

# Obituaries

## George D. Infanti

AMHERST – George D. Infanti, 65, resident of Amherst, NH passed away peacefully at his home on June 13, 2013, with his family by his side after a courageous battle with cancer. George was born on September 8, 1947 and was the son of Louise (Hatch) Infanti and the late Mario Infanti. He was a graduate of Proctor Academy, Class of 1966 and attended the University of New Hampshire. He served in the U.S. Air Force, Air Police from 1968-1974 and was honorably discharged from the Army National Guard where he had served from 1974-1976.

In the early 1970's George started Infanti Insulation and after selling his business to Quality Insulation he worked for them. He could be found most recently at Milford Paint and Wallpaper making people laugh and smile while selling them paint.

George adored his family. He deeply cared for all his friends. He enjoyed all his vacations especially those that took him to a beach where he could read. George loved eating out and could be seen many Friday nights at Yankee Chef. He was a coach and sports fan especially of our Boston sports teams. George loved all of his Harleys, and he was a car enthusiast and especially loved fast ones but was usually seen in the local parades driving his Grandfather's Model A.

He was an avid fundraiser and a consistent volunteer. George dedicated countless hours to the towns of Amherst, Milford and Wilton which included almost forty years of serving on various boards and committees. He held the distinction of being a selectman in all three towns. He was a member of the National Home Builders Association and the Nashua Area Home Builder's Association from 1973-2013, where he

received Local and State Associate of the Year and was on the Board of Directors. He was a Director of The Arthur L. Keyes Trust of Milford. George was a member of the Milford Rotary beginning in 1981. In Rotary, he served on the Board of Directors and was an integral part of the development of Rotary Park in Milford, to which he dedicated his energy and his heart. He was also a two time Paul Harris Recipient and was awarded the Stan Powers Award. George truly exemplified Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self".

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Ruth Milligan Infanti; daughters, Ariana and Karly, of Amherst; a son, Jay and grandson, Killian, both of Lexington, Kentucky; a daughter, Jill and grandsons, Ethan and Jameson of Manchester; his sister, Marion Hayward of Springfield, NH and her family; his brother and sister-in-law, James and Kathi Infanti of Mont Vernon and their family; his mother-in-law, Hazel Milligan of Mont Vernon; also his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Clayton Milligan of Zephyrhills, FL, James and Janice Milligan of Londonderry, Donna Mangold of Nashua, David and Laurie Gates of Meredith, Bryce Milligan of Clearwater, FL, Blanche Milligan of Amherst and their families.

There are no visiting hours. A memorial gathering was held on Monday, June 24th at 2:00 pm in Rotary Park, Milford, NH.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Milford Rotary Community Fund, P.O. Box 618, Milford, NH 03055.

Arrangements are in the care of Smith & Heald Funeral home, 63 Elm Street, Milford. To share a memory or offer a condolence, please go to [www.smith-heald.com](http://www.smith-heald.com)



## Dr. John Patterson (Jake) Benner

Dr. John Patterson (Jake) Benner, 34, of Charlottesville, VA, died peacefully on Monday, June 17, 2013, at the Bon Secours Cancer Center in Richmond, VA, surrounded by his loving family. He had been fighting a fierce battle with gastric cancer. Jake handled his illness and his death with great fortitude, courage and strength.

Jake is survived by his wife, Jessica Lee Allen; his parents, Bev and Harry Benner; his sister, Julie Benner; his brother, Neil and sister-in-law, Patty Benner, and their children, Jack and Lizzie. He was a graduate of the University of Virginia and received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) in June, 2013.

Unfortunately, Jake was not able to attend his graduation. His medical degree was conferred by the VCOM Deans at his bedside in the ICU as arranged by his dedicated surgical team, led by Dr. Itzhak Avital. Also organized by the team was an exceptional marriage ceremony for Jake and the love of his life, Jess. He and Jess had become engaged last Fall. When he became ill she rarely left his side, spending every night with him and taking the most exquisite and tender care of him. All who observed them marveled at her tireless devotion.

Jake cherished his family and friends and took great pleasure in spending time with them. His mission in life was always looking out for them, especially his sister, Julie. Before undertaking the rigors of medical school Jake loved to fly fish, especially with his brother, Neil, and he loved tying his own flies; a hobby that he resumed while undergoing chemotherapy. Jake also loved to cook and learned his skills primarily under Tomas Rahal at the "Continental Divide", now the owner of "Mas". He liked to express his love for people by cooking for them.

A humanitarian at heart, Jake was deeply committed to the Charlottesville community. During high school at Western-Albemarle he was a volunteer instructor for the Wintergreen Adaptive Ski Program and he enjoyed helping physically challenged people enjoy the thrill of downhill skiing. Along with the achievements

described below Jake was made a Life Member of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad in 2009. An addendum to this obituary written by his mentor and friend, Dr. Bill Brady, follows:

Jake was very active and very effective in healthcare, starting as a paramedic and ending as a physician. During the many years of healthcare, Jake helped countless people in our community, young and old, rich and poor, ill and injured. Not only did he assist those in need but he also saved many lives with his calm, intelligent, capable approach to patient care.

He first joined the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad (CARS) in 2001. He served initially as a basic emergency medical technician (EMT); with much study in addition to his work at the University of Virginia, Jake completed training to serve as an EMT-paramedic, an advanced EMS provider. He was promoted many times and given a number of leadership roles at CARS, including Duty Crew Captain, EMS Supervisor, Deputy Chief of Operations, and Technical Rescue Team Captain. In addition to his EMS work at CARS, he also served with Madison County EMS as a paramedic and training lieutenant as well as UVA's Special Event Medical Management as a senior paramedic.

