

Sixth generation Massachusetts resident launches cannabis delivery business

Ericca Kennedy, a sixth generation Wareham, Massachusetts resident, is the first economic empowerment applicant to launch a cannabis delivery service with a Delivery Operator License in the state of Massachusetts. In partnership with Doobie, a leading cannabis delivery service, Kennedy will begin delivering cannabis throughout her home state starting today.

Ericca Kennedy, along with her husband Justin Kennedy, have been working with the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission to obtain a license since 2018. Kennedy says, "It's been a long road, but we've finally made it. As a sixth-generation resident, I'm so grateful to the Town of Wareham for their support. I'm excited to find ways to give back to the community that's given me and my family so much. Most of all, I'm looking forward to delivering the first order to my grandmother – who has lived in Wareham for over 70 years."



Doobie is a leading national cannabis delivery service that provides consumers with convenient and safe access to cannabis.

The Kennedys partnered with Doobie in early 2020 to become Doobie Massachusetts co-founders. Doobie is one of the first businesses to launch through the Cannabis Control Commission's social equity program, designed to support individuals and communities who have been disproportionately harmed by the war on drugs. "We saw a lot of synergies between Doobie's mission and our own values. Doobie is a family-owned business and committed to finding ways to give back to local communities," Kennedy says. By obtaining one of the first Delivery Operator licenses in Massachusetts, Doobie can now serve over 3 million residents and will be delivering from Boston to the Cape.

Doobie offers delivery across Missouri, California, Arizona, and now Massachusetts. For any questions about Doobie's services or menu, visit trydoobie.com or call 1-888-8D00BIE (1-888-836-6243). For press or media inquiries please contact hello@trydoobie.com. To engage with Doobie on social media visit Facebook @trydoobie and Instagram @trydoobie.

About Doobie

Doobie is a leading national cannabis delivery service that provides consumers with convenient and safe access to cannabis. Doobie's carefully curated selection of products offers something for all consumers and takes the guesswork out of the cannabis purchasing process.

As a customer-driven cannabis platform, Doobie has implemented a user-friendly interface, to streamline both the ordering and delivery process. Customers can browse popular products by category or brand, and Doobie expert consultants are available via chat and phone to answer any questions.

For Taber Flag to honor Sgt. Michael Cassidy Who Proudly Served in the USMC, New Bedford Police Dept.

During the month of April, the 32nd Lights for Peace flag to fly at the Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum honors the memory of Sgt. Michael Patrick Cassidy, who served his country proudly in the United States Marine Corps, as well as serving his local community as a Sgt. on the New Bedford Police Department.

Sgt. Cassidy was born in New Bedford on July 15, 1968, the son of Stephen and Barbara (Cairns) Cassidy of Fairhaven. He attended high school at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School and graduated with the class of 1986.

Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps

in August 1986 and went on to serve in Operation Desert Storm. Cassidy was stationed in Kaneohe, Hawaii, as part of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Division Marines, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Fleet Marine Force. He served a total of 5 years, 11 months and 19 days in the active-duty USMC, earning the rank of Sgt. (E-5), then continued to serve as a reservist for an additional 2 years.

Cassidy joined the New Bedford Police Department in 1994, serving in many roles throughout his distinguished career. Initially working as a patrolman, then working his way up to serve in the Narcotics Division, Criminal Investigation and Firearms.

Mike married his wife, Deborah A. (Fontaine) Cassidy on May 13, 2000, and they later welcomed a daughter, MacKenzie Cassidy. According to his wife, Mike was always there to help people, both on and off the job. He gave his time willingly and generously including "teaching kids martial arts, participating in fundraising events including Shop with a Cop, Buzz Off for Kids with Cancer, pedaling in the Police Unity Tour, buying local homeless hot meals and providing them with clothing," just to name a few. "Mike was always there to lend a helping hand to everyone in need." She explained that Mike was a very humble man and never wanted the spotlight on him. "He was our hero. We miss him every day."

During his tenure on the police department, he received two life-saving awards, many citations and accreditation for his military and police service from the City of New Bedford, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the United States Senate. He was also a recipient of the American Red Cross Real Heroes Award. Sgt. Cassidy also taught use of force/defensive tactic and was a CPR and firearms instructor. He taught Kenpo Karate for many years and was a 5th degree black belt.

