

Obituaries

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Edward Albert Rayhill, M.D.

1929-2024

Dr. Edward (Ted) Rayhill of Grand Island passed away peacefully on Nov. 9, 2024, after reaching his 95th birthday.

He was born the youngest of three children to Christine (Gubitz) and Edward Anthony Rayhill. He is predeceased by his two older sisters, Joyce Durkin and Marguerite Walsh. He met his wife, Joanne Decot, when he was 16 – and it was love at first sight. They married seven years later, on June 20, 1953.

Ted attended Canisius College and then graduated from University at Buffalo Medical School in 1954, receiving the top two surgical awards.

After bringing home their second baby, Ted received his orders to serve in the Navy, and they relocated to Quonset Point, Rhode Island, where he spent much of his service delivering babies and keeping our troops healthy.



Dr. Edward (Ted) Rayhill

Upon returning to Buffalo, Dr. Rayhill entered private practice as a family doctor on Grand Island with his classmate and longtime partner Dr. Robert Miller. They later added Dr. Thomas Sheehan to the practice, and served the local community as family physicians for over 40 years.

In September of 1978, Dr. Rayhill risked his medical license when

he began paramedic-level training for a contingent of Grand Island firefighters. On Oct. 6, 1979, nine newly certified paramedics were ready to initiate advanced life-support services, with Ted serving as medical director. Grand Island was one of the first volunteer agencies in the state to offer paramedic-level service. This was one of Ted's proudest achievements.

Thirty-six years later to the day, this same group of paramedics saved Ted's life from a heart attack in 2015.

Dr. Rayhill also served as the chief of family practice at Kenmore Mercy Hospital and was a founding member of the Family Medicine Foundation at the University at Buffalo, where he served as a clinical associate professor for decades. He was a charter member of the AAFP and the American Board of Family Medicine and served as president

of the Erie County chapter of the NY State Academy of Family Physicians.

Ted had a wonderful sense of humor and was quite the renaissance man. He built custom furniture and was an avid modeler of RC-airplanes and hydroplanes. He taught himself to play the guitar and harmonica, loved listening to music, was a voracious reader and a gifted athlete.

But most of all, he loved spending time with his family. Joanne and Ted were happily married for over 71 years and enjoyed a wonderful, active life on Grand Island. They played tennis with close friends, cross-country skied in the winter, walked, biked and kayaked in Beaver Island State Park. Ted was an avid sculler since he was a teenager at the West Side Rowing Club. He rowed his single-man scull in the Niagara River into his 80s.

Dr. Rayhill is survived by his wife, Joanne (Decot), and his four children: Christine (Frank Eason) McLimans, Karen Bruno (John), Michael (Donnette) and Catherine (Katherine Hastings). He leaves eight grandchildren: Andrew (Kathleen) Bruno, Nicole (Jess) Laski, Melissa (Will Raskopf), Thomas (Danielle), James, Michael, Ashley (Jeremy) McLimans-Davis and Blake McLimans; and six great-grandchildren: Clare and Kyle Bruno, Emma and Leah Laski, Finn and Zoe Raskopf.

A wake will be held for Dr. Rayhill from 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, at Kaiser Funeral Home, 1950 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Grand Island Fire Co. and the Family Medicine Endowment Fund at the University at Buffalo are appreciated. Share condolences at kaiserfuneral.com.

IN THE NEWS

Niagara Gospel Mission prepping for winter

Niagara Gospel Mission Press Release
As November begins, and tem-

peratures fall, Niagara Gospel Mission is gearing up for Code Blue, a program providing emergency shelter for men during the coldest months of the year.

"In extreme weather, everyone should have a safe place to shelter," said the Rev. John Cooper Jr., executive director. "Our staff anticipates sheltering up to 60 additional men each night the weather becomes dangerous."

Cooper defined dangerous weather as any time temperatures drop below 32 degrees.

According to Reuters and organizations monitoring homelessness, hundreds of men, women and children are vulnerable to extreme weather each year. The flu, COVID and other respiratory illnesses, trench foot, hypothermia and more can occur for individuals who have been evicted from housing, or who are dealing with street crime, lack

of appropriate clothing, the need to escape abuse, and other issues. Many unsheltered individuals choose to stay in homeless camps or in abandoned buildings due to substance abuse or mental health challenges. Some endanger themselves and others by building bonfires in parking lots, trash cans or even buildings.

