

## Obituaries

### CATHERINE A. THOMAS

AMHERST – Catherine A. “Kati” Thomas, 88, longtime resident of Amherst, NH, died August 29, 2011 at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center, Nashua.

She was born in Brockton, MA on January 19, 1923, a daughter of Albert F. Hurley, Sr. and Anna (Lamora) Hurley and graduated from Brockton High School, Class of 1942. She attended Regis College, Weston, MA.

Kati enjoyed playing golf, both downhill and cross country skiing, doing crafts and dancing with her partner, Raymond, of 60 years. She was an accomplished artist employing both oil and acrylic paints. In addition, she loved to travel especially to Europe, Bermuda, Hawaii. Kati enjoyed spending many summers on Cape Cod with her family.

She was a communicant of St. Patrick’s Church, Milford and a member of the Women’s Association of The Congregational Church of Amherst.

Kati was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Raymond P. Thomas, Sr., who died in 2010 and a

grandson, Joshua P. Thomas.

Family members include a daughter and son-in-law, Joanne L. and Stephen Hatch of North Haverhill, NH; three sons and daughters-in-law, Raymond P. Thomas, Jr. of Concord, NH, Peter M. and Kimberly Thomas of Milford, NH, Steven M. and Jeri-Lyn Thomas of Manassas, VA; six grandchildren; 16 Great Grandchildren; her brother and sister-in-law, Albert F. Hurley, Jr. and his wife, Mary of Atlanta, GA; brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Ralph and Judy Thomas of Easton, MA, Lillian Thomas of West Bridgewater, MA; a special cousin, Barbara Geary of Laconia, NH; many nieces and nephews.

Burial will be in Meadowview Cemetery, Amherst, at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the New Hampshire Association for the Blind, 25 Walker Street, Concord, NH 03301. Arrangements are in the care of Smith & Heald Funeral Home, Milford. To leave an online condolence, please go to www.smith-heald.com

### ARTHUR J. PALMER

AMHERST – Arthur J. Palmer, 87, of Amherst, NH died peacefully on August 30, 2011 at the Community Hospice House in Merrimack, NH.

Art was born in New York City on July 26, 1924 to Swedish immigrants Charlotte (Carlson) and Charles J. Palmer. He was valedictorian of the Stuyvesant High School class of 1941. During WWII he served in the Army Air Corps as a P-47 Thunderbolt pilot and was shot down while flying a mission in the Haute-Saône region of France. Local farmers and members of the resistance removed him from his plane, cared for him, and hid him until he could rejoin his squadron. He returned to France in 2002 and was reunited with nearly everyone who aided in his rescue. In 2010, a street in La Résie-Saint-Martin was named in his honor.

Art graduated from the New York University School of Engineering in 1949 and also studied at the M.I.T. Center for Advanced Engineering. He was a member of Pi Tau Sigma, the International Mechanical Engineering Honor Society. For 35 years he was employed as a mechanical engineer at Esso/Exxon Research and Engineering, specializing in piping and LNG tank design. Prior to moving to Amherst five years ago, he resided with his wife, Kay, in Westfield, NJ for 53 years.

An avid traveler, he had visited all 50 states and every continent except Antarctica. Art enjoyed golf and learned to ski at Mt. Sunapee in 1967. Reading, watching the Red Sox and attending Forever Fit classes at Hampshire Hills were some of his favorite activities.

He will be greatly missed by his wide circle of friends and his loving family: daughter and son-in-law, Katherine and Craig Richardson of Amherst, NH; son and daughter-in-law, John Palmer and Martha Fischer of Niwot, CO; granddaughters, Sarah and Emily Richardson; grandson, Evan Palmer; brother,

Len Palmer of Cranford, NJ; sister and brother-in-law, Lee and Al Acker of Merrick, NY; brother and sister-in-law, Ed and Marion Palmer of Montvale, NJ; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Katherine P. Palmer and daughter, Nancy L. Palmer.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, September 17, 1:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, 303 Rt. 101, Amherst, NH. His ashes will be interred in the church’s memorial garden. Donations in his memory may be made to Messiah Lutheran Church where he was an active member, or the Community Hospice House in Merrimack.

#### Amherst Emergency Management

## Preparing For Disasters and Emergencies

### Lessons We Can Learn From “Irene”

By BRIAN GLEASON, EMS DIRECTOR

Whenever a major disaster or emergency strikes, lives can be turned upside down in an instant. Fortunately Hurricane “Irene” was not as catastrophic as originally projected, but millions of people along much of the east coast did lose power and at least 35 people lost their lives. Large numbers of homes were destroyed and the economic damage from Hurricane Irene is going to be in the billions of dollars.

By the time the storm arrived into Amherst on August 28th, it had already lost much of its punch, but its winds were still strong enough to knock down trees and power lines. At the height of the storm, 175,000 customers were without power including approximately 2,300 Amherst customers according to PSNH officials.

Amherst emergency management officials, operating out of the town’s “Emergency Operations Center” (EOC), monitored the storms track across the state while Police, DPW, Fire and EMS crews managed storm related downed trees, wires, road closure and medical emergencies. A HAM radio operator from the Amherst CERT team set up direct communications at the police facility with the NH EOC and reported statewide river level concerns to Amherst officials specific to the Souhegan River. Although the river did rise considerably, at no time were our roads in danger of flooding.

Now that Hurricane Irene has passed New Hampshire, this is a good opportunity for all of us to look back and learn some important lessons about how to prepare for disasters and emergencies. The reality is that a major disaster or emergency has happened somewhere in the United States almost every single month so far this year, and it is only a matter of time before you and your family will be faced with another disaster or emergency.