Sgt. Cassidy earned the following decorations, medals and citations throughout his military career: the Rifle Badge,

Letter of Appreciation, Meritorious Mast, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Southeast Asia Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and a Letter of Commendation.

According to the New Bedford Light, a non-profit news organization, Paul Oliveira, the Acting Chief at the time, shared his thoughts. "This is a tremendous loss to our department and to the City of New Bedford, as we all know Sgt. Cassidy was a proud officer who served the people of this city with his whole heart. Sgt. Cassidy loved being a police officer and went above and beyond to impact the lives of others in a positive way."

It was just three years before his passing that Cassidy was recognized by the department as a "life-saver" after he performed CPR on a Market Basket cashier who had slumped over her register. He was off duty at the time but was the first at the scene and did what he was trained to do.

Cassidy had previously been recognized as a lifesaver in 2006 for his actions during the births of two babies.

"I was just helping people, just being a basic human being," stated Sgt. Cassidy, at the time of the Market Basket rescue, explaining that he was just part of a team effort with firefighters and EMS.

Former New Bedford Police Union President, Hank Turgeon, who was also a patrol officer, worked with Cassidy and described him as kind and selfless. During a fundraiser for the family, shortly after Cassidy's passing, Turgeon explained to Channel 12 News, "Your first impression of Mike is he was very rough around the edges. He was a Marine, a SWAT Team guy," he said. "Once you got to

know Mike, he was extremely compassionate, and he was involved in every charitable event. He had a passion for this job and an even bigger love for people."

Michael P. Cassidy passed away at the age of 52 on April 28, 2021, due to Covid-19. In addition to his wife, Deborah, his daughter MacKenzie and his parents Stephen and Barbara Cassidy, he is survived by his brothers, Stephen J. Cassidy and his wife Natalie of Mattapoisett, Christopher Cassidy and his wife Jacquie of Fairhaven; his sister, Maureen Missey and her husband Ray of Fairfield, OH, his nieces and nephews: Stevie and Meghan Cassidy, Joshua and Brittany Cassidy, Mark and Mitch Aguiar, Nathan and Marissa Elias as well as aunts, uncles, cousins and great nieces and nephews.

His name will be added to the Police Memorial in Washington, DC during the celebration of Police Week from May 15th through May 21st.

Linda Ferreira, of Empire Ford of New Bedford, researches the life histories of area residents. American flags are provided by Empire Ford of New Bedford. Flags are raised by the staff at Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum. Those who would like to honor a local veteran in the future can contact Ferreira at lferreira@buyempireautogroup.com.

Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Flag Honors New Bedford's PFC Justin C. Kirby

During the month of March, the 31st Lights for Peace flag to fly at the Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum honors the memory of PFC Justin Candido Kirby, a New Bedford native who was killed at the age of 21, two years ago, on March 9, 2020, in a training exercise at the Fort Irwin National Training Center in CA.

Justin was born on April 13, 1998, in Brockton, MA, the son of Robert J. Kirby and Patricia (Cox) Kirby, both of New Bedford. He attended the Global Learning Charter Public School in New Bedford from 5th to 12th grade, graduating in 2016. Principal Lena Pires recalled "the amazing growth that that young man experienced, and I don't think it was just our school, it was his own amazing growth." She had seen him while he was on a break from training. "My last memory is of him happy, healthy, talking with a sparkle in his eye about what he's doing in the military." She could tell he was living his passion.

He graduated from Bristol Community College in Dec. 2018 with honors, earning an Associate Degree in Fire Science and successfully completing the Emergency Medical Technician program. According to his family, it was his intention to serve in the military and eventually become a firefighter. He had already committed to serving in the military for an additional 4 years.

