

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

we sent him to work, we had people call up and say, this man is one of the most phenomenal people — as a man, not only as an entertainer, but as a person — we can't wait to have him back."

Mr. King, one of seven brothers and sisters, was born in Providence and lived most of his life in Warwick. He was graduated from Toll Gate High School in 1982 and later joined the Army, serving four years with the Military Police, in Germany, Japan and Texas.

A licensed arborist, he went to work for the city in the spring of 2000. At the time of his death, he was a laborer in the Highway Division, and a member of Local 1651 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

He was working his part-time security job at The Station club when the fire broke out.

Mr. King's boss at his day job, Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian, said later, "We're being told that he went back in to help people get out of the fire, and that would fit in with his generous spirit and his attitude toward people."



Michael Kulz, 30 Liked to keep things simple

Michael Joseph Kulz, 30, worked hard. He stocked shelves six days a week in the dairy department of Stop & Shop, where he had worked since he was 15.

His aunt sometimes visited him at work.

"He wouldn't stop," said Bettie A. Smith, of Johnston. "He'd stand there and talk to you, but he kept working. He took his work seriously."

Mike lived on Poplar Street in Warwick with his parents, George A. and Barbara A. Kulz. His mother says her son was easygoing and never gave them any trouble. Each morning when she awoke, she'd unlock the front door so he wouldn't have to take out his key when he arrived home from his late-night shift.

Mike was a basic guy, friends and relatives say. He liked playing video games, corresponding in Internet chat rooms, playing pool and watching science-fiction shows such as the *X-Files*, *Smallville* and *Twilight Zone*.

"I don't think I ever heard him utter the words 'I want,'" says his friend Joseph J. LoBianco, of North Providence.

"Mike never said things like 'I really want a new Corvette.' I never heard him say 'I'd like to get a really big stereo system.' He never wished for a fancy outfit he saw at the mall, and he never dreamed of owning a mansion in Palm Beach," LoBianco said. "Mike simply had a few basic needs: a TV with a remote control, a computer with good Internet access, and a reliable car, but nothing really extravagant."

Mike's one indulgence was an occasional pilgrimage to Disney World. He loved the resort and collected Scrooge McDuck figurines. Nobody knows why he liked Scrooge McDuck so much, but he seemed to like the challenge of finding the lesser-known character.

LoBianco met Mike 15 years ago when they both worked in the video store inside Stop & Shop in Johnston, where Mike worked until five years ago, when he transferred to the Mansfield, Mass., store. They shared a love of melodic hard rock, particularly Great White. So when LoBianco heard Great White was playing in West Warwick, he got a pair of tickets and invited his old friend. Mike swapped shifts to get the night off.

LoBianco was injured in the fire but escaped. Someone found him crawling on the floor and threw him out a broken window. Mike never made it out.

Mrs. Kulz said she is learning more about her son from his coworkers.

"He was so quiet, but they tell me at work that he used to make them laugh," she said. "I didn't know that about him."

— Cathleen F. Crowley



Keith Lapierre, 29 Set spiritual course

Sarah Rose Lapierre, a cute baby girl weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces, was born March 3 in Worcester Memorial Hospital.

It's a safe bet that her father, Keith

R. Lapierre, would have been on cloud nine.

"He would be so thrilled," Keith's mother said the next day. "I'll never forget when Ryan was born, he called us on a cell phone. He said, 'Pop, it's a boy.'"

The big extended family that Keith, 29, of Worcester, leaves behind includes his wife, Tammy; his parents, Karen and Richard Lapierre, of Oxford, Mass.; his son, Ryan, 22 months; and now little Sarah Rose.

Sarah takes her middle name from her great grandmother, Rose MacKay.

"She is absolutely beautiful. We were there like minutes after she was born," Karen Lapierre said.

"We're crying tears of joy," Richard said.

By all accounts, Keith Lapierre was curious and animated, with an interest in things that could empty a library, and a smile that could brighten a room.

