



Ever since getting his driver's license 30-plus years ago, Michael Mulvihill dreamed of restoring a '57 Chevy. The Seafood resident says, "Finally, after retirement from the NYPD, my dream has come true. But I will have to change the plate once my daughter Katie gets her license!"

If you have a creative license, send us a note about what inspired it, along with a photo of the plate, and maybe we'll use it in an upcoming LI Life. Email your name, phone number, hometown and photo to iris.quigley@newsday.com or mail them to Iris Quigley, Library, Newsday, 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747-4250.

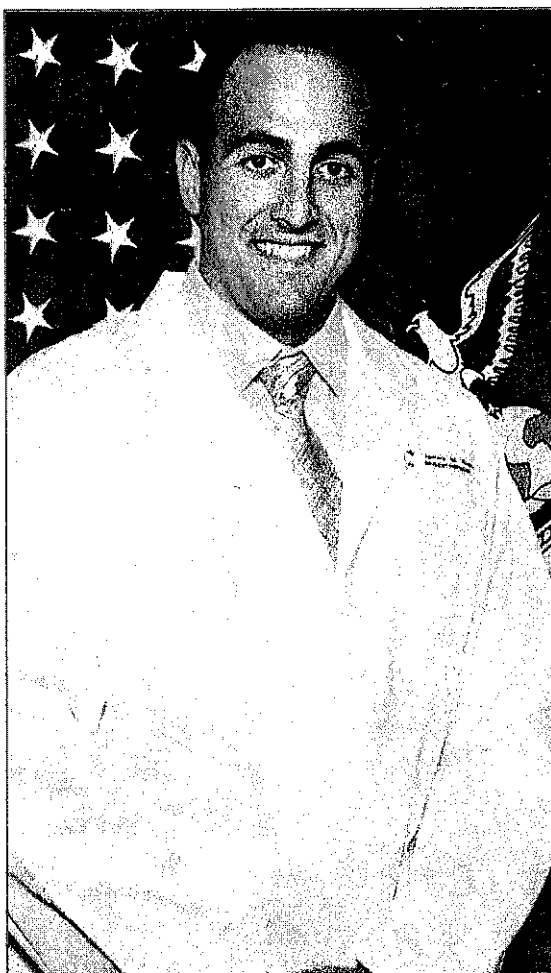


WHO'S COOKING: Laura Lipari with her dish of Thai peanut zucchini noodles **G18**

Inside

Cover story	G6
Anniversaries	G16
Celebrations	G17
Schools Notebook	G20
Winners	G21
Weekly Planner	G23
Police Beat	G27
Town Agenda	G27
Real Estate cover	G33

A living legacy



James Walker, who was killed in October, is remembered as a good friend and mentor who always put others before himself.

Old Westbury college plans memorial to 'never forget' beloved student

BY JENNIFER FAUCI
Special to Newsday

James "Skootcherman" Walker is many things to many people: son, friend, teammate, confidant, student, teacher, baker. One thing he is not is forgotten.

Since his death in October, students, staff and alumni at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury and Boston University in Massachusetts have spent many of their waking hours thinking of Walker — who was killed as he crossed a street in Bay Shore — and finding ways to honor his memory now and well into the future.

"James was a lightning bolt, and as you know, when a lightning bolt strikes, you never forget," said Linda Darroch-Short, director of student life at the osteopathic college on the campus of the New York Institute of Technology. "People wanted to be around James, and so in his death we wanted to make sure we honored him in a way that, after we are long gone, he will continue to be remembered."

On May 18, days before Walker, who was 26, would have graduated with a medical degree, the school will hold a memorial service to dedicate a tree in his memory and announce a scholarship in his name.

At Boston University, where Walker earned his

undergraduate degree in 2007 and played volleyball, the program's annual alumni tournament was renamed to honor him. The inaugural James Walker Memorial Alumni Tournament was held in March.

Loved a challenge

Walker grew up in Levittown, where he developed a love of sports and people. His family nicknamed him "Skootcherman" because he was always moving around.

"James was always on the go," said his father, Phil Walker, 54, a New York City correction officer. "He couldn't sit still and always wanted to be challenged."

As an avid athlete, James Walker played basketball, baseball and volleyball, and also collected baseball cards. Though friends and teammates said he was competitive, he didn't focus on victory.

