

Dr. James O. Plinton, Jr., 81, Instructed Tuskegee Airmen

Helped Develop Haitian International Airlines

Dr. James O. Plinton, Jr., 81, of Lake Wales, Florida, died Thursday, July 4, at the Lake Wales Medical Center Extended Care Facility.

He was born July 22, 1914 in Westfield and had been a resident of Lake Wales for a year and a half, coming from Miami, Florida, where he resided for many years.

Dr. Plinton attended Westfield High School and graduated from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in biology. After a short time with the United States Post Office and the United States Merchant Marines, he entered the University of Newark's Division of Aeronautics, and on a series of United States Department of Commerce fellowships, graduated with a commercial pilot's certificate and flight instructor's rating. Immediately, he went to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and joined the Flight Training Staff of the United States Army Air Corps as one of the first black flight instructors of the famed 99th Pursuit Squadron — the Tuskegee Airmen.

After World War II, he helped to reorganize Andesa, Ecuador's national airline, then was invited by the President of Haiti to develop the Haitian International Airlines. He later established and flew for Quisqueya, Ltd., a small inter-island air transport service, and concurrently installed and successfully operated Haiti's first dry cleaning plant and, later, its first modern laundry.

In 1957, Dr. Plinton returned to the United States and joined Trans World Airlines to become the first black executive of a major United States airline. Fourteen years later, in 1971, he was appointed Vice President and Corporate Officer of Eastern Airlines — the first black person in United States history to achieve this position.

Upon retirement from Eastern Airlines in 1980, he was elected to serve as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Fellow-

ship of Churches of Southeast Florida, serving at the same time as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tacoley Economics Development Corporation — a non-profit organization of black business and professional leaders which has successfully rebuilt the business and residential center of Liberty City, which was destroyed during the riots of 1980.

Dr. Plinton was a Past President of the YMCA of the United States of America and served on the Board of Trustees of the South Florida Center for Theological Studies Graduate School, the Miami Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium and as a Trustee Emeritus of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He also served on the Board of Directors of the South Florida Jail Ministries and the P.L. Dodge Foundation.

Dr. Plinton was awarded a Doctor of Law Degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and a Doctorate in Aeronautical Science by Embry-Riddle. Three presidents of Haiti awarded him their highest honor award, the National Order of Honour and Merit, as well as the National Order of Labor. He received the Distinguished Service Award from his alma mater, Lincoln University; the Outstanding Man of the Year Award in International Marketing from Long Island University in New York; the Negro Airmen International's Award for outstanding achievement in the field of aviation, and the President Kenneth David Kaunda Award for Humanism.

The Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida honored Dr. Plinton with their Chief Award in 1980. He had been the recipient of many other honors and was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Perrine, Florida.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs. Kathryn Hancock Plinton, in 1993. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Kathryn Plinton Roman of Lake Wales; a son, James O. Norman Plinton of Miami; a brother, Kermit Plinton of Lebanon, Pennsylvania; six grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

A memorial service will be held at Johnson Funeral Home in Lake Wales today, Thursday, July 18. A celebration of his life will be held at the First Baptist Church of Perrine on Saturday, July 20. In lieu of flowers, the family has established the Dr. James O. Plinton, Jr. Memorial Fund at the American Bank and Trust of Polk County, 222 Highway No. 60, East, Lake Wales, 33853.

July 18, 1996

Sarong is a simple garment carrying the implicit promise that it will not long stay in place.

—E.B. White

Genius is the capacity for seeing relationships where lesser men see none.

—William James

Obituaries

Mrs. Angela DeNicolo, 70,

Member Of Senior Citizens Group

Mrs. Angela Durso DeNicolo, 70, of Scotch Plains, died Saturday, July 13, at her daughter's home in Warren. Born in Brooklyn, she had lived in Scotch Plains for more than 30 years. Mrs. DeNicolo was a member of the Senior Citizens Group of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains.

Michael Freshwater, 65

Michael Freshwater, 65, of Westfield died Tuesday, July 9, in Rahway Hospital.

Born in Blackpool, England, he had come to the United States in 1968, settling in Buffalo before moving to Westfield in 1981.

He was a stage manager for various shows on ABC-TV in New York for 16 years, including "Prime Time Live" and "ABC Sports." Previously, he had been a newscaster with WUTV in Buffalo and a business manager for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in London.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Gillian Freshwater and a daughter, Mrs. Susan Barbara.

Services were held Saturday, July 13, in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield.

Arrangements were handled by the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue, Westfield.