PFC Kirby enlisted in the United States Army in January 2019 and completed Basic Training at Fort Jackson, SC. Upon completion, he attended Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and graduated as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Specialist from Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

While participating in Basic Training, Justin shared his experience with his family through letters. On January 20, 2019, he wrote, "I'm slowly losing touch with the civilian style of life, and I am adjusting well to the soldier lifestyle. The days are pretty long so it feels as if I've been gone a lot longer than I have been." Then nearly two months later, on March 18th, Justin wrote about his excitement about becoming an Army soldier. "As of yesterday, I'm officially a soldier. We completed the forge which forged us into soldiers. We stayed in the woods for 3 nights and four days. It poured nearly the entire time and was freezing. We are given a small tarp and some rope and 3 stakes and just kind of make a canopy on a tree for shelter. We marched a

total of 50 miles in those 4 days, going from location to location with our gear.” He was excited to have completed the training and was proud of his accomplishment.

PFC Kirby then moved to Fort Benning, GA in June 2019 to participate in the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program. In September 2019, he moved to Fort Irwin, CA where he was assigned to the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (RHHT), Regimental Support Squadron (RSS), 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) as a member of the Regiments’ Smoke Platoon.

According to Fort Irwin, as a member of the Smoke Platoon, PFC Kirby participated in nine obscuration missions in support of the Brigade Tactical Group during three Decisive Action rotations at the National Training Center. He enabled Smoke Platoon to achieve 100% on their Platoon Mission Essential Tasks external evaluation during Rotation 20-01 He also led training for over eighty 2916th Aviation Battalion Soldiers in November 2019 which enabled them to become proficient at CBRN-related tasks and gain confidence in their equipment.

Kirby was taking part in a “large-scale” exercise within the center’s training grounds at the time of his death. Conducting combat maneuver operations in an M1113 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, known as a Humvee, when a “vehicle accident occurred. Col. Scott Woodward, 68th Colonel of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, said Kirby was well known across the regiment and “his passing has deeply affected us all.”

Jason Miller, from Fort Irwin’s Public Affairs office, told the California Daily Press that the military exercise involved approx. 7,500 soldiers who were in the center’s training area at the time of the accident. “This number includes personnel from the National Training Center as well as approx. 5,000 soldiers who (were there) for training.” The National Training center conducts 10 training rotations annually, training

Brigade Combat Teams to build and sustain readiness to fight and win." The soldiers were conducting what Miller described as "realistic training reflective of the complexities our nation could face in combat."

A former Global Learning classmate of Kirby's, Eric Santos, explained "It was always his dream to serve his country." He had plans of serving in the Army and then becoming a firefighter. "Justin Kirby is a role model to many, including myself, and a truly exceptional human being." Santos said "he had a very bright future ahead of him, and at the very least he died doing what he loved. I remember him as a great friend, a great warrior and a hero."

During his high school and college years, he worked at Pa Raffa's, his family's restaurant, where he was well known. Justin was also an Instructor at the Community Boating Center, located at the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Park, where he had taken lessons as a kid. Justin also enjoyed wrestling and boxing. He had a love of music and attended many concerts over the years, including a KISS concert which he recalled in one of his letters to his dad while attending Basic Training.

New Bedford Mayor, Jon Mitchell, ordered flags at city buildings flown at half-staff after Kirby's passing. "Justin's service to our nation reflected his deep commitment to a cause larger than himself and the values of his family of public servants," Mitchell said in a statement. "It is my hope that the gratitude and reverence of our city for Justin's dedication and patriotism may bring some measure of comfort to Justin's family as they mourn his sudden loss."

Justin's father and twin brother are both in public service, with his dad, Robert Kirby, working as a New Bedford firefighter and Justin's brother, Jason, working as a full-time firefighter/paramedic for the town of Lakeville and a part-time paramedic for the city of New Bedford. Jason's older brother, Richard, also known as "Ricky," is employed as a

Project Manager for a security company in Plymouth, MA.

According to his mother, Justin's Readiness NCO, SFC Jason Boyd, from Camp Edwards said, "he couldn't believe he accomplished so much in his short career with the Army." PFC Justin Kirby was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon and the Battalion Commander and Sergeant Major's coin for excellence.

