



# Obituaries

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## Salvatore A. 'Sam' Russo, retired insurance agent, staff manager

Salvatore A. "Sam" Russo, 83, of Amherst, a retired insurance agent and staff manager, died Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006, in Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital.



Russo

Born in Buffalo, Mr. Russo was a graduate of Grover Cleveland High School and earned a certified life underwriter degree from Bryn Mawr College. He also served in the US Army in the European and Pacific Theater.

Mr. Russo worked at Prudential Insurance Co. from 1953, where he became an insurance agent

and staff manager, until retirement in 1986.

Mr. Russo was a member of the Holy Name Society of St. Leo the Great Church, a member of the Tan Tara Golf Club for 26 years, and a former third-degree member of Buffalo Council No. 184, Knights of Columbus.

He enjoyed golf, traveling, vegetable gardening and spending time with his family.

Mr. Russo is survived by his wife of 59 years, the former Dolores Botticella; a daughter, Deborah; a son, Mark; a sister, Mary Ribaulo; also survived by two grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, Nov. 7 from St. Gregory the Great Church following prayers from (Amherst Chapel) Amigone Funeral Home.

Lillian H. Merrill, 89, of Snyder, a retired Spanish teacher, died Sunday, Nov. 5, 2006, in Weinberg Campus.

Born Lillian H. Aranibar in Buffalo, she was the daughter of Spanish immigrants from Peru.

She attended Sacred Heart Academy and earned a bachelor's degree from D'Youville College, majoring in Spanish and with a minor in French and English.

After receiving a business certificate and working in Washington, D.C. for a year, she taught at Amherst High School before earning a fellowship to the University of Wisconsin. There, she received a master's degree in Spanish in 1948 and spent the next year as an assistant professor in the Spanish Department.

While in Wisconsin, she ran the University House for foreign language students where only Spanish could be spoken. She also participated in the Spanish Club and taught and performed Spanish dances.

From 1952 to 1957, Mrs. Merrill taught Spanish in the Maryvale Schools and helped set up the Foreign Language Department in the high school. In 1957, she returned to Amherst High School and in 1960, accepted the position

of assistant professor of the modern language department at Rosary Hill College. After teaching for 27 years at Daemen College, she retired in 1987.

Her interest in Spanish and traveling went hand in hand. For two summers, she studied at the National University of Mexico. With fellow students of Wisconsin, she sailed to Europe where she traveled extensively. She met and lived with her Spanish relatives in Cuzco and Lima, Peru, traveled to Spain and set up a student exchange program with the University of Valencia for her students attending Daemen College, and often took her students to Mexico to tour for a couple of weeks during the summer.

She also planned countless Spanish programs of various types for women's sororities, schools, and other organizations ranging from educational, informational, dancing, singing, and international dinners.

In the early 1980's she hosted a talk radio show on WWOL where she played Spanish music and spoke of various Spanish current

events. Her radio personality name was "Lillibar". Recently, she had been a literacy volunteer and a volunteer at Maple East Elementary School introducing Spanish to fourth graders.

Mrs. Merrill was a member of the American Association of University Professors, American Association of University Women, American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Beta Sigma Theta, Kappa Delta Phi and New York State Federation of Foreign Language Teachers.

Her husband, Arthur, died in 2001.

Mrs. Merrill is survived by a son, James M. of Long Island; a daughter, Lili M. Rutecki of Williamsville; two sisters, Edna Marks of Connecticut and Martha Johns of Snyder; and seven grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 9 from St. Gregory the Great Church, 200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville following prayers at 8:45 a.m. from Beach-Tuyn Funeral Home, 5541 Main Street, Williamsville.

## Veronica A. Bauer, partnered radiator business

Veronica A. Bauer, 89, formerly of Williamsville and Warsaw, N.Y., who partnered a radiator business with her husband, died Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006, in Wyoming County Skilled Nursing Facility.

Born in Buffalo, she moved to Warsaw in 1975 just prior to the death of her husband, LaVern in 1976.

Mrs. Bauer was bookkeeper, secretary and partner of their business, Bauer Radiator in Williamsville.

She was a former member of SS. Peter and Paul Church in Williamsville, St. Mary's in Pavilion and St. Michael's in Warsaw.

Her family said she was a wonderful cook and an unselfish, kind, generous and caring person.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, Oct. 14 at St.

Michael's Church in Warsaw.

Memorials can be made to St. Michael's Church, 171 North Main Street, Warsaw, N.Y. 14569.

Arrangements were made by Weeks Funeral Home.

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