

# Obituaries

## Walter Toppins of Wayne

Walter Toppins, 77, of Wayne, WV, died Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at his residence. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday, February 27, 2017 at Morris Funeral Home Chapel by Elders Roger Maynard, Tony Clay and Tommy Damron officiating. Burial will follow at Toppins Cemetery, Kiahsville, WV.

He was born March 5, 1939 in Kiahsville, WV, a son of the late Frank and Dona Webb Toppins. Walter was retired from Turman Construction Company and was a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. He was also a devout Christian and a member of the Echo United Baptist Church.

Also preceding him in death were four sisters, Carrie Nelson Sutherland, Nora Maggard, Malinda Crawford and infant, Gladys Toppins.

Survivors include his loving wife, Linda Fry Toppins, a granddaughter, Alisha Walls; five sisters, Zella Ison of Ashland, KY, Jane Jaro (Ronnie) of Waco, TX, Stella Cook (Darrell) of Wayne, WV, Dottie Williamson (Monroe) of Ranger, WV, Pauline Kundera (Adam) of Bridgeton, NJ; four brothers, John Toppins (Juanita) of Parma Heights, OH, Everett Toppins (Shirley) of Huntington, WV, Richard Toppins of North Carolina, Roger Toppins (Mary) of Genoa, WV.

Friends may call from 6 to 9 pm Sunday, February 26, 2017 at Morris Funeral Home, Wayne, WV.



## Lois Jean Ramey Clark of Jackson

Lois Jean Ramey Clark, age 84, passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 21, 2017 at Crystal Care Nursing and Rehab Center in Coal Grove, Ohio. She was born in Stiltner, WV and lived most of her life in Jackson, Ohio. She is the youngest daughter of the late Isaac A. Ramey and Elizabeth Spence Ramey. Lois was also preceded in death by her siblings: Ulysses Grant Ramey, Almada Maynard, Erma Finley, Irene Cyrus and Madeline Keister. Survivors include two step-children, Tom and Judy Clark, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Lois moved to Jackson, Ohio as a teenager to help Almada's son Paddy. After graduating from Bloomfield High School, she married John Franklin Clark.

She was employed by the Pants Factory in Jackson and was also a homemaker. She was active in the community clubs and a long-time member of the First Baptist Church of Jackson, Ohio.

Lois and John traveled throughout the world and spent their winters in Texas for forty years where she was an active volunteer leading "Toys for Tots" for many years, leading an exercise class and leading water aerobics. She was also an excellent bridge player and an avid flower gardener. They enjoyed RVing, fishing, and boating in Canada every summer and Texas every winter. She lived life to the fullest and found a friend wherever she went.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 25, 2017 at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, Wayne, with Pastor Timothy Keeton officiating. Visitation will be held two hours prior to the service on Saturday.

Morris Funeral Home, Wayne, West Virginia, is in charge of the arrangements.



## Alice Maxine Grubb Smith of Huntington

Alice Maxine Grubb Smith, 94, of Huntington, passed away Feb. 22, 2017, in Wayne Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. She was born March 17, 1922, in Huntington, W.Va., a daughter of the late Harry and Virgie Overby Grubb. She was employed at the Reliance Dress Factory and Sylvania during WW II, and was a supervisor at Corbin, Ltd. She was also a longtime member of Westmoreland Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 40 years, Col. Donald J. Smith; a grandson, Joshua Smith; two sisters, Lucille Neel and Alma Hamilton; and three brothers, John William Grubb, Jack C. Grubb and James F. Grubb. Surviving are two sons, Dr. Kevin J. (Rosalind) Smith and Dr. H. Jeffrey (Anna) Smith, both of Huntington; three grandchildren, Nathanael (Katie) Smith of Knoxville, Tenn., Sheanna (Joshua) Spence of Hurricane, W.Va., and Jameson (Gayle) Smith of Ashland, Ky.; eight great-grandchildren, Natalya, Ezra, Georgia and Fiona Smith of Knoxville, Annabelle and Anderson Spence of Hurricane, and Ellis Smith and Chandler Kisor of Ashland, and another due in September, 2017; two brothers, Samuel Grubb of Cannonsburg, Ky., Tommy (Joann) Grubb of Jonesboro, Ark.; one sister, Lydia (Paul) Winters of Huntington; and Sharon Smith of Florida. Funeral services were held noon Friday, Feb. 24, 2017, at Reger Funeral Home, Huntington, with Rev. Matthew McKenzie officiating. Burial followed in Spring Valley Memorial Gardens, Wayne County, W.Va. Friends called 10:30 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 24, 2017, at Reger Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wayne Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 6999 WV-152, Wayne, WV 25570. Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.regerfh.com](http://www.regerfh.com).



