

WF BOE candidates

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attend William Floyd schools.

Mentz taught secondary-level math at I.S. 141 and the I.S. 10 schools in the New York City school system before moving to Shirley and becoming a full-time stay-at-home mom. She served on the Just Kids Parent Organization for two years, the elementary school PTO for nine years and the middle school PTO for three years.

She served as a per diem substitute teacher in three William Floyd schools (William Floyd and Moriches elementary schools and William Floyd Middle School) for six years and is currently working as a permanent substitute teacher at Westhampton Beach Elementary School.

Mentz received the SCOPE Shining Star Community Service Award in 2013 for distinguished service in the field of education and has been a community leader in the William Floyd school community for many years.

She became interested in serving on

the board after attending meetings over the last decade. She found great value in attending them and decided to serve the William Floyd community in a new capacity and be able to provide opportunities for the 9,000 students within the school district.

Mentz has put emphasis on increasing the graduation rate, saying that anything less than 100 percent means that there is room for improvement.

A challenge that Mentz sees for the district is voter turnout for the recent annual budgets, which decreased 20 percent from 2016 to 2017, and referenced the importance of those numbers — regardless of yes or no votes — for attracting the attention of local elected officials.

Mentz hopes to teach full-time in the upcoming academic year and looks forward to running for a full three-year term on the board when elections come around next year. ■

OBITUARIES

Stelio Fantoli

Stelio Fantoli, 90, of Patchogue, died April 28. Born in Rome, Italy, Mr. Fantoli was a biochemist with Winthrop Hospital in Mineola.

He is survived by his daughters, Marcelle Muniz, Donna Perge, Cynthia and Patricia Fantoli, and Lisa DeRosa; his sons, Mark and Lawrence Fantoli; and his 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife of 46 years, Barbara Jeanne Fantoli.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Robertaccio Funeral Home, Patchogue. A funeral service was held at St. Michael the Archangel R.C. Church, Farmingville, followed by interment in Queen of All Saints Cemetery, Central Islip.

George F.X. McNerney Jr.

George Francis Xavier McNerney Jr., 65, of Bayport, died April 26 of complications from gliomatosis cerebri, an extremely rare form of brain cancer. Mr. McNerney was insatiably curious about the world, especially the environment, sailing and politics. He was a man of undefeatable positivity and great intelligence, who lived by the principles and values he believed in. A modest man with little interest or need for material things, Mr. McNerney was selfless, generous, and immeasurably committed to caring and providing for others. His capacity for awe and wonder were, and always

will be, an inspiration to those who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Deborah Rohm McNerney; his two daughters, Michelle Wilkins and husband, Brady, and Erin McNerney-Prichard and husband, Ian; his four siblings, Teresa, Patty, Tim and Michael McNerney; and his four grandchildren, Stella and Rowyn Wilkins, and Oliver and Margot Prichard.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Raynor & D'Andrea Funeral Home, Bayport, where a memorial service was held.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to any of the following: Columbia University Medical Center, giving.columbia.edu/giveonline (gifts can be directed to "Brain Tumor Research/In Honor of George F.X. McNerney Jr."); or Cornell Brain and Spine Center, weillcornellbrainandspine.org/donate-now (directed to "gliomatosis cerebri research"), and would be appreciated by the family.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the policy of this newspaper that all obituaries, whether from a family member or funeral home, are edited for style and content. We charge a fee for all obituaries, but they must adhere to our format. If you wish to place an obituary "as is" with no editing, please call our advertising department at 631-475-1000 ext. 15.

BELLPORT



Checkmate

On Saturday, April 28, the Boys and Girls Club of the Bellport Area hosted Bellport's first Day of Chess scholastic tournament. Eight local youth, all members of the Bellport Chess Club, competed in three rounds of intense chess. Between games, the participants created art projects, solved puzzles and went outside to play tag in the beautiful weather. Games were supervised and adjudicated by the volunteer coaches of the Bellport Chess Club: Rich Green, Deborah Denis and Zongxia Li. The tournament was organized and directed by Jason A. Neal, community liaison of the Boys and Girls Club of the Bellport Area. The top prize, won by Kevin Gonzalez, a fifth-grader at Frank P. Long Intermediate School, is a one-year membership to the United States Chess Federation. The Neal family of Bellport provided prizes. Suffolk County Legis. Rudy Sunderman, Brookhaven Town councilman Michael Loguercio and Brookhaven Town councilman and deputy supervisor Dan Panico stopped by to encourage the youth, and even to play some chess with them. Pictured: Suffolk County Legis. Rudy Sunderman and Brookhaven Town councilman Dan Panico stopped by for a few rounds of chess at the Boys and Girls Club recently.

Courtesy photo



Ask the Director



RICH D'ANDREA
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

What Funeral Services and Benefits are Available to Veterans?

The men and woman who have served our country deserve the greatest honor, love and care at the time of their death. For eligible service members, Veterans and their families, there are many benefits available including a gravesite in a national or state Veterans cemetery, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

National and State Veterans Cemeteries

One of the benefits available to eligible Veterans is a gravesite in any of the 135 national cemeteries with available space. This benefit includes interment and the ongoing care and maintenance of the cemetery grounds. For a map and listing of national and state cemeteries visit www.cem.va.gov/cem/cems/listcem.asp.

Headstones, Markers and Medallions

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides a government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world. For Veterans with a privately purchased headstone, the VA may provide an additional marker or medallion. Depending on dates of service and eligibility, your funeral director can help determine what options are available to you.

Burial Flag

During the funeral of a Veteran, a United States flag will be draped over the casket or accompany the urn. Often times, the flag is presented to the next-of-kin as a keepsake after the funeral service.

Presidential Memorial Certificate

To honor the memory of a deceased, honorably discharged Veteran, a Presidential Memorial Certificate is provided to the next of kin or loved one. This gold-embossed certificate bears the signature of the current President and expresses the country's recognition of the Veteran's service.

Burial Allowance

A VA Burial Allowance is a flat rate monetary benefit that is paid at the maximum amount authorized by law for an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. Regulations for this benefit were simplified in 2014 to pay eligible survivors automatically upon notification of the Veteran's death, without the need to submit a claim.

Burial Benefits for Family Members

The spouses and dependents of a Veteran may be buried in a national cemetery, even if they predecease the Veteran. The spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost.



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