

Stephen C. Mervan, 86, Decorated Vet.; Had Long Career With Bethlehem Steel

Stephen C. Mervan, 86, of Bethlehem, Pa. and Westfield, N.J. passed away on Friday, December 16, 2011, at Overlook Medical Center in Summit, N.J. He was born on November 24, 1925 in Bethlehem, son of the late John and Mary (Mihala) Mervan. He was the husband of Dolores (Kerso) Mervan. They celebrated 57 years together this past September.

Stephen worked in the Fabrication Department and Safety Engineering for Bethlehem Steel for 40 years before retiring in 1981. He was a gymnast and a member of the Catholic Sokols in his early years. He attended St. Cyril and Methodius Parochial School and graduated from Bethlehem Catholic High School in 1943. He was a parishioner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Bethlehem and Saint Helen's Church in Westfield. In addition to being a Yankee fan, he was an avid fan of Lehigh University football and wrestling and was always a helping hand to the Lehigh Athletics Department. Stephen was a regular on the Lehigh basketball courts at lunchtime for decades. He was very proud of his family and Slovak heritage.

Stephen enlisted in the U.S. Navy at 17 years of age and proudly served his country in World War II on the destroyer *USS Hank* (DD702) from the date of its commissioning in August 1944. The *Hank* operated in the Pacific theater and participated in the Luzon, Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns. The *Hank* fended off numer-

ous kamikaze attacks and suffered the last kamikaze attack before the Japanese surrendered. Stephen was in a number of Japanese cities while the *Hank* was on occupation duty for four months through December 1945.

Stephen earned the Pacific Theater Ribbon (four stars), American Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon (one star) and a Kamikaze Survivor medal.

He will be remembered with much love and affection by his wife, Dolores; daughter, Carolyn, wife of Quaid Kapadia of Westfield, N.J., and grandchildren, Alexandra, Alistair and Andrew; son, Stephen Mervan, husband of Lorraine, of Mt. Lebanon, Pa., and grandson, Matthew, and brother, Robert Labdik, husband of Karen, of Macungie, Pa. He was predeceased by his brother, John Mervan, Jr., and sisters, Helen Mervan and Mary Gress.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered yesterday, Wednesday, December 21, at the Incarnation of Our Lord Parish in Bethlehem, Pa. Burial was at Holy Saviour Cemetery in Bethlehem.

Arrangements were by the Connell Funeral Home, 245 East Broad Street, Bethlehem, Pa. 18018.

Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to the Disabled American Veterans (www.dav.org) and the American Heart Association (www.heart.org). Please send online condolences to

www.connellfuneral.com.
December 22, 2011



Stephen C. Mervan

Obituaries

Frank X. McDermott, 87, Attorney; Former New Jersey Senate President

A dominant force in the state's public arena and in private legal practice, whose charismatic personality, wit and smile were defining characteristics, former New Jersey State Senate President Frank X. McDermott, of Westfield, N.J., passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2011, surrounded by his beloved family. He was 87 years old.

A prominent labor management attorney, state legislator and long-time Republican Party leader, Mr. McDermott's greatest legacy is his family. Frank was most proud of his close-knit family, the product of 57 years of marriage to his beloved wife, Patricia, a union which produced five children and 10 grandchildren. Frank and Patricia embraced the value of strong family bonds, and the well-renowned annual family vacation that took place for more than 40 years was a shining example of that sustained commitment.

Born in New York City on October 15, 1924, Mr. McDermott was raised in the Bronx, N.Y., before moving to Trenton, N.J. in 1954 and then to Westfield in 1956.

Mr. McDermott played an active role in public policy development through leadership posts in both the New Jersey General Assembly and Senate. His public service to New Jersey first began in 1955, when he served as New Jersey delegate to the White House Conference on Education. He was first elected in 1963 to the Assembly from Union County, serving as assistant majority leader in 1965 and minority leader in 1966. In 1967, Mr. McDermott was elected to the New Jersey Senate, rising to majority leader the following year, and then was elected Senate President in 1969, serving as acting governor in the absence of Governor Richard J. Hughes. Also in 1969, he was an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of New Jersey, losing the Republican Primary to William Cahill, who was elected Governor. He was Senate President pro tempore from 1970 to 1973. In 1975, he was again elected to the General Assembly, serving one term. In 1977, he considered running in the Republican Primary for governor but ultimately became the campaign chairman for Thomas Kean. Mr. McDermott was a strong advocate for the New Jersey Republican Party for more than five decades. His leadership included service as Union County Republican Party chairman from 1989 to 2000.



Frank X. McDermott

His service to New Jersey went beyond elected office. He served as chairman of the New Jersey Turnpike and Highway Authority and as a trustee for Kean University.