July 18, 1996

Edward Blockus, 75

Edward Joseph Blockus, 75, died Sunday, July 14, at Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home.

Born in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, he had lived in Edison for 27 years and Dunellen for 10 years before moving to Greenbrook last year.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Navy.

Mr. Blockus worked in maintenance for Amerisil in Sayreville for 30 years, retiring in 1980.

He had been a member of the American Legion Post in Nanticoke. His wife, Mrs. Regina Blockus, died in 1980.

Surviving are two sons, Bruce Blockus of Somerville and William Blockus of Manville; a daughter, Miss Gina Blockus of Manville; a sister, Mrs. Terry Scrupski of Westfield, and two grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday, July 17, at the Middlesex Funeral Home in Middlesex, followed by a Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church in Middlesex.

July 18, 1996

Mrs. Kathryn Halleron, 82

Mrs. Kathryn L. (Killian) Halleron, 82, died Tuesday, July 9, in her home in Westfield.

Born in Canton, Ohio, she had lived in Nutley and Cranford before moving to Westfield 28 years ago.

She was a member of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

Her husband, Clement F. Halleron, died in 1979.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Molly O'Neil of Scotch Plains; a brother, Donald Killian of West Chester, Pennsylvania, and five grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was held in Holy Trinity Church in Westfield on Friday, July 12. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

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

July 18, 1996

Her husband, Seraphin M. DeNicolo, died in 1993. Her granddaughter, Samantha Coslett, also preceded her in death.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Christine DeNicolo Regan of Warren, Mrs. Marietta Marciani of Woodcliff Lake, Mrs. Patricia Castellano of Branchburg and Mrs. Celia Coslett of Hillsborough; a brother, Guy Durso of Manville; her mother, Mrs. Mary DeVito Durso of Neshanic Station, and eight grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday, July 17, at the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue, Westfield, followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Bartholomew's Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Overlook, 33 Blecker Street in Millburn, 07041.

July 18, 1996

Kenneth J. Nock, Sr., 57

Kenneth John Nock, Sr., 57, died Monday, July 1, at his home in Melfa, Virginia.

Born in Newark, he had lived in Scotch Plains most of his life before moving to Virginia in 1974.

He and his son owned Nock and Son Painting in Melfa.

Mr. Nock was a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses for 32 years and served as an Elder in the Accomac Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Judith Matusik Nock; a son, Kenneth J. Nock, Jr., and a daughter, Mrs. Lisa Anne Nock-Butler, both of Melfa; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Nock of Melfa; a brother, Lawrence Nock of Melfa; a sister, Mrs. Winifred Hatch of Onancock, Virginia, and two granddaughters.

Arrangement were handled by the Doughty Funeral Home in Exmore, Virginia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Accomac Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, care of Steve Swinkli, 27237 Texaco Town Road, Melfa, Virginia 23410.

July 18, 1996

John R. Ward, 83, Worked on

World War II Manhattan Project

John R. Ward died Friday, July 12, at the King James Care Center in Chatham, a day before his 84th birthday.

Born in Schenectady, New York, he had lived in Westfield briefly before entering King James.

He was a member of Union Presbyterian Church in Bay Ridge, where he had served as an Elder. He had

Mrs. Janet C. McIlvain, 63

Mrs. Janet C. McIlvain, 63, died Wednesday, July 10, at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

Mrs. McIlvain was born in Newark and had lived in Fanwood prior to moving to Bridgewater 25 years ago. She was a secretary at American Telephone & Telegraph (AT & T) in South Plainfield for 25 years.

Her husband, Chester A. McIlvain, died in 1981.

Surviving are a daughter, Miss Susan J. McIlvain of Bridgewater and her mother, Mrs. Doris E. Dunn of Scotch Plains.

Services were held Saturday, July 13, at the Gallaway and Crane Funeral Home in Basking Ridge.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurses Association of Somerset Hills Hospice, P.O. Box 478, Gladstone, 07934.

July 18, 1996

Harry I. Shrubsall, 83, Former Engineer With Union Carbide

Harry I. Shrubsall, 83, died Sunday, July 14, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mr. Shrubsall was born in Niagara Falls, New York, settling in Scotch Plains in 1954.

He was a 1933 graduate of the University of Niagara in New York, having received a bachelor's degree in engineering.

He had been an engineer with Union Carbide in Newark for many years, retiring in 1968.

Following his retirement, Mr. Shrubsall worked as a crossing guard for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

He was a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains.

He also was a member of the Scotchwood Masonic Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons No. 295 in Scotch Plains.