"To James it was never about winning," according to his father. "It was more for the fun and enjoyment of something, and if his team happened to win, that was an extra bonus."

Walker graduated from Levittown's MacArthur High School in 2003 and got a degree in human physiology at Boston University. It was his love of helping people that led Walker to pursue a career in medicine.

"At a young age he was

afraid of blood, but once he got over that he said he wanted to be a doctor," his father said. "He definitely had the handwriting to be a doctor," he noted with a laugh.

At Boston University and the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, Walker stood out in more ways than one. He was more than 6 feet tall and often towered over others, but friends referred to him as a gentle giant, a defender of the underdog and always there with a shoulder to cry on.

"James was one of the strongest people that I know," said Ashley Matsumura, 26, a Boston University classmate. "He . . . valued his time and made every moment count."

Walker's closest friends, Sean Depuy, 27, of Wantagh, and Chris Berglund, 26, of New Haven, Conn., said their bond extended beyond friendship, and they have vowed never to forget him.

"James wasn't just our best friend; he was our brother, always putting others before himself," Depuy said.

At his school in Old Westbury, he was the poster boy for the medical program, mentoring younger students like Greg Smith, 24, a friend and first-year student, and filming a promotional video for the college.

Debbie Claar, an academic counselor at Boston University who helped Walker plan his undergraduate schedule, said he was a natural leader.

"If James wanted to organize events for students, he found a way to make it meaningful and always got students to participate," she said.

Before he graduated, he received the Sargent College Student Activity Award and the Boston University Scarlet Key Award, the school's highest service award.

Though he was big on community service, his stepmother, Maureen Walker, 56, said he was also quite fond of something else.

"He liked to cook and bake," she said, noting that white chocolate chip and cranberry cookies were his specialty.

A shared mission

The memorial service at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine will be held near a pond. Walker's father will be in attendance with his constant companion — what he calls a memory bag of his only child. It has



Linda Darroch-Short, director of student life at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, student Greg Smith and Dr. Robert Hill, a professor at the school, stand by a tree planted in Walker's memory. It will be dedicated at a May 18 ceremony.

WHEN & WHERE

- James Walker memorial
- May 18 at noon
- NYIT, 700 Northern Blvd., Old Westbury
- For more information, contact Erica Bomani at 516-686-3984

pictures of Walker, information on the accident that killed him and his awards and honors.

"I take it with me everywhere I go," he said. "I'm James' advocate, and it's up to me and my wife to keep his memory alive every day."

It is a mission shared by those in his extended academic families.

"His calm confidence, intellect and humility is a rare combination to find . . ." said Dr. Robert Hill, chairman of the department of anatomy at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and one of Walker's professors. "He will be missed by everyone and by those who would have been his lucky patients."



Phil Walker carries with him everywhere a bag of photos and honors his son received, "to keep his memory alive every day." At left, James Walker is presented with Boston University's Scarlet Key Award, its highest service award, in 2007, the year he earned his undergraduate degree.

NEWSDAY PHOTO / ALEXANDRA VILA

PHOTO BY JOE BURGELIN

OBITUARIES

LONG ISLAND

Aspiring physician James Walker, 26

BY WILLIAM MURPHY
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James Walker of Levittown chose a career in osteopathic medicine because, he said, it involved a hands-on type of healing that appealed to him.

Just seven months shy of graduation from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, Walker was struck by a car while crossing a Bay Shore street. He died Friday at age 26 at Southside Hospital in Bay Shore, where he was admitted after the Oct. 16 accident in which police said the driver was not charged.

"Medicine is a great outlet in

order to touch the lives of many people and in a way that no one else can, because we only get one body, one chance, and without that there is nothing else," Walker says in a video on the school website.

"It allows me to get hands-on, which I think is something that a lot of physicians should take to heart a lot more — to just put your hands on your patients just to heal," Walker says. "And it's really important to interact. You form a stronger bond, patients respect you and trust you more, and it really makes a difference in the healing process."

Osteopathic medicine stresses care that involves manipu-

lating the muscles and bones of patients, as well as traditional care.

Walker, an only child, was a 2003 graduate of MacArthur High School in Levittown, graduated from Boston University in 2007 and would have graduated in May from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"James was a wonderful young man, an exceptional young man," the school's dean, Thomas Scandalis, said yesterday. "He espouses all the characteristics you would want in a physician and citizen of the world. We've lost one of our best and brightest and we are devastated."