Mr. McDermott was widely recognized as a legend in the legal community for his expertise in labor law. He is the co-founder of the prestigious law firm Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy. He represented the interests of management in New Jersey and the Northeast United States for half a century and continued to actively counsel and bargain for businesses until the time of his death. He is the author of "Employer Guide to New Jersey Labor Laws." He was admitted to practice as an attorney in New Jersey, New York and the District of Columbia and before the Supreme Court of the United States. He was a co-adjutant staff member at Rutgers University Institute of Management and Labor Relations.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College, a Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School and a Master of Public Administration and Master of Laws from New York University. He attended Mount Saint Michael's Academy High School in the Bronx.

Mr. McDermott was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Air Corps. He was a proud member of Baltusrol Golf Club for more than 40 years. He was a 33rd Degree Freemason, a member of the B.P.O.E. and the Knights of Columbus and a parishioner at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church. He also was an active member of the Columbia Law School Alumni Association and served the organization as president of the New Jersey chapter.

Mr. McDermott is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia (née Keogh), and was the father of Colleen Palme and her husband, Jim, their children, Justine, Sean and Kayla; Greg and his wife, Andrea, their children, Bryan, Maggie, Melissa and Patricia; Marita Dow and her husband, Michael, their children, Mackenzie and Morgan; Matthew and his son, Owen, and Brendan and his wife, Kristiane.

A Funeral Mass took place on Monday, December 19, at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements were by Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, 582 Springfield Avenue in Westfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the charity of one's choice.

December 22, 2011



CHESS CHAMPS...The Scotch Plains Public Library sponsored a chess tournament for students in grades 3 through 8 on December 11. Render Cutts of Let's Play Chess! organized the event and supplied trophies for all players. John Moldovan, president of the Kenilworth Chess Club, volunteered his time and expertise to co-direct this event. Finalists, pictured left to right, are: James Middleton, Rae Mikula, Harry Randazzo (second place), Josiah Baik (third place) and Dev Patel (first place).

Participants in Needle Nite Plan Project For Seafarers

FANWOOD - The monthly Needle Nite session at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church will take place on Friday, January 6, at 7:30 p.m. in Westminster Hall on Marian Avenue.

A one-time project will be undertaken - making "Ditty Bags" for seafarers - with the goal of creating 50 bags. The bags will be donated to the "Christmas at Sea" program of the Seamen's Church Institute of Port Newark. They will be filled throughout the year with knit scarves, socks and hats. This is an ongoing Needle Nite project. They also will contain sewing kits and toiletries. Seafarers are the sailors who work on cargo ships from all over the world.

Those who quilt will continue the "Disappearing Nine Patch" quilt project. The plan is to complete the

project by March. Anyone needing fabric or batting is asked to e-mail their request to needlenite@fanwoodpc.org.

Knitters and those who crochet will continue to make items for various charities, including several local nursing homes, newborns at Newark Beth Israel Hospital, the "Christmas at Sea" seafarers projects and prayer shawls for those needing extra care.

Donated materials end up in many forms usable by the charities that receive them. For further information about these projects or directions to the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, call the church office at (908) 889-8891, e-mail fanwoodpress@erols.com or visit fanwoodpc.org or facebook.com/pages/Fanwood-Presbyterian Church/311300160969.

Donald Leshick, 77, Knights Member; Had Been Insurance Underwriter

Donald Leshick, 77, of Westfield passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on Monday, December 19, 2011.

Born in Carteret, Mr. Leshick lived in Westfield since 1958.

Donald was a member of the Army National Guard and was a 1956 graduate of Seton Hall University. He worked as an insurance underwriter for Allstate, CNA and most recently Continental Insurance Company. After retiring from the insurance industry, he continued to work as a risk manager for Union County and also as a ranger for Ash Brook Golf Course.

Donald was a member of Knights of Columbus No. 1711. He enjoyed summering at Harvey Cedars and

wintering in Sarasota, Fla. He also enjoyed traveling, golf, gardening and especially attending Giants games.

Mr. Leshick was predeceased by his sister, Helen Fitzpatrick, and is survived by his wife of 55 years, Alice (Karmazin), and their two sons, Scott and Rick and his wife, Lynda. Two grandchildren, Nicholas and Kasey, also survive him.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. today, Thursday, December 22, at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements are by the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Westfield Veterans Fund, 405 Elm Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090.

December 22, 2011



SEEKING THE CURES...Westfield physician Stephen L. DeFelicce, right, chairman of FIM, the Foundation for Innovation in Medicine, is pictured at Capitol Hill discussing the Doctornaut Act with Senator Tom Harkin, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

When Was the Last Cure? Achieving Breakthroughs

WESTFIELD - In his first book, "Drug Discovery: The Pending Crisis," way back in 1972, Westfield physician Stephen L. DeFelicce wrote, "Our present system of drug discovery is almost designed not to cure the great diseases that confront us. There is no doubt that many will be cured in the distant future, but it is unfortunate that many must wait." He blamed the increasing costly barriers for patients to participate in clinical studies, which are currently irrationally obstructive. By blocking the clinical testing of new therapies, he said that it does not take a genius to conclude that fewer breakthrough therapies will be tested and discovered. And that is exactly what has happened. In his experience, most who respond to the "cure" question cite polio. That happened in 1953! What puzzles him is that, except for AIDS patients, very few patients are angry about being denied their cures. This apathy, coupled with a pervasive image of clinical research as dangerous instead of as a vehicle of hope, remained un-budgeable. He emphatically proclaims that patients and healthy people (future patients) do not want free health care. They want health cures. "The patient would say, 'Get rid of my disease,' and the healthy one would say, 'Prevent me from getting my disease.' Well, the best way to frustrate their wishes is to block the testing of potential therapies in clinical studies."