He was close to his family. He and his mother worked together at the A.G. Edwards branch in Worcester, where he was a stockbroker and she is a financial assistant.

When he wasn't spending his lunch hour working out with a friend at the gym, Keith and his mother would brown-bag it together in Worcester Common Park.

A year ago, he left A.G. Edwards and returned to school. He earned a teaching certificate and, in December, started working as a substitute teacher at Worcester's Accelerated Learning Lab.

Keith made the career change in part because he wanted to have the same school vacations and holidays as Tammy, a kindergarten teacher.

Another big reason, Karen Lapierre said, was that Keith was a spiritual person who didn't find work as a stockbroker fulfilling. She said a priest in his parish, Father Joseph Coonan, called Keith "a 90-year-old guru."

"In the brokerage," she said, "it was always business."

Keith Lapierre was an eclectic music fan. He had played high school baseball and football, served in the Marine Corps Reserve, and was still intrigued by life's possibilities.

A month before he died, he bought himself an electric guitar and began taking lessons. "He said he did not want to go through life saying, 'I should have done this, I should have done that,'" his mother said.

— John Castellucci



Dale Latulippe, 46 Never grew out of long hair

From a young age, he loved drums. He was banging out a staccato beat before he could walk. He used to bang spoons on the table, said his father, Donald Latulippe, of Randolph, Mass.

"Like Mozart played the piano at 3, he played drums," he said.

Father and son had different tastes. Dad loved classical. Dale loved rock and wore his hair long, even at age 46.

"He wore his hair long, which we tried to fight many times." Did he ever win? "Never."

Dale, who was divorced, still lived with his former wife in Carver, Mass., and ran a used car lot in Wareham, Mass., his father said. He had a 7-year-old son, Dustin, the "spitting image" of his dad, who also plays the drums.

Dale was a fan of heavy-metal rock, especially Aerosmith.

"He followed the bands and that was his life. He did it all his life, until the day he died," his father said.

Donald Latulippe, who used to work at WRKO radio in Massachusetts, said his son once stopped by the station with a group of friends, dressed up like the band KISS, right down to the wild makeup and skin-tight pants.

"I nearly died a thousand deaths," he said, laughing.

Donald Latulippe said he had no idea his son was in Rhode Island until the Saturday after the fire, when his daughter-in-law came and told him Dale had died.

He'd only recently found his son's birth certificate in a strongbox and had taken it out to send to him.

"He was a loving kid. He loved me, that's for sure."

— The Associated Press



Stephen Libera, 21 Outgoing and sweet

Stephen M. Libera, 21, of North Kingstown, was a true gentleman.

"He was one who would open a door and hold it for you when you went through," said Frances Cherry, Stephen's supervisor at the Sovereign Bank on Centerville Road in Warwick.

Stephen had worked there as a teller since June. "He hadn't been with us for very long," Cherry said, "but he was very important to us."

A 1999 graduate of Bishop Hendricken High School, Stephen had taken some time off after high school, she said, but had recently returned to classes at the Community College of Rhode Island. On the weekends, he worked as a waiter at Longhorn Steakhouse. He was hoping to graduate and later become an accountant, Cherry said.

Stephen's coworker at the bank, Cheryl Augustine — whose son was in Libera's graduating class — recalled him as "lean and tall," a handsome young man who loved Subway sandwiches so much that coworkers routinely saved him coupons for the chain.

He spent a lot of time with his family, Augustine said — his father, John J. Libera, his mother, Joanne, and his sisters and brother, Lisa, Amy and Andrew.

Stephen also loved music, Augustine said. A guitarist, his tastes ranged from classical to jazz to rock 'n' roll.

Cherry said Stephen sometimes went to concerts at The Station. That Thursday afternoon, she said, she heard him talking to a customer, telling him about a show he was going to see at the club that night.

He urged the customer to come along, she said, but the other man declined.

Cherry said her best memory of Stephen was of a "contest" they'd had together — each of them claiming to know the best Chinese restaurant in Rhode Island.

