



### Victor Stark, 39 Took pride in every job

When Victor Stark's father died many years ago, he became a father figure to his little brother, Tony. When Tony was paralyzed in a car crash in North Carolina in 1998, Victor became his lifeline.

"He kept a constant vigil and wouldn't leave my bedside," Tony wrote in a tribute to his brother. "Even when I was on life support, I remember hearing his enthusiastic voice praying for me to fight for my life."

After Tony was discharged from the hospital, Victor visited him regularly. He vacuumed, took him out on the town and cheered him on as he pursued a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Victor, 39, of Mashpee, Mass., took pride in his versatility. In fact, he claimed he had worked more than 50 different jobs.

"His main focus in life was working," said his 25-year-old brother, who lives in Taunton. "If somebody needed something, he'd do it. He worked a lot."

Victor's latest job was bagging groceries, collecting grocery carts and doing whatever else his coworkers needed at the Shaw's supermarket in Falmouth, Mass.

He had worked at the market for at least five years and was so proud of his job that he wore his uniform shirt off-duty.

Deep into astrology, Victor tended to blame bad luck on the alignment of the planets.

"If something bad happened, he would blame it on 'Mercury's retrograde,'" says Tony.

Victor, a graduate of Dennis-Yarmouth High School, was a devoted follower of the Boston Red Sox and a hardcore rock music fan.

Rose Weichels, a close friend, said Victor had anticipated the Great White concert for months and had secured three tickets for his friends. He went to the concert with Donald Roderiques, 46, also of Mashpee, and Milton "Skip" Servais Jr. of East Falmouth. Roderiques died in the fire. Servais was badly burned.

Both Weichels and Tony Stark believe they can see Victor in the video that recorded the start of the fire. He stands out because of his height. He is pointing to the smoke and directing people to the exits, Weichels said.

"He is a hero," she said.

— Mark Reynolds



### Shawn Sweet, 28 'Team player' at work

The red Ford Mustang was more than a car. It was a gift. Charles Sweet wanted to hand the keys to his son Shawn and hear the engine rumble to life like a symphony.

"I wanted to give him something I never had."

So he found a good deal, a car that had been repossessed. He handed the man a check. The man said no. It would have to be cash.

"I said, 'Well, I'll tell you what. Give me five minutes.' I went to the bank and got the check cashed," Charles recalled. "I said, 'OK, my friend, all I want from you is the title and the receipt that the car is paid for.'"

This was for his son, after all.

He remembered Shawn's reaction: "Oh my God, Dad, thanks."

When Shawn was much younger, he had other wants. At various times, there were a hamster, a dove and a canary. One time, he wanted turkeys. His father said a couple of turkeys would be fine. But his son was thinking big.

"So I got these 12 or 13 turkeys," Charles said. "Each one grew to like 30 pounds or so — and I had 12 of them in my backyard."

This was for his son, after all.

He remembered that Shawn, 28, had many pursuits common to young men. He lifted weights, with some friendly competition from his 24-year-old brother, Daniel. He liked to go skiing in Vermont and New Hampshire. And he was a traveler, visiting the Caribbean, Bermuda, Florida and Las Vegas.

Shawn graduated from Silver Lake High School in Pembroke in 1992 and attended but did not finish studies at both Massachusetts Community College in Brockton, and Quincy College.

But he did finish the Boston Marathon in 1991. And those who knew him say he ran his best race up

the management ladder of the Stop & Shop supermarket in Quincy, Mass.

He started at the store when he was 15. Nearly 14 years later, Shawn was an assistant manager. "He was known as a real team player who always served as a mentor to newcomers and to others," said company spokeswoman Kelly O'Connor.

While at Stop & Shop, Shawn would regularly call home to see whether there was anything he should pick up for the family. He was always helping; for example, lugging home logs for the family's wood-burning stove.

On Feb. 26, at St. Thecla's Church in Pembroke, Charles and his wife, Carol, attended their son's funeral Mass. Charles estimates that a thousand people came to honor his son's memory, including a soldier who returned from Afghanistan just for the funeral. Five priests, two of them Shawn's uncles, were on the altar.

And the red Mustang? Shawn hadn't driven it for years, growing up and moving on to a different car. The car wasn't really the point.

It was about Charles and his son, after all.

"I walk outside and I keep thinking, 'When is he coming home?'"

— Michael P. McKinney



### Jason Sylvester, 25 'Wore his heart on his sleeve'

Jason R. Sylvester was part of a tight-knit Coventry family.

Jason, 25, worked with his father and younger brother at Sylvester Sheet Metal Co., in West Warwick, the family's heating and air conditioning business.

After graduating from Coventry High School in 1996, he worked at a few local retail stores but soon decided he'd rather follow in his father's footsteps.

"He liked the closeness of being with his dad all the time," said Jason's mother, Jane. "They got along great. We are all very close."

Besides his family, the other great love in Jason's life was music. He was a fan of everything from country to oldies to techno, and the tunes from his stereo often filled the Sylvester home.