Walker's father, Philip, said

his son was a defender of underdogs and often stepped in to stop bullying.

"He was 6 feet, 5 inches tall and he was always looking out for the little guy," his father said. "His mom [Christina] said it best: 'James was the pebble in the pond whose ripples touched us all,'" his father said.

Visitation is from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. today at Charles J. O'Shea Funeral Home at 603 Wantagh Ave. in Wantagh. There will be a funeral Mass tomorrow at 10 a.m. at St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church at 3100 Hempstead Tpke. in Levittown, followed by burial at Pinelawn Memorial Park in Farmingdale.



James Walker of Levittown believed in hands-on healing.

NATION

Journalist Robert Pierpoint, 86

BY EMILY LANGER
The Washington Post

Robert C. Pierpoint, a CBS News correspondent who covered six presidents and four decades of American history, died Oct. 22 at a hospital in Santa Barbara, Calif. He was 86.

He had complications from hip surgery, his daughter Marta Pierpoint said.

Pierpoint worked during what is often viewed as the golden age of network news. He covered the Korean War from the field, the assassination of John F. Kennedy from Dallas and every administration from Dwight D. Eisenhower's to Jimmy Carter's.

"He represented a kind of television of a certain time unlikely ever to be repeated again," said former CBS News correspondent Marvin Kalb. Pierpoint was discovered by broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow and he worked with anchor Walter Cronkite.

Pierpoint's first major assignment, mainly for CBS radio, was the Korean War. His distinctive, intimate voice was heard in the final episode of "M*A*S*H," which attracted more than 100 million viewers.

Later, as a White House correspondent, Pierpoint reported from the hospital where Kennedy was taken after being shot.

Robert Charles Pierpoint was born May 16, 1925, in Redondo Beach, Calif. After Navy service in World War II, he graduated



Robert C. Pierpoint's journalism career spanned more than four decades.

from the University of Redlands in Redlands, Calif., with business and economics degrees.

Pierpoint shared two Emmy Awards and chronicled his career in a 1981 book, "At the White House." Not only accurate, Kalb recalled, Pierpoint was quick. Once, he was called to the White House from a tennis game to go on the air. He had on a suit jacket and his tennis shorts.

Television footage showed him only from the chest up, but a photograph captured the shorts. "Some of the brass thought it undignified," correspondent Bob Schieffer recalled Sunday on the air. "The rest of us just loved it." Pierpoint will be buried in tennis shorts and a suit top.

"We wanted to honor his sense of humor," his daughter Marta said, "and his commitment to getting the story out."

NEW YORK

Nobel winner Herbert Hauptman

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON
The Associated Press

BUFFALO — Herbert Hauptman, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1985 for his work uncovering the structure of molecules, has died. He had worked into his 90s at the research institute in Buffalo that now bears his name.

He was 94 when he died Sunday. He recently had a stroke, a colleague said.

Hauptman, who saw beauty in mathematics, received the Nobel Prize nearly 40 years after setting out to solve a problem other scientists had given up on: how to determine molecular structures using X-ray crystallography. He used mathematical equations to interpret the patterns formed by X-rays scattered from crystals.

"All I had to hear was here was a problem that no one could solve. Not even that, but was even impossible to solve on principle," Hauptman said during a 2008 documentary on his life produced by WNED-TV of Buffalo. "Once I heard that, there was no letting go."

Born in the Bronx, Hauptman began his research at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington but left for Buffalo during the Vietnam War after feeling pressured to develop anti-missile and other



Hauptman said he loved to tackle complex or impossible mathematical problems.

war-related technology, something he was morally opposed to after serving in the Navy during World War II.

In Buffalo, Hauptman continued his research at the Medical Foundation, which eventually became the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute in recognition of Hauptman's contributions, along with the Woodward family, which supported the work.

Hauptman's methodology "allows us to make three-dimensional representations of drugs so that we understand what they look like in space and can understand how they work," said Eaton Lattman, chief executive of Hauptman-Woodward. "I don't think there's a single pharmaceutical that's been developed in the last 30 years that hasn't been stud-

ied using derivations of what Dr. Hauptman and his colleagues won the Nobel Prize for." The Nobel was shared by research partner Jerome Karle, a physical chemist.