Tricia, his mom, explained that Justin's death happened right at the beginning of COVID, when things were shut down. However, she was "overwhelmed with gratitude for the love and grace everyone bestowed upon Justin. I didn't know how everyone knew but they were all there to honor him, even in dark times." From the moment they left Rock Funeral home, on their way to Logan Airport, she was struck by the support of complete strangers. "All of the people on the plane remained (in their seats) until he was released and welcomed home by his family." She goes on to explain that she remembers "Justin and (our) family being honored at every overpass by firefighters, first responders and police! I saw a WWII veteran standing and saluting at the bottom of an exit ramp. All the way home this continued. I'll remember that day all the days of my life." She said it was wonderful to see the scores of people lined up along Acushnet Avenue, as well as outside Pa Raffa's, his former workplace, and along the Sacred Heart Cemetery to pay their respects.

Justin's dad explained that the day they brought Justin home after his passing was the "Best-Worse day ever." He remembers the amazing tribute Justin received on the car ride from Boston to New Bedford, bringing Justin's remains home. He was struck by the display of support which included shutting down the highway along the route. Each overpass along the way was filled with local firefighters, EMS personnel and police officers paying tribute. "There was one ladder truck with 3 firefighters standing at different levels on the ladder,

saluting Justin as we drove by. We can't thank them enough for their support. It really meant a lot."

Justin is survived by his mother, Patricia (Cox) Kirby of New Bedford, his father, Robert J. Kirby and his wife Dawn of New Bedford, his twin brother, Jason D. Kirby of New Bedford, his older brother, Richard A. Kirby of S. Dartmouth, a sister Angela Russano and several aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents William F. and Georgette M. Kirby and his maternal grandmother Cecelia A. Cox.

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Fort Taber Flag to honor 2LT Alfred Standish Milliken WWI Veteran KIA

During the month of February, the 30th Lights for Peace flag to fly at the Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum honors the memory of Alfred Standish Milliken, a New Bedford veteran killed during WWI.

Milliken was born in New Bedford on May 1, 1891 to Frank Milliken and Susan B. (Crowell) Milliken. He attended New Bedford High School and went on to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1910. He graduated with a degree in

Civil Engineering in 1914. While attending the Institute, he was a member of the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, Freshman Tug-of-War Team and manager of the Sophomore Tug-of-War Team.

According to an undated newspaper article, Milliken entered the second Plattsburg training camp from which he graduated and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant, Engineers O.R.C., and was assigned to Co. D., 6th Engineers, 3rd Division. He was sent overseas on Dec. 5, 1917.

During the German offensive of March 21, 1918, the 6th Engineers were sent into the line near Villers-Bretonneux, France and Lieutenant Milliken, who had charge of a section of Company D, defended the trench in front of the village of Warfusse-Abaucourt.

On March 21, 1918, near the Somme River in France, the German army launched its first major offensive on the Western Front in two years. According to History.com, "the attack came as a relative surprise to the Allies, as the Germans had moved quietly into position just days before the bombardment began. From the beginning, it was more intense than anything yet seen on the Western Front. German commander Erich Ludendorff had worked with experts in artillery to create an innovative, lethal ground attack, featuring a quick, intense artillery bombardment followed by the use of various gases, first tear gas, then lethal phosgene and chlorine gases. He also coordinated with the German Air Service, to maximize the force of the offensive.

Winston Churchill, at the front at the time as the British minister of munitions, wrote of his experience on March 21: There was a rumble of artillery fire, mostly distant, and the thudding explosions of aeroplane raids. And then, exactly as a pianist runs his hands across a keyboard from treble to bass, there rose in less than one minute the most tremendous cannonade I shall ever hear. It swept around us in a wide curve of red flame."

All German assaults were driven back, but during the afternoon of March 30, the position was subjected to heavy bombardment, during which Lt. Milliken was killed.

According to his Gold Star Record, Milliken was awarded the Silver Star citation "For distinguished and exceptional gallantry at Cambrai on 30 March, 1918, in the operation of the American Expeditionary Forces." A battery of coast artillery guns at Fort Rodman is named in his honor.

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Fort Taber Flag To Honor Albert S. Broadland – WWII Veteran Earned The Silver Star, Air Medal

During the month of December, the 28th Lights for Peace flag to fly at the Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum honors the memory of Albert S. Broadland, formerly of 17 Buttonwood Street, New Bedford, who served his country honorably during WWII with the 98th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Corps.

