

The Quotable Voice

My Golden Rule

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all times you can
To all the people you can
As long as you can.

By: Bernard Meltzer

In Passing

Obituaries Courtesy The Standard Times

Note: Due to recent requests, we will be adding family survivors to our customer's obituaries as space allows.

Frank E. Souza, 90, of Mattapoisett died May 27, 2009 at Sippican Healthcare Center. He was the husband of Ruth J. (Dvorak) Souza and the late Herminia (Falcao) Souza and Eleanor (Coggeshall) Souza. Mr. Souza was born in New Bedford, the son of the late Frank E. Souza and Sarah (Leary) Longworth Souza. He grew up in New Bedford, graduating from New Bedford High School and later attending New Bedford textile School (now U Mass Dartmouth). While employed at Goodyear making barrage balloons to be shipped to England, he was called to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. On being discharged from the service he worked for the Wamsutta Mills as the assistant purchasing agent. When Wamsutta moved away, he then was employed at the Continental Screw in the sales department. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 24 years of service in Tiverton, RI which was his last residence before moving to Mattapoisett in 1995. He was a member of the Mattapoisett Congregational Church and a 50 year member of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch #57 and a former member of the Acoaxet Club in Westport, Dartmouth Indoor Tennis Club, Amicable Congregational Church in Tiverton and the Community Chorus in Tiverton. He enjoyed playing golf, tennis, singing in the church choir and community chorus, bowling, traveling, square dancing and enjoying the many boat trips to Cuttyhunk and Falmouth with his son Paul. Survivors include his wife Ruth; two sons, Paul Souza and his wife Mary Lou Schuler of Mattapoisett and Robert Souza and his wife Susan of St. Louis, Missouri; 4 grandchildren, Paul, Jr., Lori, Gabriella and Abraham; two nieces, Karen Kondi and Carol Silva and several great-nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Bernice Kondi.

Kathleen C. "Dolly" (Tucker) Benac, 82, of Fairhaven, died peacefully Saturday, June 6, 2009, at the Royal of Fairhaven after a long period of failing health. Born and raised in Fair-

haven, the daughter of the late Claude S. and the late Catherine (Sullivan) Tucker, she was the devoted and loving wife of Albert F. Benac, to whom she would have been married sixty-one years this July 24th. Mrs. Benac was a 1945 graduate of Fairhaven High School and a proud member of the National Honor Society. She was also a member of St. Joseph's Church in Fairhaven. She was an avid reader, who enjoyed cooking and entertaining in her home. Mostly she enjoyed taking care of her husband, children and grandchildren. She will be missed dearly. She is survived by her husband; a son, Paul F. Benac of Fairhaven and his companion, Simone Marcotte; three daughters, Claudia A. Mitchell and her husband David, and Kathleen M. Isaksen and her husband Nils, all of Fairhaven, and Monica L. Benac of New Bedford; two brothers, Claude S. Tucker, Jr., and Donald Tucker, both of Fairhaven; her loving grandchildren, Sean and Kathryn Mitchell, Kendra Lee and Hillary Ann Isaksen and Adam Benac Gomes; and several nieces and nephews. Mrs. Benac was also the sister of the late Helen Davidson, William Tucker and Francis Tucker, who was lost at sea at Guadal Canal during WWII. Mrs. Benac's family would like to take this time to thank Dr. Restituyo for his unflinching care, and the staff at the Royal for their unending efforts to keep Mom comfortable, and to her dear 94 year-old roommate, Alice, who helped to comfort her in her last days.

Deanna Lee (Wilbur) Fels, 52, of Dartmouth, died Friday, June 5, 2009 unexpectedly at St. Luke's Hospital surrounded by her loving family. She was the wife of David Fels. They would have celebrated 32 years of marriage June 11, 2009. Born in New Bedford, she was the daughter of Howard E. Wilbur, Jr. and Luella F. (Cannon) Wilbur. Mrs. Fels was formerly employed at J.C. Penney, Bank of Boston, Fleet Bank and Bank of America. She enjoyed traveling, gardening and spending time with her family. She especially loved all of her pets. Her family includes her husband, David Fels of Dartmouth; her parents, Howard E. Wilbur, Jr. and Luella F. (Cannon) Wilbur of East Freetown; her children, Stephanie Lee Fels of Dartmouth and David-Matthew Fels of Dartmouth; 1 brother, Bruce W. Wilbur and his wife, Trisha of Assonet.