His son, Mark Shrubsall, died in 1971.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Suzanne E. Green Shrubsall; three sons, Edward Shrubsall of Linden, Peter Shrubsall of Brick and Christopher Shrubsall of Georgia; two daughters, Mrs. Robin Warfield of North Carolina and Mrs. Suzanne Brotz of Florida; a sister, Mrs. Gladys Giddion of California; 13 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. today, Thursday, July 18, at the Rossi Funeral Home, Scotch Plains.

July 18, 1996

John J. Donahue, Educated In Town, Active at Colgate

John Joseph Donahue of Princeton died Sunday, July 14, at the home of friends as a result of heart failure.

Born in Perth Amboy in 1919, Mr. Donahue grew up in Westfield, and attended Westfield public schools, graduating in 1937 from Westfield High School.

Mr. Donahue attended Colgate University as a political science major, graduating with the Class of 1941. At Colgate, he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity and the varsity track team. He was the Sports Editor of the *Colgate Maroon* and was elected to the Maroon Key Club Honor Society and *Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges*.

In 1941 Mr. Donahue was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He was an Infantry Platoon Leader in the Third Battalion Second Marines during the initial landings on Guadalcanal in August of 1942.

He was discharged from active duty in the Marine Corps in January, 1946, with the rank of Major. Following World War II, Mr. Donahue began a career in publishing. He had worked for McGraw-Hill in New York City and Hightstown for 35 years, retiring as Senior Marketing Manager in 1984.

He was active in many community and civic organizations including the Nassau Club, the Old Guard, the Princeton Historical Society and St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church.

He maintained a lifelong relationship with Colgate University as a member of

the Alumni Corporation Board, serving as Director and Regional Vice President. He was the Class Agent for the Class of 1941 and Co-Chairman of his Fiftieth Reunion. In 1975 he received a Maroon Citation for Service to his alma mater.

He was pre-deceased by his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Reydel Donahue, who also grew up in Westfield.

He was the son of the late John H. Donahue and Anna Guerns Donahue.

Mr. Donahue is survived by two daughters: Mrs. Patricia D. Cooper of Sudbury, Massachusetts, and Miss Darcy Donahue of Oxford, Ohio; a son, Lieutenant Colonel John D. Donahue of Yuma, Arizona; a sister, Mrs. Eileen Donahue of Westfield, and five grandchildren.

Contributions in memory of Mr. Donahue may be made to the American Heart Society or the American Cancer Society.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. today, Thursday, July 18, at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, 214 Nassau Street, Princeton. Interment will follow in Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, at noon.

The Kimble Funeral Home in Princeton is in charge of the arrangements.

July 18, 1996

Mrs. Eleanor Jones, 73

Mrs. Eleanor F. (Kurzbacher) Jones, 73, of Westfield, died at her home on Sunday, July 14.

Born in Brooklyn, she had lived in Norwalk, Connecticut for 37 years, before moving to Westfield 32 years ago.

She was a homemaker and an avid painter.

Her husband was the late Robert R. Jones.

Surviving are two sons, Robert A. Jones and Scott M. Jones; two daughters, Mrs. Denise Petner and Mrs. Linda Trajick; a sister, Mrs. Lilyan Donvan and Mrs. Catherine Mattiello; eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Services were held yesterday, Wednesday morning, July 17, at the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue, Westfield. Burial followed in Cloverleaf Memorial Park in Woodbridge.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Center for Hope Hospice, 176 Hussa Street, Linden, 07036.

July 18, 1996

I believe that man will not merely endure; he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

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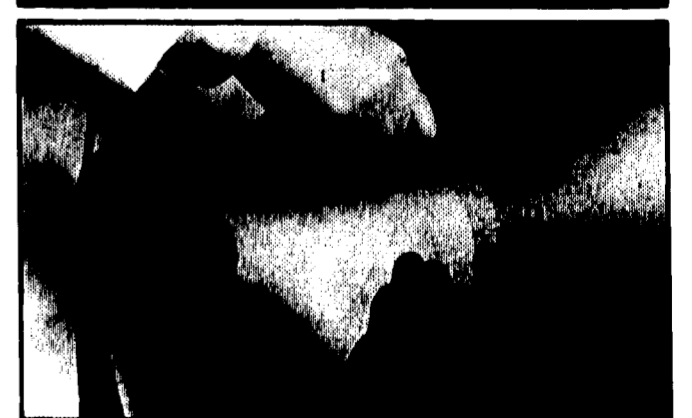
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