

Obituaries

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Mark Raymond Von Wryeza

It is with deep sorrow and love that we announce the unexpected passing of Mark Raymond Von Wryeza of Grand Island, 72, on Nov. 1, 2024. He was a beloved husband, father and friend, who brought joy, kindness and warmth to all who knew him. Mark was the loving and devoted husband of Christine Von Wryeza (née Syrek) for 50 years; and the devoted father of Tammi (Jay) Ras. Following his retirement from Teamsters Local 375 after 30 years, he found joy in cruising and spending time at the Buffalo Launch Club. Mark will be forever remembered for his loving nature and kind heart. A Celebration of Life will be held in the future.



Remembering an exemplary Grand Island pillar

Legend has it that Paul Bunyan was over 7 feet tall and performed amazing feats to serve his fellow man. Although mythical, he was a giant and a hero, a man truly larger than life! Grand Island lost its own giant and hero recently with the passing of Dr. Edward A. Rayhill. Doc Rayhill was a true giant among men, an exceptional physician, loving husband, doting father, wonderful friend, and community servant. Ted was an inspiration to hundreds of young Islanders and a mentor to whole

classes of physicians and other medical professionals. He and Joanne lived a 78-year love story, and a marriage that lasted more than 71 years. The couple raised four amazing children, Christine, Michael, Karen and Kathy – all successful in their own right. He not only practiced family medicine on Grand Island, he and Joanne lived in the same Island home for nearly seven decades. I honestly can't tell you when I first met Ted Rayhill. It had to have been 50-plus years ago. He

was confident without arrogance, knowledgeable without cockiness, loving without limitation, helpful and generous without equivocation. As a physician, he was widely regarded as exemplary. As a friend, he was always regarded as the best you could ask for. In 1978, the Grand Island Fire Co. was starting down a road that would change Grand Island. Nearly a dozen firefighter/EMTs had committed to taking a new, New York State Health Department course in advanced emergency medical technology. The course was expected to take nearly 1,000 hours of classroom and clinical training. Partway through the training, the course changed to training leading to certification as paramedics. 1978 turned into 1979 and, as the course neared comple-



Dr. Edward A. Rayhill

tion, the fire company needed a medical director – a physician who was willing to accept total responsibility for the new, volunteer paramedics who would be starting IV lines, administering medications, and analyzing EKGs. The company had no ability to

pay the physician who accepted this responsibility, and there was much anguishing over who could be enticed to take on this liability. When Dr. Rayhill was approached, he immediately agreed. We noted that there was no compensation. That didn't matter. We wanted to make sure that he understood the full responsibility. He knew what he was getting into. There was no hesitation, no need to ponder over the decision. Ted simply replied, "This will help the residents of Grand Island, many of whom are my patients. We will be a team working for the benefit of Grand Island."

Ted Rayhill remained an active medical director for nearly 30 years. He taught; he demonstrated; he assisted; he led. The GIFCo paramedic unit thrived under his direction because he both cared and participated. He was always available, day or night, if we had a question or needed direction. It was not unusual for Dr. Rayhill to show up on the scene of a particularly gruesome auto accident, giving instruction and guidance where needed. Usually, when he arrived, there would be a collective sigh of relief among the paramedics and firefighters, "The Doc was here."

Ted Rayhill loved his community. He loved the fire company. He loved serving as a physician to thousands of Islanders. His passing is the end of an era. The Grand Island Fire Co.'s "Paul Bunyan" has died.

*Gail J. Lazenby
Former resident of Grand Island (33 years)
Former GIFCo EMS captain and chairman of the board of directors
Member of the first GIFCo paramedic class*

Need Food?

For confidential assistance, call the Neighbors Foundation of Grand Island
716-775-7998
Gineighbors14072@gmail.com

Scan QR Code for instant access to our website at www.gineighbors.org

*Our Mission Statement
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
We are an all volunteer organization providing confidential food assistance to our Grand Island Neighbors through the generosity of individuals, churches and other groups who donate funds and non-perishable goods.*

Lutheran Church of the Messiah

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

**Worship with us at 8:15am Guitar // 10am organ
9am Sunday School // 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 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

Online Worshipwww.trinitygrandisland.org
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*Please go to our website for details...
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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

CROSSRIVER TABERNACLE
2920 Grand Island Blvd.
Pastor: Michael Chorey
CrossRiverMinistries.org
716-229-8000
Facebook Services: CrossRiver Tabernacle

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

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

Sunday School-Classes for all ages9:30am
Worship Service10:45am
(Nursery, Children's Church)
Evening Worship Service.....6:00pm
Wednesday
AWANA - 3 yrs old thru Gr 8 during school year.....
6:30pm-8:15pm
24/7 program for Sr. High youth.6:30pm-8:15pm
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting7:00pm



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