To settle the contest, she said, they each took the other out to dinner at their restaurant of choice. "He bought my dinner, and I bought his," she said. They'd planned to do it again, this time at rival steakhouses. But they never got the chance.

"He was a sweet young man," Cherry said. "He was everything you would want your daughter to bring home."

— S.I. Rosenbaum



John Longiaru, 23 'Always for the underdog'

John M. Longiaru, of Johnston, was a well-liked young man who was president of his junior class in high school, a member of the student council and as a high school senior was listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students.

"He read everything," recalls Vincent LaFazia, the former long-time recreation director in Johnston, who worked with John's father, John A. Longiaru.

John, 23, also had a flair for the unusual. For his graduation picture in the 1996 high school yearbook, he wore a medieval costume, reflecting his interest in that period.

When it came time for graduation, a problem arose for John, who had a degenerative bone disease. The stage the students were to file across to receive their diplomas was not accessible for his wheelchair. After more than 100 of his classmates signed a petition saying they would not walk across the stage unless John could cross it, too, school officials made sure that he could. The cheers for him were among the loudest any student received that day.

John also made the news with a run-in with state Traffic Court officials.

At age 16, he received his driver's license, after learning to drive in a car outfitted with special hand controls. But 10 weeks later, the Traffic Court suspended his license based on "physical fitness," though he'd never had an accident or so much as a ticket.

"He was eminently qualified to drive," says state Sen. Joseph Polisena, who helped John get his license back. "They issued him the license; there was no reason to take it away."

"He was a role model, especially for those who didn't have a disability; he didn't want any special treat-

ment," Polisena said.

The experience of having had to fight for equal treatment stayed with John. "He was always for the underdog," LaFazia said.

John attended Eastern Connecticut State College and Rhode Island College.

He had been working for an independent living center in Pawtucket, helping secure donations of equipment, including wheelchairs and crutches for those with disabilities.

— Bob Jagolinzer



Ty Longley, 31 Great White guitarist

Ty Longley loved *The Simpsons*, running, boogie boarding in the ocean, writing in his journals and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Perhaps most of all, the 31-year-old guitarist for Great White loved playing music.

"I can tell you he LIVED for that stage and for his fans," wrote his girlfriend, Heidi Peralta, on Mr. Longley's Web site, www.tylongley.com. "He always wanted to travel and be a dad and soon a husband BUT still tour."

Peralta is expecting the couple's child.

In a journal entry for October 2002, Mr. Longley wrote about his experiences on the road with Great White, from having dinner at the Space Needle in Seattle to checking out fall foliage in Massachusetts.

"I'm grateful for the time I do get out here and know it's truly a blessing to utilize my gift," he wrote.

Mr. Longley, 31, was born in Sharon, Pa., and grew up in Ohio before moving to California to try to make it in the music business. At the time of his death, he was living in Northridge, Calif.

But he never totally forgot his Pennsylvania roots — a biographical sketch on the Great White Web site reveals a die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers fan: "Steelers rule!"

His first musical gig was with a band called Chains, in Youngstown, Ohio. "God bless my family for enduring that one," he wrote.

Mr. Longley joined Great White in 2000, when the band was looking to replace founding guitarist Mark Kendall. He toured with the band in 2001, and when lead singer Jack Russell launched a solo career, he hired Mr. Longley as a member of his touring band.

Kendall re-joined Great White last year, but the band decided to use a two-guitar lineup and keep Mr. Longley on.

In a tribute to Mr. Longley on the Great White Web site, band manager Paul Woolnough wrote about Mr. Longley's dedication to his music. The last time they spoke, Woolnough wrote, they discussed a solo CD that Longley hoped to record when he got back to California.

Knights Records, Great White's label, is planning to release an album of Mr. Longley's music in the near future.

But Woolnough also wrote about Mr. Longley's personal side — his daily trip to Starbucks, where he would linger and write in his journals, his enthusiasm for running, and his devotion to *The Simpsons*.