Yvonne H. (Ouimette) Nadeau, 84, of New Bedford, passed away peacefully at Sacred Heart Home on Sunday, May 24, 2009, after a long illness. She was the wife of Ovila "Mike" A. Neadeau, married 66 years; the daughter of the late Antoine and Therese (Belisle) Ouimette. She was a lifelong resident of New Bedford and graduated from New Bedford High School. She was formerly employed as an inspector at Aerovox Corp., until her retirement. Her whole life was devoted to her family. The family also wishes to thank Sacred Heart Home and the South-coast Hospice for their devotion and care of her. Survivors include her husband; her daughter, Lorriane Latimer and her husband Norbert "Chuck" of New Bedford; two grandchildren, Joseph Latimer and his wife Maria of Westport and David Latimer and his wife, Tiffany of PA.

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New Motor Vehicle Laws For Massachusetts Drivers

Massachusetts has recently implemented some new motor vehicle legislation that most motorists may not be aware of.

A new 'Mover Over Law' took effect on March 22, 2009, which is meant to help protect police, firefighters, paramedics, tow truck drivers, as well as roadside emergency and maintenance workers. This new law requires drivers approaching a stopped emergency or maintenance vehicle, with flashing lights activated, to move to the next adjacent lane, if it is safe to do so, and to also to reduce their speed. Motorists in violation of this new law can be issued a citation resulting in a 100.00 fine.

Local and state law enforcement officers are aware that, motorists may not always be able to mover over to an adjacent lane, due to traffic and other factors, however, officers are asking motorists to comply whenever possible. Every year, first responders across the country are injured or killed while providing emergency roadside help. According to the RMV Merit Rating Board, in 2008 there were nearly 2000 violations of the Chapter 89 law, which deals with obstructing emergency vehicles including failure to yield and following too closely.

In addition, Massachusetts has recently made the some driver's license infractions more lenient for drivers. For many years now, driving a motor vehicle (M/V) in Massachusetts with a 'Suspended' or 'Revoked' driver's license has been an **Arrestable & Criminal** offence. **Arrestable**, meaning that the issuing police officer has the option of arresting the suspect driver and, **Criminal**, meaning that the infraction does not result in a citation fine at the roadside, but requires the minimum of a clerk's hearing at the district court with penalties possibly resulting in incarceration.

In an effort to raise money for the Commonwealth, the Governor added some new provisions to the latest budget that have an impact on Massachusetts motorists. Effective July 1, 2009, the 'first offence' of operating a M/V with a revoked or suspended license is no longer arrestable. This matter is now considered a CMVI (Civil Motor Vehicle Infraction) resulting in a citation to the driver. The fine is a hefty one at 500.00 and the police officer may also tow the motorist's vehicle. However, if the officer can determine, through a records search, that the motorist has been convicted of this offence in the past, the officer will have the lawful authority to place the driver under arrest. In addition, an arrest will also be justified if the driver has had a prior conviction for Operating Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol.

Unchanged, and still arrestable, is the offence of driving without ever being issued a license as well as driving with an expired license. However, a Massachusetts driver who has a license in

good standing, but does not have it on his person while operating a M/V, can only be given a citation for 35.00. However, a driver operating a M/V with an out of state drivers license can be subject to arrest in the Commonwealth if they are driving a M/V and they can not produce their out of state license. As always, officers may use their discretion as to whether or not the driver should be placed under arrest or issued a citation.

Finally, there has also been some change to Mass. General Laws (MGL) 90-34J. MGL 90-34J addresses the issue of operating a M/V in the commonwealth without insurance. In the past, this offence had been non-arrestable but criminal, meaning that the driver is given a criminal citation and has to go to the district court for a hearing. As of July 1, 2009, the offence for driving a M/V without insurance will result in a CMVI for 500.00. Since this offence is no longer criminal, the driver will not have to go through any court proceedings, (unless he/she wishes to appeal the citation). As always, with uninsured vehicles on public ways, they are subject to an immediate police tow and cannot be left standing or driven on any public ways until properly insured.

Consumer Reports Supports Right to Repair Act

*Source:
Consumer Reports*

Right to Repair legislation received vocal support from the consumer rights community as *Consumer Reports* publicized its support for HR 2057, currently before the House Energy and Commerce committee.

"Consumer Reports agrees, in principle, with the Right to Repair Act, as it restricts its scope to "repair" which would increase repair options for car owners," Liza Barth stated in her May 15, 2009 blog post on ConsumerReports.org. Barth continued, explaining the current necessity for Right to Repair legislation:

This legislation comes at an interesting time for consumers and automakers. A “Cash for Clunkers” proposal currently being considered in Washington could cause the demand for servicing old cars to be reduced, thus further impacting the smaller shops. Also, many dealerships are closing; giving consumers have fewer choices as to where to get their vehicles serviced. This bill would allow more flexibility in choosing a place to service your car and could save you money.

