

Obituaries

Marian Theresa Burns

Marian Theresa Burns, 88, died peacefully on April 29, 2020. She was the beloved wife for 67 years of the late John William (Jack) Burns, who died in 2017.

Marian was born to Eva (Manjack) and John Kowalczyk on Nov. 3, 1931, in Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. She is survived by her younger sister, Patricia Gallagher. She is predeceased by her older sister, Rose Marie Bungo; and a younger brother, John Kowalczyk.

Marian was described in her high school yearbook as "pert with tomboyish ways as certainly not in keeping with her slight build. Marian with her fair complexion and clear blue eyes seemed more like a walking doll than a third baseman."

Her brother, John, always remembered how Marian protected him and came to his defense.

Marian was Vice President of her Class of 1949. She had the leading role as the "Divine Flora" in the school play and was chosen May Queen. During high school, Marian and Jack became sweethearts. A quote under a picture of them in their yearbook stated, "Always Together."

They married a year after graduation, Sept. 18, 1950, in Colum-



bia, South Carolina, where Jack was stationed at Fort Jackson while in the army. They moved to Grand Island in 1957 to raise their family and became lifelong residents.

She was a devoted mother of one son, Jack Burns, and his wife, Sandy, of Grand Island; and five daughters: Nancy and her husband, Mike Wells, of Stow, Massachusetts; Terri and her husband, Jim Canavan, of Safety Harbor, Florida; Kim and her husband, Robert Parasiliti, of Horseheads; Patricia (deceased) and her husband, Steve Kopra, of Clarence; and Casey and her husband, Mark Reimer, of At-

lanta. Marian was a loving grandmother to 15 grandchildren and great-grandmother to 15 great-grandchildren.

From childhood, Marian was a devout Catholic starting and ending each day in prayer. She was a member of St. Stephen Parish. She participated actively in church life and activities including attending daily Mass, became a Eucharistic minister, a member of the Alter Society and bereavement committee.

She was also recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" at Elderwood Nursing home. Marian's deep faith led her to be ordained as a 3rd Order Carmelite of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns.

Marian was a creative artist talented in painting, ceramics and writing. She was a fabulous cook and the family never missed her weekly Sunday dinners. They said, "Our house was filled with laughter as she bestowed upon her family the 'Kowalczyk sense of humor!'"

Marian will be buried in St. Stephen cemetery next to Jack. On their gravestone is the inscription "Always Together."

A memorial service will be held at a future date. Share condolences at kaiserfuneral.com.

Graham provides update, as schools remain closed for academic year

BY MICHAEL J. BILLONI
Contributor

Brian Graham, Ed.D., superintendent of Grand Island Schools, said administrators, principals, teachers and school staff are extremely disappointed they will not have the opportunity to see students participate in the annual high school graduation ceremony with everyone gathered at the Kleinhans Music Hall.

Graham fully understands the safety factor behind Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's decision this week to keep schools closed and continue with distance learning for all students.

"As a school district, we had been preparing for an extended closure of schools as well as the potential for reopening. Throughout the district, we will now continue to follow our continuity of learning plan during the closure for all students," Graham said.

"Unfortunately, we will not see the students again until we reopen. Our Class of 2020 has faced a tremendous amount of adversity this year. This class will miss out on many signature events, but they will also experience the great love and admiration we have for all of them. I am incredibly impressed with our teachers, faculty, staff and administrators who are constantly working to make sure this Class of 2020 is recognized and applauded for all that they have accomplished the past 13 years," he added.

"With respect to this unprecedented closure, I would like to thank all of our education professionals who are keenly aware that this extended distance learning could result in a mental health crisis for many students and adults. I strongly encourage parents to please contact any of our social workers, counselors, psychologists or administrators if your child



Graham

is in need of assistance," Graham continued.

In regard to testing, all New York State Regents Exams, as well as all state assessments in grades 3-8 have been cancelled this year. Grand Island has also cancelled end-of-year exams for its students.

Graham said students who, during the June examination period, would take one or more Regents examinations, are exempted from the requirements pertaining to passing such examinations in order to be issued a diploma.

In order to qualify for the exemption, students must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and will have earned credit in such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year.

- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and has failed to earn credit by the end of the school year. Such a student returns for summer instruction to make up the failed course credit and is subsequently granted diploma credit in August.