During his 13 years of EMS work, Jake's effective patient care and selfless contributions were recognized with a number of EMS awards, including the CARS Rookie of the Year in 2001-2002, the CARS Advanced Life Support Technician of the Year in 2008-2009, the Nicole Dawn Kielar EMS Leadership Award in 2008, and the Thomas Jefferson EMS Council Award for EMS Provider of the Year in 2008.

Jake not only assisted patients in need but also taught many healthcare providers (EMTs, nurses, and doctors) in emergency medical care. His classroom and field educational abilities were paralleled by his scholarly work. Jake, working with co-authors, published many articles and textbook chapters in the peer-reviewed medical literature; he also co-edited a medical reference book entitled "Toxicology Recall."

Jake entered the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia in 2009. He continued his hard work in medical school and did very well, graduating last month and receiving his medical degree - Dr. John Benner.

Dr. Benner was a gifted clinician - he assisted many patients, comforted many people, and saved countless lives. He was a paramedic's paramedic and would have become a doctor's doctor - those rare healthcare providers capable of high-level medical care, delivered with empathy and compassion. The healthcare world has lost a future leader yet, for those of us who worked with Jake, his example and spirit will live on in each of us - and benefit our patients. William Brady, MD

Professor of Emergency Medicine & Medicine Medical Director, Emergency Preparedness & Response

Chair, Medical Emergency Response (formerly Resuscitation) Committee

University of Virginia Health System Operational Medical Director - CARS, ACFR, MEMS, SEMM, STVFD, & EVFD

Medical Director, Allianz Global Assistance, US & Canada

In honor of Jake, the Class of 2013 at VCOM established a scholarship fund in his name, the Dr. Jake Benner Medical Emergency Fund, to financially assist VCOM students who incur significant medical hardship during their time at VCOM.

Funeral services will be held at St. Paul's Ivy on Friday, June 28th, at 1:00 p.m. with a celebration of Jake's life following at the King Family Vineyard. Prior to the service there will be a private interment.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Dr. Jake Benner Medical Emergency Fund at VCOM, 2265 Kraft Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060; the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad, PO Box 160, Charlottesville, VA 22902; the Bon Secours Cancer Institute, 6605 W Broad St, Richmond, VA 23230; or St. Paul's Ivy, 851 Owensville Rd Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Friends may send condolences to the family at [www.hillandwood.com](http://www.hillandwood.com).

## In Memory

### Friends of MaryAnne Conaway Donate \$1,000 to SHARE

AMHERST – When MaryAnne Conaway died last June after a long battle with cancer, she was remembered for the light and love she brought to so many during her life. After a celebration of MaryAnne's life, her good friends, Elaine Bennett of Amherst and Gerri Kingsford formerly of Amherst and now of Biddeford, Maine, knew they had to do something to keep MaryAnne's spirit alive.

On the first anniversary of her death, 35 of MaryAnne's female friends gathered at the Amherst Town Library for an evening to celebrate her life and give back to SHARE, where MaryAnne spent many years working with the needy. The evening began in the back garden of the Library; a fitting tribute to a woman known for her dedication to beautifying Amherst through her gardening. A dinner was then held where women friends from all parts of MaryAnne's life remembered her spirit and life.

The group collected \$1,000 which was donated to SHARE in MaryAnne's memory. The donation will be used to support SHARE's food pantry where MaryAnne worked. The summer months are particularly busy for the pantry since children who receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch during the school year, lose that benefit during the summer. "\$1,000 goes a long way in feeding the hungry. It will cover the cost of dairy products for our families for an entire month this summer," according to Christine Janson, Executive Director of SHARE, "and we are honored to accept this gift in MaryAnne's memory."

MaryAnne Conaway, who died June 3, 2012, was a former president of the Amherst Garden Club, spent much of her time working in a public triangle in Amherst, which was renamed "MaryAnne's Garden" in her honor. She was also a founding member and past president of the Souhegan Valley Quilt Guild and



in addition to SHARE, volunteered at other agencies helping those less fortunate.

SHARE Outreach is a 501(c)3 agency serving those in need in Amherst, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Brookline. [www.sharenh.org](http://www.sharenh.org).

## SHARE Food Pantry Stock Is Low

MILFORD – With local school children set to begin summer vacation, SHARE's Food Pantry is preparing for its busiest time of the year. Many area children receive free breakfast and lunch during the school year, but are without that benefit during the summer. The Pantry's supply is low, and SHARE is looking for community members to help stock the shelves for the summer.

Needed items include: sandwich bread, peanut butter, canned fruit, tuna, juice and juice boxes, and healthy snacks such as cereal bars, crackers, and individual snack packs of applesauce and pudding. The Pantry also accepts refrigerated and frozen items such as lunch

meat and yogurt.

Nonperishable foods may be dropped off at local churches, and Milford Shaw's, Market Basket, and Stop and Shop grocery stores or Coldwell Banker Realty office near the corner of Routes 101A and 122 in Amherst or at the SHARE Center during regular business hours. All perishable foods must be dropped at the SHARE Center.

The SHARE Center is located off Elm Street in Milford behind Federated Auto Parts and is open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Call the SHARE office at 673-9898 or email [infor@sharenh.org](mailto:infor@sharenh.org) if you'd like to donate but unable to do so during regular hours.

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