(Woolnough would record the shows while Mr. Longley was on the road so he wouldn't miss an episode.)

Jason Williams, bassist for the band Trip, which was opening for Great White, said Mr. Longley was a pleasure to be around on the road:

"As far as guys go he was one of the greatest guys you would ever hope to meet in the world," Williams said. "He was constantly keeping people laughing on the bus. . . . He never was moody, he always had a bright chipper personality every day."

— Andy Smith



Judy Manzo, 37 Devoted to kids' pursuits

Judith I. Manzo, 37, built her life around her children, Anthony, 12, and Brianna, 10, said her ex-husband, Anthony.

"She gave those kids everything — Playstation, Nintendo, all that," he said. "The money went to the kids; she just wanted them to be happy."

Anthony said Judy was a "cheerleader mother" for the North Providence Jets, a youth football team in town. "She got water for the kids, permission slips, anything the [cheerleading] coach wanted," he said. Bri-

anna had been involved with the cheerleaders for three years.

She also had a dog, a Shih Tzu named Daisy, and a cat named Heckle.

Anthony said the couple met when they were 18, at the Club Promenade in Providence. "We were together just about every day," he said. She graduated from Attleboro High School in 1983, then went to cosmetology school. She worked in the field until about six months ago, when she got a job as an administrative assistant at First Choice Medical Staffing in East Providence.

Karen Brown, Manzo's friend and manager in the East Providence office, described her as "a loving, caring person."

Although they were divorced, Anthony said he and Judy lived together in the small bungalow she bought three years ago on Elm Street, in the town's Lymanville section. They had previously lived in Pawtucket.

Manzo said Judy liked clubs and '80s music. "She liked a lot of those bands, like Great White," he said.

Brown said Judy went to The Station with a friend, who had bought the tickets for the show. The children were home with their father.

Brown said she will miss her friend, an excellent employee who she said can't be replaced. "Every single person — and I'm not saying this because she's gone — every single person who met Judy loved Judy," she said.

— Bob Jagolinzer, with reports from the Associated Press



Thomas Marion, 27 Guitarist with dreams

Thomas Marion had dreams of rock 'n' roll stardom. But the 27-year-old Wal-Mart employee — a furniture specialist — didn't let his musical ambitions become a distraction on the job.

He told his boss about his band only once or twice. And he didn't share too many details. Mr. Marion, of Westport, Mass., focused on the task at hand.

"It didn't matter what he had on his plate for the day — he did whatever he had to do," recalled Kendra Goodwin, an assistant manager.

On his last shift at the Wal-Mart in Raynham, Mass., Mr. Marion prepared merchandise for a sale. He unloaded four pallets of stock. He kept his customers happy.

"He was awesome with his customers," said Goodwin. "They loved him."

Mr. Marion had been with Wal-Mart for six years and had risen to the position of furniture department manager.

A 1994 graduate of Diman Regional Vocational Technical School, he had specialized training in furniture and cabinet-making.

He had built entertainment centers, display cases and kitchen cabinets, according to Ronald Silvia Jr., a Diman teacher.

Silvia remembered Mr. Marion as a quiet teenager with a slight frame and bushy hair.

"He was a good kid," he said. "Never any trouble."

Even back then, Mr. Marion liked to strum the guitar. By the time he was 27, he was an accomplished guitarist playing in a band.

Goodwin learned of the furniture manager's taste for heavy-metal and alternative music over the course of several overnight shifts at Wal-Mart.

He told her he occasionally went to concerts at The Station in West Warwick.

— Mark Reynolds



Jeff Martin, 33 Music was his outlet

Jeffrey W. Martin knew what it meant to work hard, deciding at a young age that he wanted to be a lawyer and then paying his way through law school at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio.

He spent his summers during college working at the Boston law office of his older cousin Robert L. Martin, who remembers Jeff as a motivated student and adventurous traveler.

"He was really inquisitive about life," Robert Martin said. "He was really getting started."

Jeff, 33, earned the respect of his colleagues at John Hancock Insurance

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE