### **OBITUARIES**



DUCKWORTH, GEORGE MICHAEL MATSON, ROBERT VINCENT STONE, LOIS LOUIS WEST, MIKE

#### GEORGE MICHAEL DUCKWORTH



In loving memory of George Michael Duckworth, devoted son, husband, father, brother, and grandpa ("Momo"), who passed away Nov. 16, 2019, in Las Vegas surrounded by family. We will greatly miss all his stories that so many en-

ries that so many enjoyed. We love you "all the world and then some." George was born June 26, 1924, in St. Louis, Mo., moved to Dallas as a child and back to St. Louis where he lived until an eventual move to Las Vegas in 1950. Within two years he started what became an exceptional career in the gaming industry. He began at the Sands, then was at the Rivera, before landing at the Dunes in 1960 where he held executive and ownership positions until his retirement in 1990. His greatest passions outside of the gaming industry were flying his private planes, traveling the world, and most of all spending time with his family. He joins his loving wife of 53 years, Maureen "Kim" Duckworth, who passed in 2018. He will be missed by their children Tara Duckworth Kassity (Dan Kassity) and grandchildren Lauren and Chase; Kyla Duckworth; and Cary Jay Duckworth (Tiffany Duckworth) and grandchildren Ashley and Olivia. George is also survived by his daughter Diane Varney and her sons Shane Varney and Beau Varney, and his daughter Rylee Hall. Thank you to family and friends for your many condolences. In remembrance of George's life, the family kindly asks that in lieu of flowers, support be given to Nathan Adelson Hospice NAH.org.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thu., Dec. 5, at Our Lady of Las Vegas, 3050 Alta Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89107.

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PALMCemeteries . Crematorie

### LOIS LOUIS STONE



Lois Stone of Las Vegas, Nevada passed away on November 15, 2019. Lois joined the US Air Force in 1969 stationed at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. There she met the love of her life Kenneth

Stone. They married in December of 1970. They raised a family together traveling wherever the Air Force sent them. Their adventures included a 4-year tour in New Hampshire, 5 years in San Antonio, and her remaining years were spent at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Neved Leis Holl Sargers of active duty. Nevada. Lois had 2 years of active duty Air Force and 29 years in the US Air Force as a civilian. Lois retired from the Civil Service in 2007 and she went on to do what she does best, take care of the family. Lois was fortunate enough to look after her granddaughter Brooke Manzanares for six years. This was the highlight of her retirement. She also was there for and always blessed her other 4 grandchildren. Each grandchild adored and loved her very much. Along with helping to raise grandchildren, Lois also had a passion for jazzercise. She attended at least 3-5 days a week. Lois had an incredibly giving heart. She donated to varies charities, which include: ASPCA, Shriners, Wounded Warriors, and of course her weekly tithe at Assemblies of God Peaceway Christian Church. Lois' other interests included traveling with her husband of 50 years. They traveled to various locations such as; Los Cabos, St. Lucia, Antigua, and a 14-day cruise to several European countries. Her adorable corgis (Heidi and Packer) still wait at the door every day for her to come home. Lois passed away quietly at the age of 70 in Southern Hills Hospital surrounded by family and her beloved pastor. She is survived by her husband Kenneth Stone, her son, Brian Stone, and her daughter, Lori Manzanares. She leaves her five grandchildren, Mckenzie and Brooke Manzanares, Abraham, Josiah, and Arielle Stone. She is also survived by her four brothers, David, Danny, Dane, and Dale Wade. Lois will be laid to rest with full military honors in the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1900 Veterans Memorial Dr. Boulder City, NV 89005. On December 6, 2019, at 1:20 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to the disabled American Veterans (www.dav.org). Lois was a bright light to everyone that knew her. She will be sorely missed. Her family has peace with the knowledge that she has joined her three-year-old sister, Mother, and Father in heaven. Missed but never forgotten. 9:00AM 12/06/2019 At Davis Funeral home and Memorial Park. 11:00AM 12/06/2019 At Davis

Funeral Home and Memorial Park
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### **ROBERT VINCENT MATSON**



Robert Vincent Matson, 74 years old and a lifelong resident of Las Vegas, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 21, 2019. Robert was born in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 9, 1945. Robert worked for many years

at Nevada Ready Mix as a D.O.T Safety Inspector; he loved his job and did it to the best of his ability. Robert was a loving father and a devoted husband. Robert touched many lives during his life and was known to make friends with many neighbors and members of the community. Robert was a hard-working man who loved his family and friends and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. Robert was gifted in many aspects of his life but most noticeable was his talent with art and craftmanship, whether it be automotive, woodworking, painting, etc. Robert was able to make any vision he had come to life with his hands and tackled big jobs by himself proficiently.

by himself proficiently.
Robert is survived by his children Jamie, Cheri, Joshua, Kristin and Kerilyn, his brother Jerry, as well as his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
Robert lived a fulfilling life with many people who loved and cared for him and stayed by his side through his final years. Robert will surely be missed.