Albert was born on September 2, 1913 in South Dartmouth, MA. He spent most of his life as a resident of New Bedford. He

graduated New Bedford High School in 1933 and attended New Bedford Textile School. He was employed by Morse Drill and Machine Company before being inducted into the U.S. Army Air Force on Feb. 14, 1941 at the age of 27. He served with the Coast Artillery at Fort Wright, NY before volunteering for overseas duty on the day Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Broadland earned the rank of TSgt. (Technical Sergeant) as an airplane maintenance chief and aerial gunner. He served from March 14, 1941 to May 31, 1945, participating in numerous battles and earning both the Silver Star and Air Medal for his courageous efforts.

According to an undated Standard-Times article Broadland narrowly escaped injury while assigned to an Army Transport Service as a gun crew member. While serving aboard the Army Transport he made three trips to Iceland, one to Scotland and one to Africa and Egypt. On one of these trips, his transport was sunk by an enemy submarine and he barely escaped with this life.

Broadland went on to receive his Gunner's Wing in 1942 and flew his first mission over Munich in June of that year. He participated in major bombing assaults in all parts of the Balkans, Austria, Germany and Northern Italy.

He earned the Silver Star for "Gallantry in action as an aerial gunner on a B-24 Liberator Bomber." The presentation was made by Brigadier-General Hugo P. Rush, his Wing Commander at a heavy bomber base in Italy. The citation reads: "On July 1, 1944, as waist gunner of a B-24 type aircraft, Sgt. Broadland participated in a bombing mission against an enemy aircraft factory in Germany. Arriving in the target area, such intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered that fragments struck an ammunition box in the tail of this aircraft causing the ammunition to explode. Instantly realizing the grave danger to his plane and crew, Sgt. Broadland, with utter disregard for personal safety, picked up the still exploding

ammunition box and threw it from the plane. Sgt. Broadland's quick action unquestionably saved his aircraft and crew from serious damage and enabled them to continue on and drop bombs squarely on the target."

According to the citation, Broadland participated in 35 successful missions against the enemy. "By his outstanding gallantry, initiative and devotion to duty, as evidenced throughout 35 successful missions against the enemy, Sgt. Broadland has reflected great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States of America."

Throughout his army career, Broadland traveled 200,000 miles of ocean, sailing twice around the globe and landing on every continent. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean eight times, the Indian Ocean four times, and the Pacific Ocean twice. According to a Standard-Times newspaper article, "Broadland crossed the equator 10 times, making him a full fledge member of the Sons of Neptune."

Marineinsight.com explains that "seamen who have crossed the equator are referred to as Shellbacks or Sons of Neptune." This unofficial term comes from the belief that "King Neptune is said to be the ruler of the seas." Celebrations are often held to "appease the King by showing him respect, to keep a sailor away from the perils of the sea and to bring good luck."

The Army Air Corps Museum provides details on the 98th Bombardment Group's movements during TSgt. Broadland's service as follows. The unit was activated on February 3, 1942 and moved to the Mediterranean theater in July 1942. The Bombardment Group entered into combat in August 1942, bombing shipping and harbor installations in Libya, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, Crete and Greece to cut enemy supply lines to Africa. They also hit airdromes and rail facilities in Sicily and Italy. The unit received a Distinguished Unit Citation for action against the enemy in the Middle East, North Africa, and

Sicily from Aug 1942 to Aug 1943. The unit was also awarded another Distinguished Unit Citation for participation in a low-level assault on oil refineries at Ploesti, Romania on August 1, 1943. Afterward the group flew many long-range missions to Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the Balkans to bomb such strategic targets as industries, airdromes, harbors, and communications

TSgt. Broadland honorably served his country and earned the following awards for his service: The Good Conduct Medal, The Air Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, The Silver Star, American Defense service medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theatre Ribbon with 4 service stars and the American Theater Campaign Ribbon.

Albert S. Broadland passed away at the age of 80 years old on November 21, 1993. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ole S. Broadland and the husband of Helen Broadland of New Bedford, MA.

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Red Sox Broadcaster & Former Player, Jerry Remy Has Lost

His Battle With Cancer

Diagnosed with lung cancer back in 2008, Remy still managed to continue in his role as long time Sox color commentator with only brief absences for treatment. He will be missed by an entire generation that grew up watching him play on the field or call games for over 30 years.