But Hauptman never sought out a national stage after the honor, remaining in Buffalo to nurture the institution and its researchers, who continue to work toward developing new tools for scientists at a time when applied research focused on specific illnesses gets more attention and funding.

"We have to figure out, and I think we know, how to continue the kind of science that he created here," Lattman said.

Hauptman earned a master's in mathematics at Columbia University and a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Maryland.

He was a professor at the University at Buffalo, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and received honorary degrees from numerous universities in the United States, Poland, Israel and Italy. He wrote three books, contributed chapters to at least 40 others and presented papers at more than 280 national and international meetings, according to the institute.

He is survived by his wife, Edith, whom he married with-in weeks of meeting her in 1940. The couple had two daughters.

Sentenced in fatal crash

BY ANN GIVENS
ann.givens@newsday.com

A North Babylon man was sentenced to 5 to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to driving while high on prescription drugs and causing a crash that killed a retired teacher.

Addressing Jeremy Weckerle, Fran Gordon, the widow of Paul Gordon, said: "When you killed my husband, you also killed me. But I am still breathing. When you broke his body, you broke my heart. But mine is still beating."

Weckerle, 33, pleaded guilty on Aug. 31 to second-degree manslaughter in the September 2010 crash in Old Brookville that killed Paul Gordon of Jericho.

Prosecutors said Weckerle was driving his Nissan Pathfinder north on Route 107 and weav-

ing in and out of traffic when he crossed the double yellow line into the southbound lane and crashed head-on into a Toyota Avalon being driven by Gordon.

Gordon, 65, sustained multiple injuries and died at a hospital less than an hour later, prosecutors said.

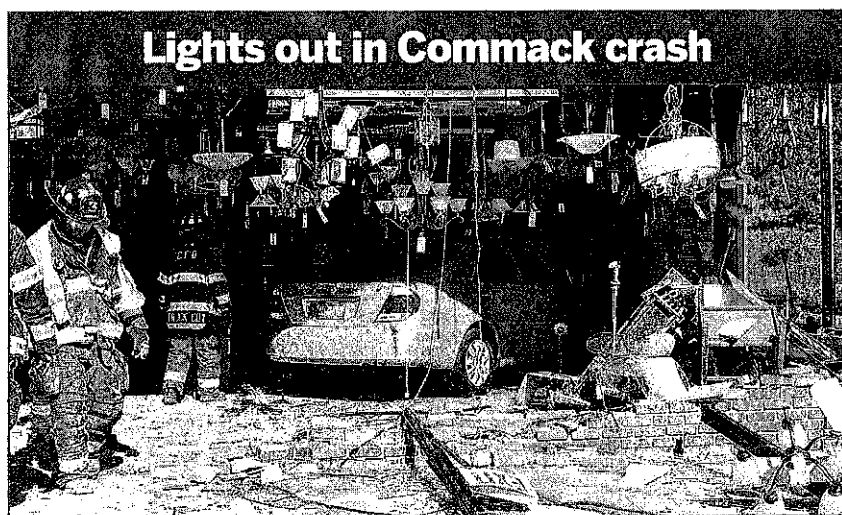
Weckerle, who broke his right leg in the crash, was found to have Xanax, an anti-anxiety drug, and high levels of Fentanyl in his system, prosecutors said. Fentanyl is a powerful painkiller often administered to end-stage cancer patients, they said. Weckerle does not have cancer, prosecutors said.

Before Judge Alan Honorof sentenced Weckerle, Gordon's wife of 41 years spoke about how she has been affected by his death. In addition to feeling frag-

ile and vulnerable without her lifelong partner, she said his death has hurt her financially, and she has had to sell their home and many of their possessions.

Nassau District Attorney Kathleen Rice said, "Paul Gordon was a mentor, educator, and friend to many people, and his tragic death could have been prevented. Instead, Jeremy Weckerle's choice to drive ended a man's life, irreparably damaged the victim's family, and landed himself in a prison cell."

Gordon was a longtime science teacher and baseball coach in Manhattan and Syosset schools, his family has said. In retirement, he tutored students and proctored end-of-semester exams, teaching aspiring science teachers at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University.