No plan is perfect, but if you have a plan you are going to be far better off than if you do not have a plan. September is National Preparedness Month, so now is a great time to focus on preparing your family for the future disasters and emergencies that are inevitably coming.

The following are 12 lessons that we can learn from Hurricane Irene about how to prepare for disasters and emergencies...

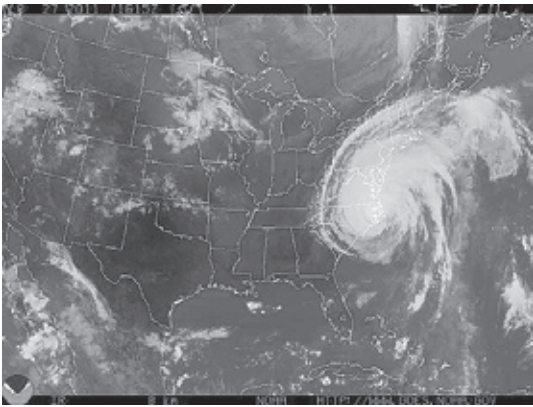
#### #1 Disaster and weather emergencies are inherently unpredictable

When a disaster or an emergency strikes, you never know what is going to happen. Even a storm such as Hurricane Irene that was tracked for weeks can end up being highly unpredictable.

For example, while a tremendous amount of attention was paid to New York City, the reality is that some of the worst damage ended up being caused in Vermont and Northern NH. Hurricane Irene actually caused the worst flooding that Vermont has seen since 1927

#### #2 During a major disaster store shelves become empty quick

What do we see happen every single time there is even a minor disaster or weather related emergency?



Every single time, food and other emergency supplies disappear from store shelves in a matter of hours.

If you do not have at least a weeks worth of non-perishable food stored up you are putting yourself at risk.

Get prepared before disaster strikes.

#### #3 Prepare an emergency “Go Bag”

When disaster strikes, you may only have a couple of minutes before you have to race out the door.

Your “go bag” should contain some food, some water, a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, some cash, copies of your most important documents and any medicine that you may need.

#### #4 Know your escape routes and always have maps of the area in your vehicle

Have a plan and know where you are going to be heading in the event of an emergency. Monitor local media channels for road advisories before heading out.

#### #5 During a major disaster or emergency there is a good chance that you’ll lose power for an extended period of time

During Hurricane Irene, more than 5 million people in her wake lost power. That is why it is crucial to have a battery-powered radio, a battery-powered (or solar) flashlight and extra batteries in your home.

Know what you are going to do once the power goes out. Anyone that has been through an extended power outage knows how life can change almost instantly once the power goes down.

#### #6 Have enough water stored up

What was one of the biggest problems in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina?

It turned out that one of the most critical problems was a very serious shortage of bottled water.

Yes, even after Katrina dumped unprecedented amounts of water on New Orleans one of the biggest problems was still a lack of water.

So when planning for disasters and emergencies, please be sure to store up enough water to last a minimum of 3-5 days for each family member.

#### #7 During a natural disaster, major transportation routes may be shut down

A lot of people were horrified to find roads closed or washed out during Hurricane Irene.

Just because you are used to traveling on certain roads it is not safe to assume that they will always be available during disasters and emergencies. Monitor statewide travel advisories and avoid unnecessary travel until it is safe to do so.

#### #8 Have respect for the sheer power of “Mother Nature”

We live at a time when people tend to minimize the advanced warnings of weather experts, but major natural disasters are not to be trifled with. Prepare for the worst and expect the best.

If you do not respect Mother Nature, you can end up dead. Amazingly, some New Englanders were actually out boating and canoeing during Hurricane Irene.

#### #9 Living near water can be dangerous

If you live near the lake or near a flood prone river, you need to understand that the potential for danger is always there.

Even if you live a good distance in from water, the danger for substantial local flooding in low lying areas is always there.

#### #10 During a major disaster bring in all objects from outside

During any disaster that involves high winds, anything that is left outside can quickly become a very dangerous projectile. The last thing that you want is for the wind to pick up heavy objects and send them crashing into your home or the home of a neighbor. If you know that a major storm is coming, please bring in everything that you can from outside.

#### #11 Have a plan but be flexible

Your best chance of making it through a disaster or emergency is to have a plan. But that doesn’t mean that you should always stick with that plan. Disasters and emergencies are inherently unpredictable, so it will be very important to be as flexible as possible.

#### #12 If you wait until a disaster strike to prepare it is too late

Right now is the time to prepare for the next disaster or emergency. If you wait until an emergency happens, you will be out of luck. You need to develop a disaster plan for yourself and your family if you do not have one already.

If you plan on storing up food, water, medicine and other emergency supplies, you need to do it ahead of time. Victory belongs to the prepared, and if you think that you will never wind up in the middle of a major disaster you are under estimating “mother nature”.

Hurricane Irene was a devastating storm, but fortunately for us it was not nearly as bad as it could have been. Because of the enormous size of the storm covering several states at the same time, a small deviation of its path closer to the seacoast may have left Amherst in the same predicament as much of Vermont and our North Country. Hopefully this storm will serve as a wake up call for many of us. The next time that mother nature strikes, we may not be let off the hook so easily.

For more information on “Emergency Preparedness” please visit the FEMA website www.ready.gov

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## 10 Questions to Ask When Insuring Your Antique Home

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3. Do you bring in skilled craftsmen or ‘Restorationists’ to restore my home?
4. Do you offer unlimited building code coverage to protect me from paying for new laws & ordinances enacted since my home was built?
5. If there is a claim, do you pay me for the complete damage up front (replacement cost) for both my home & my belongings instead of actual cash value?
6. Does the policy include unlimited additional living expenses coverage while my home is being repaired?
7. Do you include unlimited water backup coverage?
8. Do you have unlimited debris removal coverage?
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