An all-star second baseman originally drafted by the California Angels in 1971, Remy made his major league debut in 1975. He was traded to his hometown Boston Red Sox in 1977. Remy's best season was in 1978, when he was selected for his only All Star team. Over the next several seasons, he was hampered by a series of injuries which limited his playing time to less than half of a season each of the next three years, though he continued to bat very well when he was healthy. Remy played two more full seasons in 1982 and 1983, though his injury problems returned in 1984, and he officially retired from the sport in 1985.

After retiring from baseball, Remy became a regular media personality, serving as a color commentator for NESN's Red Sox broadcasts since 1988, only taking occasional time off for health issues. He also owned a number of restaurants and wrote a number of books on baseball.

Remy was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, on November 8, 1952, and grew up in nearby Somerset. He attended Somerset High School and Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island.



STATEMENT FROM THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

Jerry Remy grew up in Massachusetts rooting for the Red Sox and lived his dream as a player and beloved broadcaster with the team. He forged a personal connection with Boston fans and inspired many with his fight against cancer. The Players Association joins Jerry's family, friends and fans in mourning his loss.

Fairhaven man shares his family's connection to the Charles W. Morgan during WWII

"My great-grandfather Amedee "KING" Roy was the 4th mate on the Charles W. Morgan cruise to Mystic after working on the 1941 restoration of the Whaling Ship.

This nail was in the ship for 100 years before it was replaced and ended up with my great grandfather. He later had it engraved. It's now a cherished family heirloom. This is the story we have been told if anyone has any more info on this nail it would be greatly appreciated. ?!

Figured this would be a cool story to share and I hope I can fill in the blanks on the history [by anyone who may know more.] You can word it as you wish using my info. Thank you so much.”-Scotty Blanchette.



Scotty Blanchette photo.



Scotty Blanchette photo.

Flag to honor Veteran Walter LaBerge of Swansea flies over Fort Taber

During the month of January, the 17th Lights for Peace flag to fly at the Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum honors the memory of Walter LaBerge, who served with the United States Army from 1959 to 1965. LaBerge entered into the military on November 4, 1959 and did his basic training at Fort Dix, NJ. He was attached to Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry as an infantry soldier assigned to Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska.



Wintertime temperatures in the area around Fort Richardson can range from 80 degrees below zero to 40 degrees, according to militarybases.com. Soldiers stationed at Fort Richardson are

required to learn and master unique skills that are taught in few other places. Winter survival, tundra crossing, river lining, snow and glacier travel, snow combat and cold weather vehicle operation are all part of the normal training program at the base. According to his family LaBerge spoke of the rigorous training known as "snow baths" which required soldiers to rise in the morning in their skivvies and boots, using soap and snow to bathe themselves. He also spoke to his children of his time in the Army, sharing his adventure of rock climbing and repelling as well as training maneuvers to secure Kodiak Island.

LaBerge was born in Fall River, the son of the late Walter and Ernestine (Boucher) Laberge. He also resided in Swansea and was a graduate of BMC Durfee High School, attended Bradford Durfee Technological Institute and received his Associates Degree from Bristol Community College.

He served in the active duty Army from 1959 to 1962 and went on to serve in the Army Reserves from 1962 to 1965. He was honorably discharged from the military on September 30, 1965 at the rank of E4, by the order of D.D. Spahr, Colonel, AGC. Upon arriving home from serving in the military, Walter married his high school sweetheart, Gail D. (Cloutier). He was employed as a Quality Control Engineer for Princess House in Dighton for 15 years before his retirement in 2000. Prior to that he held the same job with Providence Pile and started his career with Pratt Whitney in Connecticut.



He truly enjoyed donating his time and served as a Docent for both the Fort Taber Military Museum, as well as the New Bedford Whaling Museum, providing tours to the public. Walter had many interests. He was an avid bird watcher, sports car enthusiast and enjoyed traveling to Maine, cross country skiing and kayaking. He loved to watch football with his sons, especially the Army/Navy football games! He also enjoyed taking his daughter on trips with friends.

