistent lie that the election was stolen from him.

Suleiman said he fears for the safety of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

"I would strongly urge them not to have any sort of public swearing in, inauguration. I don't think it's safe. I think he should get sworn in in the Oval Office. He and Kamala each get a speech in the Oval Office and that's it. I worry for these people's safety. Broadcast it over TV and that's it," he said.

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Make Marriage Work

One of the greatest adjustments in life occurs when a man and woman decide to become husband and wife. It is very important to remember that no two marriages are alike, and that each couple must work out what is best for them. Couples who have been married for several years will all admit that they have experienced problems, but they have worked them out. They stuck together and each problem they worked out made their marriage stronger. Couples should ask, "what can I give to this marriage," not just "what can I get out of it." When married couples give their support, trust, and love to each other, the marriage is bound to be successful. Three persons should be involved in each marriage; husband, wife and God. God instituted marriage and intended that the couple remain married as long as they both should live. Working together to resolve marital problems isn't always easy, but with God's help, all things are possible.

...a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one...
Good News Bible 10:7,8

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