Services will be held Saturday,
December 7, 2019, at 10:00 am, at
Bunkers Mortuary Funeral Home, 925

December 7, 2019, at 10:00 am, at Bunkers Mortuary Funeral Home, 925 Las Vegas Blvd North, LV, NV 89101, Visitation/Viewing 9-10 am, Burial/ Graveside Service to follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery, 7251 W. Lone Mt. Rd. Las Vegas, NV,

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#### **MIKE WEST**



Michael (Mike) West an accomplished educator who cherished his family and friends - departed this world in the comfort of his home to join his heavenly father on November 19, 2019. Mike was born on October 8, 1947, to his late pa-

rents, Jack and Patsy West, in Big Spring, Texas. Mike's sister always said the day Mike was born was the best day of her life. Mike's childhood was spent mostly in California until he moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he graduated from Rancho High School and then University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). While attending UNLV, he pledged the Kappa Sigma fraternity and met many of his lifelong friends. He also met the love of his life, Connie, and they married on June 2, 1971. Mike would be the first to admit that Connie helped him to find his calling as an educator. He began his career as a math teacher and later rose in the ranks of school administration to become a high school principal. Mike and Connie moved to Gig Harbor, Washington, in 1996, where Mike continued his career as a high school principal before his first battle with primary central nervous system lymphoma took a severe toll on his mind and body and forced him to retire. Mike was a true family man. In addition to his wife of 48 years, he adored his daughters and grandchildren. If you met Mike, you know about his family because he was never shy about singing their praises. Mike enjoyed any time spent with family, but particularly playing games and often taking a strategic advantage (commonly known as cheating). Before Mike was sadly limited by illness, he enjoyed traveling, dining at "local flavor" restaurants in search of the perfect blueberry pancake, and attending sporting events (especially Seattle Seahawks and Mariners games). Thankfully, illness could not keep him away from one of his other favorite activities, attending the movies. Mike was known on a first name-basis at many of the local movie theaters. Mike was genuinely interested in people and their stories and made a lasting impression on those who were blessed to know him. He cared deeply about the stu-dents and teachers at his schools, always challenging them to be the best versions of themselves. In his recent years, he was assisted by young caregivers who he thought of as his mentees, giving them daily words of wisdom and encouragement, much like he did during his days as an educator. His smile lit up a room and his deep belly laugh could be recognized miles away by those who knew him. One of Mike's favorite stories was The Starfish Story - a motivational story of hope, perseverance, and creatstory of hope, perseverance, and creating positive change, a story that epitomizes the story of his life. The final line of the story is, "I made a difference to that one." Many people would agree that Mike made a real difference in their lives. Mike courageously battled cancer multiple times and the limitations of early demostic nesulting from his canearly dementia resulting from his cancer before he finally succumbed. Mike is survived by his loving wife, Connie; his daughters, Ali (Jeff) Shepard and Carli (Pete) Kinne; his grandchildren, Burke, Claire, and Kal; and his sister, Jerry Claire, and Kai; and his sister, Jerry.
Please join us in a Celebration of Life on
Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 2:00 pm at
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 200 Island
Avenue, Reno, NV 89501. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations
be made in Mike's honor to the South
Sound CARE Foundation. Following his
remission from cancer the first time remission from cancer the first time, Mike was one of a group of community leaders who came together to create the foundation to bring groundbreaking clinical trials and cancer research to the South Sound Region of Washington, and to provide residents with cancer treatment options otherwise unavailable. He was very honored to play a role in the foundation's early years. You can donate by mail: South Sound CARE Foundation tion, P.O. Box 1314 Tacoma, WA 98401-1314; by phone: 253-220-5003; or online: https: //www.southsoundcarefoundation.

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## **▶** DETERRENCE

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three weeks.

"Unfortunately, we have a lot of wrong-way crashes here in Las Vegas, especially in the overnight hours," Nevada Highway Patrol trooper Travis Smaka said. "One is too many, but we have had a rash of them."