During the weeks ahead, Graham said a date will be set for the final day of school for each building, and principals will create a plan for students to collect personal items from their lockers. The district will continue to provide meals for all families during this extended closure. Parents and guardians should continue to fill out the RSVP forms as it allows them to keep track of the needed meals.

Grand Island is planning for summer school to be delivered in the traditional manner, or virtually, but it is waiting for an announcement soon from the governor to help the district with its plans.

In addition to the academic lessons students are receiving from their teachers each day, the district's physical education teachers are using Google Classroom to provide instruction as well as post physical education challenges to students on a regular basis.

Sadly, Graham reported there is no plan for virtual proms and, "Unfortunately, both proms are canceled."

He said plans continue to be discussed on the best way to honor seniors with a graduation during these unprecedented times.

The superintendent also said it is too early for the governor to share his guidance on lifting the "PAUSE" in New York as it relates to the reopening of schools in September.

"We hope the governor will convene a group of educational leaders from across the state to help SEE GRAHAM, continued on Page 7

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hosted by **Lori Caso**

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Robert E. Waterson III

Robert E. Waterson III of Grand Island entered into rest May 6, 2020. He was the son of Sally M. and the late Robert E. Waterson Jr.; brother of Jeff (Sharon) Waterson, Michael (Christina) Waterson, Diane (Brent VanderVlaet) Waterson and Brett (Melanie) Waterson; and also survived by many nieces and nephews; the nephew of Laura Worley and August Worley.

A memorial Mass will be held at a later date. Share condolences at kaiserfuneral.com.

Grand Island CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
 1453 Staley Road, Church Office 773-4400
 Child Care Center 773-9249
 The Rev. Kris Bjerke-Ulliman, Pastor
www.StTimothygrandisland.com

Sunday Worship.....8:00am & 10:30am
 Sunday Church School
 Children Ages 2 Years - Grade 610:30am
 Professional Child Care provided during the 10:30 service
 Holy Communion All Services
 Day Care Ministry Operates
 Monday-Friday 6:00am - 6:00pm

BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 1650 Love Road (Just off Beaver Island Pkwy.)
 773-7303
 Pastor: Rev. Kevin M. Backus, Ph. D.
 Assistant Pastor: Rev. Andrew R. Wann, M. Div.
www.biblepres.org

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 Meeting.....7:00pm

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER
 1136 Baseline Road • 773-3748
 Rev. Calvin VanderMey
www.bfcgi.org

Regular Service at Bible Fellowship.....8:30 & 10:15am
 Youth Group ages 8 & up - Mondays..6:30-8:00pm
 Adult Prayer & Bible Study - Tuesdays6:30pm
 Adult Bible Study - Fridays7:00pm

CORNERSTONE CHURCH
 1290 Whitehaven Road • 773-1004
cornerstonechurch.life

Join us Sundays at 9:00am and 10:30am
 Worship Service
 Discovery Island Children's Ministry
 RockStars (Special Needs) and Nursery

Middle School Youth Group.....Thur 6:00pm
 High School Youth Group.....Mon 6:30pm
 Kids Club (K-5th during school year).....Wed 6:30pm
 MOLO (Moms of Little Ones during school year) Wed 9:15am

Find more info on ministries for all age groups at
Cornerstonechurch.life

SHARE YOUR MESSAGE IN OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY
 CALL 773-7676

CROSSRIVER TABERNACLE
 2920 Grand Island Blvd. • 716-229-8000
 Pastor: Michael Chorey
CrossRiverMinistries.org

Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:00am
 (Nursery & Children's Church Provided)
 Revolution Youth Rally for Teens
 (Grades 7-12)6:30pm
 Wednesday Services
 Prayer Meeting.....6-7:00pm
 Worship and Bible Study7-8:15pm
 Kid's Bible Club (Ages 5-11)7-8:15pm

TRINITY CHURCH
 "Welcome Home"
 2100 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, NY
www.TrinityGrandIsland.org • 716-773-3322
 Pastor: Kevin Slough

Join us in Worship
 Traditional Worship8:00am
 Contemporary Worship10:00am
 U-Turn Youth Groups*
 Rooted Children's Groups*
 Adult Bible Studies*
 *Please check website for time and details
 Handicap accessible/Nursery care

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