In a previous *Leader-Times* article, Dr. DeFelicce proposed that doctors should be permitted to volunteer for clinical studies more freely than non-doctors, so more potential medical

breakthroughs could be tested. He calls them "doctornauts" and proposed the Doctornaut Act, which was circulated by then Senate Majority Leader and physician, Bill Frist. But because of an overwhelmingly concern with "health care" and not "cure care," the Act failed to interest a single enthusiastic advocate, which was bad news for patients. Dr. DeFelicce says, "Frankly speaking, after over four decades of trying, I gave up the doctornaut ship. Then, as often happens in history, a spontaneous, out-of-the-blue energetic movement was recently born advocating the critical need of more creative clinical research. Strong advocates include the NIH, patient groups that primarily deal with rare diseases and, yes, Congress. This offers a wonderful opportunity for the passage of the Doctornaut Act, which would dramatically accelerate the discovery of medical breakthroughs including cures." He believes that baby boomers and senior citizens should have a particular interest in the enactment of the Act because diseases common to them, such as cancer and Alzheimer's, will be much more rapidly controlled or eliminated than otherwise.

At age 75, Dr. DeFelicce is now sufficiently energized to gather support of major advocates and supporters to pursue the enactment of the Doctornaut Act. For updates on this effort, visit www.fimdefelicce.org.

And finally, since this article will be published just before Christmas, 2011, he wants to send a message to the North Pole. "I do believe in Santa Claus!"



HELPING HABITAT...Fifth-grade Junior Girl Scouts, representing Mountainside Troops No. 40443 and 40468, on December 10 visited a home construction site for Plainfield Area Habitat for Humanity in Plainfield. The girls brought and served lunch to the 15 volunteers working during an "Adopt A Day" build sponsored by the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Mountainside. Reverend Jeremy Montgomery, director of Plainfield Area Habitat for Humanity, gave the girls a tour of the site and explained to them how a "Habitat" home comes to be. For information on volunteering for Habitat for Humanity or to contribute, call (908) 769-5292 or visit gphabitat.org/home.

Train and Toy Show Set January 7 and 8

AREA - Greenberg's Train and Toy Show is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, January 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. It will take place at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset. More than 65,000 square feet of operating railroads and toy trains will be on display and for sale. Admission for Greenberg's Train and Toy Show is \$7 for adults, and admission is good for both days. Children age 11 and under will be admitted for free. For more information, visit GreenbergShows.com.

Prayer to St. Jude

Oh Holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys, and three Glorias.) St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This novena has never been known to fail.
C. D. R.

NOTICE

THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A FLOOD HAZARD AREA INDIVIDUAL PERMIT AND VERIFICATION

Take notice that Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) has submitted an application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Land Use Regulation for a flood hazard area verification and individual permit. PSE&G is proposing upgrade activities within the Roseland-Metuchen, Roseland-West Orange North, and Roseland-West Orange South right-of-ways ("ROWs"), which are located within the following municipalities: Roseland Borough, Livingston Township, and West Orange Township in Essex County; Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, and Florham Park Borough in Morris County; Watchung Borough in Somerset County; Berkeley Heights Township, New Providence Borough, Fanwood Borough, Clark Township and Scotch Plains Township in Union County; and Edison Township and Metuchen Borough in Middlesex County. The Individual Permit will authorize PSE&G to upgrade the existing overhead electric transmission line with a 230kV transmission line. The upgrade is required by PJM Interconnection LLC, the independent regional transmission operator and is necessary to maintain the reliability of the regional transmission system. If you have any comments or questions regarding this application, please write to the Department at the following address:

Attn: Engineering Supervisors for Essex, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union Counties
State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Land Use Regulation
Mail Code 501-02A
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

Your comments must be sent within 15 calendar days of the date of this notice to ensure that the Department will be able to consider your concerns during its review of this application. You can submit comments after this date but the Department may not be able to address your concerns. You can also contact the Department by telephone at (609) 292-0060 and can obtain general information about the flood hazard area program at the following website: www.nj.gov/dep/landuse.

Applicant Contact:
Raymond Tripodi, P.E., P.P.
Manager, Transmission Permitting
Public Service Electric and Gas Company
4000 Hadley Road, Mail Code 430
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

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