### TRAIL from Page 5A

business owners. While at the same time enforcing litter laws where it's obvious people are throwing garbage over the banks along the creeks and roads throughout the county. And here's one that I like most of all. Why doesn't the county mark trails and promote the area as it's own free trail system separate from the HMT and without all the insane rules. One that caters to all kinds like mountain bikers, hikers, campers, hunters, horseback riders and Jeep enthusiast etc. Something that will attract various locals and tourist unlike the HMT which is ATV/UTV only. They could build camping areas in the back country close to the bigger parts of the lake so people could ride, camp, hunt and fish and charge fees for those camping areas. Or maybe hold trail cleanup and fundraising rides, also things like scavenger hunt rides or hikes with a pot to win and the rest going toward the upkeep of the area. They could host things like triathlons, obstacle course mud runs, paintball tournaments etc in different areas.

We have a good source of revenue right here in our own backyard that we wouldn't have to share with any outside organizations. Or worry about our money going to different areas of the State. If only we had politicians with the know how and drive to use it and make something happen.

Thanks for reading. And to show your support, get information or express your ideas go to [www.facebook.com/TRAC](http://www.facebook.com/TRAC).

**Phil Pilbeam**  
Wayne County resident

### VETERANS from Page 5A

saline solution. Patients received solution tainted with the Hepatitis C virus carried by the employee. One VA pain management specialist who is part of a whistleblowers group told the AP that some of his patients suspected they weren't getting the drugs they needed. Among them was one patient with an amputated leg who had to do without morphine because a VA pharmacy said it did not have enough in supply, he said.

So not only are some staff members stealing from taxpayers and spreading what one lawmaker called "poison" in their communities, some veterans are being shortchanged in their care. That's unacceptable. While it's unknown whether the degree of drug thefts from the VA hospitals is any worse than in privately run hospitals, we agree with Joe Davis, spokesman for Veterans of Foreign Wars, that VA employees "must be held to a higher standard."

Unfortunately, the VA isn't doing enough in some cases to do that. Spot checks of VA hospitals by congressional auditors found that four hospitals skipped monthly inspections of drug stocks and ignored other requirements to track the drugs. The VA hospital in Washington, D.C., for example, failed to do the monthly inspections more than 40 percent of the time, primarily in critical patient care areas, raising the risk that veterans in operating rooms and intensive care units would not receive their full medications.

It's clear that the VA must ensure that all of its hospitals become more disciplined in combating the theft of drugs from its stocks.

### MUFSON from Page 5A

toys children prefer.

Mr. Williams states, "Another part of reality that liberals and progressives find difficult to accept is the fact that equality among humans is the exception and inequality the norm. If one were to list the world's top 30 violinists of the 20th century, at least 20 of them would be of Jewish ancestry. Jews constitute no more than 3 percent of the U.S. population but 35 percent of American Nobel Prize winners. One wonders what liberals would propose to promote equality in violin excellence and winning a Nobel Prize."

Here's a suggestion, Mr. Williams - and to parents and especially "Jewish mothers."

The majority of early 20th century American Jewish mothers were immigrants or daughters of immigrants. They knew that many professions were closed to their children because of religion, but the fields of music, arts and science were open to those accomplished in these fields. Jewish children were not born to be Nobel Prize winners or violinists; they were prodded, pushed and taught. Asian "Tiger mothers" are the 21st century version of immigrant American mothers making sure their children are highly successful.

The only thing progressive here is the traditional meaning of the word, which according to Merriam Webster's dictionary includes, "Characterized by progress," and "Using or interested in new or modern ideas especially in politics and education."

We can gain more understanding of our opinions, but we cannot alter reality.

Diane W. Mufson is a retired psychologist. Her email is [dwmufson@comcast.net](mailto:dwmufson@comcast.net).

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### CASERTA from Page 5A

Could this have been the shadow government's first victory?

The Beacon reported Flynn's resignation was the result of a "secret, months-long campaign by former Obama administration confidantes to handicap President Donald Trump's national security apparatus" per multiple sources in and out of the White House.

The notion that Barack Hussein Obama and his liberal conspirators would plan and orchestrate, for all intents and purposes, a coup d'tat, against the Trump administration is beyond the pale and could easily be described as traitorous, if it's true.

How ironic that such an action is reminiscent of the failed Soviet Union, when it's liberal Democrats now claiming it's President Trump with insider ties to Russia.

This isn't simply an attack on the Trump presidency. It's an attack on our freedom! If America ever needed the voices of patriots to be heard above the fray, we need to hear them now.

Mark Caserta is a conservative blogger, a Cabell County resident and a regular contributor to The HD editorial page.

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