A recent Consumer Reports survey found that people are more satisfied with service from an independent shop than those who went to a dealer. We also found it helps to shop around for car maintenance. Prices can vary greatly between dealerships and independent shops.

The Coalition for Auto Repair Equality President Ray Pohlman commented that Right to Repair ensures that independent repair shops have the same access as the new car dealers to the tools and information to work on highly computerized late model vehicles, especially the hybrid models that Congress is currently promoting as well as cars that are now coming out of warranty.

"We are pleased that Consumer Union recognized that this legislation is important to preserving competition for U.S. car owners, ensuring that they can obtain affordable and convenient repairs at the location of their choice, ensuring safer vehicles on our roads," said Pohlman.

About Right to Repair:

The U.S. aftermarket employs five million people nationwide in over 495,000 locations, including "mom and pop" parts and maintenance shops. The Right to Repair Act in the U.S. Congress can be followed at www.righttorepair.org

Be Careful When Replacing Batteries

Many DIY (Do It Yourselfers) feel confident in replacing their cars’ battery when needed. On many vehicles, the procedure is not complex when proper safety procedures are used. However, even this once simple procedure is gradually getting more complex.

Recently, we came across some information that certain vehicles require the connect of a special scan tool to the vehicles on board computer in order to properly replace the battery. Sound odd? You bet! Believe it or not, some late model vehicles, like BMW, are now using what is called AGM (Absorbed Glass Matt) batteries. These batteries cannot be charged at the same rate as traditional automotive batteries. In late model BMW’s, when the vehicle’s battery is replaced, the BMW on board computer should be ‘told’ that the battery was replaced. This procedure can be performed with a BMW or similar scan tool. The reason for this is that the alternator and charging system on these vehicles is very sophisticated and needs to actually know the ‘age’ and type of battery installed. A new battery will be charged at a different rate than an older battery that has been in the vehicle for several years. Some BMW technicians warn that, failure to perform the registration process, after replacing the battery, can result in a dramatic shortening in the life of the replacement battery. Some BMW technicians have even reported that replacement batteries may only last for as little as 1 year. This special registration process of often required on 2008 X-series, 2007 X-series, 2006 3-series and some other specific years and models.

Don’t Be A Victim At The Gas Pump

*Source:
NBC*

NBC -- Pennsylvania State police are investigating the possible use of skimming devices used to acquire victims' debit card information when they swipe their cards to pay for gas. Investigators said they are searching surveillance footage to try to identify two people installing devices or using stolen credit card information in various locations throughout the region. Wawa gas stations in Delaware, Chester, Montgomery and Bucks counties have had skimming devices placed inside the gas pumps as early as April 25, police said. A co-op in Bryn Mawr also appears to have been compromised in early June, police added. Investigators said Wawa surveillance cameras caught the two using information from the skimming device to withdraw cash from an ATM.

Skimmer devices were located inside gas pumps in Concord Township, Downingtown, Bristol Township and Uwchlan Township. Pumps were tampered with in New Castle, Delaware as well, indicating that thieves may have placed a device inside the pump's card reader and have already retrieved it, according to a Pennsylvania State police release.

"It's a sorry state of what's going on. I guess gas prices are getting so high people are doing whatever they can to take advantage of that," Bob Hansen, of West Chester, said. Investigators said the people involved have used the stolen debit card information to make fraudulent withdraws from ATM machines at Wawa and 7-Eleven locations through the area, in addition to casinos located in Atlantic City. Skimmers are not easily detected, so police warned consumers that they could be easy targets. People should check their accounts regularly and contact authorities and financial institutions if they are suspicious of fraudulent activity. Police won't give details, but say the number of stolen identities is overwhelming, and that the surveillance video is a first look at the men they said they believe are responsible for the most elaborate identity theft scheme police have seen.

At a Wawa on Route 1 and Briton Lake in Chester County a device was found in March by an employee. The employee said he checks the pumps three times each day now for skimming devices. In a statement, Wawa said in part the incidents reported happened some time ago and were swiftly addressed. They said they now check pumps daily and suggest customers check bank accounts often and report any suspicious activity. Police said they don't know if the pair are working together and won't say how many Wawa locations have been compromised. Police are only saying since the first incident in April, the number of stolen identities is overwhelming. "We're all paying for the cost of all this, when someone steals someone's identity and then goes and buys a TV or loads their car up with gas, there's somehow or another, I'm paying for that," Bridget Baratta, of Chadds Ford, said.