LaBerge passed away on October 21, 2015 at the age of 74. In addition to his wife Gail, whom he was married to for 52 years, he is survived by his four children Mark Laberge and his wife Maryellen of Dighton, Bradford Laberge of Swansea, Dawn Butterfield and her husband John of Seekonk and W. David Laberge Jr. of Swansea. His children made him a grandfather of seven grandchildren: Jacob, Kelsey, Austin, Gabrielle, Kyle, Ryan and Dylan. He is also survived by his sister Georgette Levesque of Swansea; niece and nephews Diane, Rene and Donald; as well as a brother in law, Ronald Cloutier, of Colorado. He is also survived by his very best childhood friend, Max Marum, who he remained close with until his departure.

Walter was always very witty and was known for his wonderful sayings; including: "I haven't seen you in a month of Sundays!" or "You're a gentleman and a scholar and there's not many of us left!" When asked how he was, he would often answer, "I'm fair to midlin!" He attended church every week and was a devoted Catholic man. According to his family, Walter could be a stern man with his children, at times, but it was all to teach them good solid morals. "Above all, Walter was a family man. He is loved and missed deeply and will always be carried in our hearts, as a Veteran and a father."

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New Bedford Grandma's 90th Birthday celebrated on NBC's "Today with Hoda & Jenna"

On May 8th, New Bedford grandmother Irene Beauregard of New Bedford will turn 90-years young.

Beauregard's granddaughter Katelyn wanted to make sure the special day was recognized but knew that during the COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing guidelines meant that a birthday part with dozens of family and friends would not be a possibility.

So Katelyn's creative juices kicked in and she decided to

contact the producers of one of her grandmother's favorite shows "Today with Hoda & Jenna" on NBC to see if they would do a birthday "shoutout," something very popular on TV and radio shows. Typically, these shoutouts are quick, 2 seconds long well-wishes and the host moves on to other segments.

Not this time.

Hosts Hoda Kotb and Jenna Bush Hager fell in love with grandma Beauregard's story and decided it was worth much more than a simple "Happy Birthday!" Instead, they called the unsuspecting Irene in the middle of their live broadcast. "Since you can't be with your grandchildren, I thought 'Why don't we try FaceTime?'" said co-host Jenna Hager.

As you might guess the 90-year old Irene as flabbergasted and elated when she picked up the phone. But the surprise did not end after they exchanged a few words. A correspondent of the show was actually outside Iren's door with gifts: flowers, balloons, a Red Sox jersey that says "Nana" on the back and tickets to the next Red Sox game when sports return.

There are no words that can put Iren's response into perspective so we'll let the video speak for itself:

New Bedford doctor calls on volunteers to help sew 500 cloth masks

by Bonnie Boerl, MD

In this time of great uncertainty and fear, many of us wonder

how we can help. Our healthcare providers are facing a critical shortage of Personal Protective Equipment, PPE. While the average person may not have N95 masks, face shields, or gowns to donate, they may have a skill that can help our healthcare providers and folks who are working to keep the necessities of modern life going, such as drivers for Meals on Wheels.

I am the medical liaison for #NBStrong, a group formed by local residents to help local residents. As part of this role, I am coordinating the production, collection, and distribution of cloth masks. While a cloth mask is not the gold standard and will not provide 100% protection from COVID-19, the coronavirus responsible for the current pandemic, it does serve many roles. Healthcare providers are using cloth masks to supplement our nation's current shortage of N95 masks. Cloth masks can also be washed and safely reused. Patients who are coughing or sneezing are likewise using cloth masks in order to reduce the spread of infectious secretions, thereby protecting our brave healthcare professionals, as well as the most vulnerable members of society.

We are looking for volunteers to help sew cloth masks. We have set a goal of 500 masks to be distributed in the next six weeks. We have supplies we can provide if needed and we will provide instructions on how to make them. Finished masks will be picked up and distributed in accordance to social distancing best practices.

If you are able to help us, please join our dedicated **Facebook group, NB Masks**, or **contact me at BonnieBoerl@gmail.com or (774) 444-0303.**

As always, remember to cover your cough or sneeze, wash your hands well and often, and observe the critical social distancing guidelines.

Bonnie Boerl, MD has been a New Bedford resident since 2014.

She specializes in Physician-Patient Communication and works as a patient and family advocate. Dr. Boerl lives with her husband, Chris, and two sons.