"We want to avoid these situations by providing a clean, safe environment where these people can have a good meal, stay overnight or find relief in our day shelter when the weather becomes dangerous," Cooper said.

Niagara Gospel Mission is heading up the Code Blue effort this winter – an endeavor that will in-

crease its budget by tens of thousands of dollars, Cooper said. The agency's October gala raised a significant amount of funding for Code Blue, which will begin with the first extreme temperature event and end in late-March.

"The money will cover higher costs for food, water, heat, house-keeping supplies, bedding, staffing and other needs," Cooper said. "Right now, we need to cover the cost of the heavy-duty cots and storage racks that we'll be able to use year after year."

Cooper said the cost for 60 cots and three storage racks, along with shipping, is just under \$11,000.

"The equipment is military-grade and nothing like the cots used for family camping," he said. "This purchase will equip us for Code Blue for several years. We welcome cash donations designated specifically for this need – everyone knows bone-chilling WNY nights are just around the corner."

Men seeking shelter at the site during Code Blue are welcomed in to sleep on a clean cot in a safe environment, along with showers, meals and other services.

"Hopefully, some will decide to come in out of the cold for good!" Cooper said. "We offer overnight shelter, case management, and our 'RECON' program for men interested in addressing their challenges long-term."

Cooper said the site also offers "The Liberty Suite," a dorm specifically for veterans, and will soon open a new long-term discipleship program called "ReDeploy for Veterans."

"We welcome anyone interested in learning new ways to cope with barriers to their stability," Cooper said.

Though Niagara Gospel Mission can provide shelter for men only at this time, its leadership is in an aggressive capital campaign to open a women's shelter in the next two years.

"For women, life on the streets is especially devastating," Cooper said. "Soon, we'll be able to respond to that need with emergency shelter and long-term programs designed especially for women."

Lutheran Church of the Messiah

Pastor Timothy Anas
915 Oneida Street, Lewiston
716-754-4944
www.messiahlewiston.org



9am Sunday School and Coffee Hour
10am Worship Hour - Live Streaming

Grand Island CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
1453 Staley Road, Church Office 716-773-4400

Pastor Adam Arends

Child Care Center 716-773-9249
www.StTimothygrandisland.com

All are welcome to join us for our

Services:

9:30 AM indoor every Sunday

Community Thanksgiving Service
with Chorus and Desserts
November 24 at 7 p.m.

BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1650 Love Road (Just off Beaver Island Pkwy.)
716-773-7303

Pastor: Rev. Kevin M. Backus, Ph. D.
Assistant Pastor:

Rev. David Joonkyung Chi, M.Div.
www.biblepres.org

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road • 716-773-3748

Rev. Calvin VanderMey

www.bfcgi.org

Regular Service at Bible Fellowship.....8:30 & 10:15am

Ladies Bible Study - Wednesdays.....10:00am

Prayer and Bible Study - Wednesdays6:30pm

Precept Bible Study - Thursdays8:15am

CROSSRIVER TABERNACLE

2920 Grand Island Blvd.

Pastor: Michael Chorey

CrossRiverMinistries.org

716-229-8000

Facebook Services: CrossRiver Tabernacle

Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:00am
(Nursery and Children's Church Provided)

Sunday Evening Service6:30pm

Wednesday Bible Study7-8:30pm

Saturday "The Last Trump" WDCX 99.5..8:30-9:30pm

Saturday "Cross Eyed Radio" WDCX 99.5.. 9:30-10:30pm

TRINITY CHURCH GRAND ISLAND

"Welcome Home"

2100 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, NY

www.TrinityGrandisland.org • 716-773-3322

Pastor: Kevin Slough

Join us in Worship

Informal WorshipSundays at 8am

WorshipSundays at 10am

Online Worshipwww.trinitygrandisland.org

Branches Youth Groups*

Routed Children's Groups*

Adult Bible Studies*

*Please go to our website for details...

www.TrinityGrandisland.org

Believe + Belong + Build

Believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

Belong to the Lord Jesus with your whole heart and soul

Build on your relationship with Jesus through worship,

prayer and service



SHARE YOUR MESSAGE IN
OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY
CALL 716-773-7676