Lights out in Commack crash

A Toyota Camry crashed yesterday morning into Republic Lighting on Jericho Turnpike near Valmont Avenue in Commack. There were no major injuries reported at the scene.

COPS: DRIVER HIT 118 MPH ON LIE WITH HIS 2 KIDS INSIDE CAR

A Central Islip father and unlicensed driver was arrested after he drove 118 mph in a street race on the Long Island Expressway with his infant daughter and toddler son along for the ride, authorities said yesterday.

Darnell Anderson, 25, was "engaging in a speed contest" on the westbound LIE at 2 a.m. Sunday with Darryl Squires, 30, of Bay Shore, when a deputy

sheriff spotted the pair and safely stopped both cars east of Exit 60 in Ronkonkoma, Suffolk County sheriffs said in a news release yesterday.

Anderson's 7-month-old daughter and 3-year-old son were in his 2001 Honda when it was stopped, sheriffs said.

Anderson, who does not have a driver's license, was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and engaging

in an unlawful speed contest, along with multiple vehicle and traffic charges, authorities said. He was to be arraigned yesterday in First District Court in Central Islip.

Squires was charged with driving while intoxicated, speeding, engaging in an unlawful speed contest, and multiple vehicle and traffic charges. He was arraigned Sunday and released on bail.

CRIME & courts

BRENTWOOD

Pedestrian fatally struck

A 42-year-old man was killed when he was struck by a sport utility vehicle as he crossed the Long Island Expressway south service road in Brentwood, Suffolk police said.

Rosalio Ventura Guzman was pronounced dead at the scene on Express Drive South, near Washington Avenue, not far from his home, police said. Police said Guzman was struck by an eastbound 2004 Ford Explorer driven by Alex Herrera, 18, of Brentwood, about 11 p.m. Sunday.

Herrera was not injured. Police impounded the vehicle for a safety check. Herrera was not charged.

Police said the crash remains under investigation.

Anyone with information regarding the accident is being asked to contact Third Squad detectives at 631-854-8352 or Crime Stoppers at 800-220-TIPS.

— JOHN VALENTI

BAY SHORE

Man hit by car critical

A Levittown man was critically injured when he was struck by a car as he crossed Union Boulevard in Bay Shore, police said.

James Walker, 26, was struck by the westbound 2000 Pontiac Grand Am driven by Danielle Sireci, 22, of West Islip, as he crossed Union at Windsor Avenue at 9:05 p.m. Sunday, Suffolk police said. Sireci was not injured.

Walker was taken to Southampton Hospital in Bay Shore in critical condition, police said.

Sireci was not charged.

Police are asking anyone with information regarding the accident to call Third Squad detectives at 631-854-8352 or Crime Stoppers at 800-220-TIPS.

— JOHN VALENTI

WANTAGH

Slain parkway driver ID'd

State Police yesterday identified the driver in a one-car fatal crash on the Wantagh State Parkway in Wantagh, according to a news release.

Zachary Avanzato, 23, of Bellmore, died after his 1972 Chevrolet Impala left the

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southbound lane of the parkway, north of Sunrise Highway, and struck a tree about 6:22 p.m. Saturday, police said.

Police have not determined a reason for the crash and said "for unknown reasons" the car "entered the center median shoulder and struck a tree."

Avanzato was pronounced dead at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow shortly after the crash, police said.

— GARY DYMSKI

SOUTHAMPTON

Police probe teen's attack

Southampton Town Police on Sunday began investigating an attack on a 16-year-old East Hampton boy who was beaten and stabbed after leaving a party in Bridgehampton.

The teenager, whose name was being withheld, was attacked near Scuttlehole Road and was listed in stable condition at Southampton Hospital. Police are asking anyone with information about the attack to call detectives at 631-728-5000.

— ZACHARY R. DOWDY

SOUTHAMPTON

Group home targeted

A Southampton woman was arrested and charged with petty larceny after, police said, she stole about \$400 from several residents of a group home where she worked.

Nicole S. Leggon, 28, former house manager at the Aid to the Developmentally Disabled home in North Hampton, was arrested on Friday and charged with the Class A misdemeanor, Southampton Town police said. Each of the victims has been reimbursed for their losses, police said, adding that the arrest was the result of a monthlong investigation.

— ZACHARY R. DOWDY