From 2005 to 2015, there were 409 wrong-way crashes in Nevada resulting in 75 deaths, according to Illia.

#### 'Serious' problem

The National Transportation Safety Board released a report in 2012 that detailed just how deadly wrongway driving crashes are on highways.

The report called wrong-way driving "one of the most serious types of highway accidents" because, while they account for about 3 percent of crashes, they are much more likely to result in death.

The fatality rate of wrong-way crashes in California was 12 times greater then other highway accidents. In Virginia, the rate was 27 times higher. In Michigan, 22 percent of wrong-way crashes were fatal; just 0.3 percent of all other collisions were deadly.

Among the report's findings:

About 60 percent of wrong-way drivers in crashes were impaired by

alcohol.
■ About 360 people in the U.S. die each year in about 260 wrong-way

collisions.

Nine percent of wrong-way drivers had been convicted of driving under the influence within three

years prior to the collision.

■ Wrong-way collisions occur
more frequently at night, with
78 percent happening between

6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Most wrong-way collisions occur in the lang elegant to the modion

cur in the lane closest to the median.

Besides alcohol, an impairment issue associated with wrong-way driving is motorists with medical conditions.

"Although age is not a determinate of driving performance, aging is associated with both an increase in medical issues and the use of prescription medications to treat those conditions," the report said.

## Proposals in Nevada, Arizona

A string of deadly wrong-way crashes in Arizona in recent years prompted the state to take action.

The Arizona Republic reported that, through July, Arizona had 16 wrong-way driver fatalities, the same number as all of 2018. One of this

year's crashes killed five people in May, including 82-year-old Har-old Wickham and 90-year-old Ella Wickham, both from Laughlin. Authorities said Harold Wickham was driving east in the westbound lanes of Interstate 40, causing a crash near Kingman that also killed three people from New York.

The Associated Press reported that Arizona lawmakers last year made it a felony to drive the wrong way while impaired by alcohol or drugs. The state also installed a system using thermal cameras positioned at off-ramps in the Phoenix area to alert authorities when a vehicle enters the freeway in the wrong direction.

The system of cameras and lighted warning signs at U.S. 95 and Durango is the first of its kind in Southern Nevada.

"We have a couple that we have installed in Northern Nevada," Illia said.

While there is no guarantee the system will stop a wrong-way driver, Illia said, research by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute showed such systems can reduce head-on collisions by up to 40 percent.

"Like any pilot system, we want

About 360 people in the U.S. die each year in about 260 wrong-way collisions, according to a National Transportation Safety Board report.

to test it, gauge its effectiveness, see how well it works," he said. "If they do work like they are supposed to, we can definitely be looking to implementing more of these throughout the valley."

Each system costs roughly \$100,000 or less, depending on infrastructure available at an intersection.

"Perhaps the simplest solution are the two-sided paving markings that are already in place along I-15 and U.S. Highway 95," Illia said. "Motorists driving the right direction will encounter yellow or clear pavement markings. If driving the wrong way, however, the markers are red. We have also installed several large red wrong way signs throughout the valley."

Contact Glenn Puit at gpuit@ reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0390. Follow @GlennatRJ on Twitter.



Bizuayehu Tesfaye Las Vegas Review-Journal @bizutesfaye Traffic backs up on Interstate 15 on Tuesday as the Nevada Highway Patrol investigates a fatal crash. Northbound I-15 was closed for nearly 10 hours.

# ► FATAL

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"There's definitely something. It is not normal for someone to be driving the wrong way down the highway."

The crash caused a major traffic mess for Las Vegas Valley commuters for much of the day. All northbound lanes of I-15 were closed at Sahara Avenue by 3:45 a.m., causing traffic to back up significantly into Tuesday afternoon. Officials reopened the northbound lanes at 1:30 p.m.

The Highway Patrol said work crews faced a significant task in cleaning up the complex crash site and repairing parts of the interstate damaged by the crash.

"It is a severe crash with a big

debris field," Smaka said before the

highway reopened.

There has been a rash of wrong-way crashes in Nevada recently. A 75-year-old woman was critically injured in Henderson on Nov. 22 in a two-vehicle crash in which impairment was

cle crash in which impairment was suspected. On Nov. 14 — also in the northbound lanes of I-15 — a suspected drunken driver traveling the wrong way was killed in a multivehicle crash. That motorist was identified as 27-year-old Ericka Avila.

In October authorities said a

In October, authorities said a wrong-way driver on Interstate 80 near Elko was killed in a head-on collision that injured two others.

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