As she stood in his neatly kept room, where he had his stereo and an extensive CD collection, Jane Sylvester remembered her son as a quiet young man who "wore his heart on his sleeve."

"He was the greatest kid you ever wanted to meet," she said. "He was so kind and polite — he was the love of my life."

There are many who will miss Jason — including Armand Ethier, who lives across the street and watched him grow up.

"He was a good kid," Ethier said. "He wouldn't hurt a fly."

Jason loved going to rock concerts, and had been to The Station a few times before Feb. 20. When he wasn't listening to music or reading up on his favorite bands, Jason would paint and build models during his free time, his mother said.

While recalling Jason's personality, his mother used the words "pleasant, easy-going and laid-back."

"How do you describe your own son?" she asked. "You just love him with all your heart."

— Erin Emlock



### Sarah Telgarsky, 37 Helping others was her way

While on a visit to New York City with friends, Sarah Jane Telgarsky noticed an elderly woman on the subway whose shoelaces were untied.

"Nobody usually talks to each other on the subway, but Sarah couldn't ignore this lady — she just went right over and tied her shoes," her brother Joseph recalls.

Sarah, of Plainfield, Conn., spent most of her time helping other people — both professionally and in her private life.

As a licensed practical nurse at the Southeastern Mental Health Authority in Norwich, Sarah helped people with mental illness make the transition from institutions to living in the community.

Sarah was an upbeat, strong-willed person with a great sense of humor. She loved dancing, gardening and decorating her home, Joseph says.

"I never met anybody that didn't like her," says another brother, Aloysius, of Norwich.

## MARRIED FOR 19 YEARS



### Benjamin Suffoletto, 43 Linda Suffoletto, 43

Benjamin and Linda Suffoletto would have celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary on March 3.

The couple were the parents of an 18-year-old son, Zachary.

Benjamin Joseph Suffoletto Jr., 43, was raised in Woonsocket and graduated from Woonsocket High School and the Hall Institute in Pawtucket. He was an architect for Vision III Architects in Providence for four years, and had also worked for McKenzie Architects in Pawtucket.

Linda Dee (Sousa) Suffoletto, 43, a 1977 graduate of Cumberland High School, was a revenue officer for the state Department of Labor and Training for the last 11 years.

The Suffolettos were members of the Connecticut-based Starlight Trucker Club.

Sarah, 37, was a caring mother to her daughter, 18-year-old Sarah Jane Ballard, Joseph said.

She was constantly setting new goals for herself; she worked her way up to her current job, having started in a clerical position, and was taking classes for her RN degree. "No matter what problems she faced in her life, she always bounced back, she never stopped trying," Joseph said.

Sarah went to The Station with her ex-husband, Craig Ballard, who had won free tickets to the Great White concert. Ballard, 41, of Plainfield, is in critical condition at UMASS/Worcester.

Sarah will also be missed by her coworkers and clients at the mental health agency, said director John Simsarian.

"She was always smiling — you could just feel the positive energy radiating from her," he said.

— Erin Emlock



### Kelly Vieira, 40 Always put her kids first

Kelly L. Vieira's calendar at work was covered in sticky-note reminders for her daughter Chandrée's summer wedding that she was helping plan.

Kelly centered recent family vacations around her daughter Crystle's basketball tournaments in Florida, Tennessee and Washington, D.C. "She traveled all over, wherever her daughter went," said Kelly's father, John Richmond. "She just enjoyed following her children and encouraging them."

One of Kelly's happiest moments was when Crystle scored 37 points last month to lead West Warwick High School's team to a 72-60 win over Warwick Veterans Memorial High School.

Friends and family agree that Kelly Vieira, 40, of Silverwood Lane in West Warwick, was dedicated to her daughters, always putting them first.

She looked forward to things slowing down following Crystle's high school graduation and Chandrée's wedding.

"This was going to be her first year when she would use her vacations for her," said coworker Doreen L. Gullely. Kelly used to say, "After that, now it's time for Scott and I."

Kelly and her husband, Scott, were high school sweethearts. She was a majorette at Case High School, in Swansea, and he was a student at Durfee High School, in Fall River. They both attended school sporting events.

On Valentine's Day this year, they celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary.

Kelly went to beautician school after high school to become a hairdresser like her late mother, Sandra Richmond. After a few years as a hairdresser, she went back to school, to the Community College of Rhode Island, and became a physical therapist assistant. For the last six years, she had worked at Orthopedic Associates, in Cranston.

The Station was a family hangout for the Vieiras, who lived about a mile from the club. Scott occasionally helped out at the club, and was working security the night of the Great White concert. He escaped uninjured. Kelly died March 1 at Boston Shriners Hospital.

Photographs taken by someone inside the club moments before the fire started show Kelly standing near the stage, friends said.

"She loved rock 'n' roll," Gullely said. "That was her music."

— Paul Edward Parker



### Kevin Washburn, 30 Gentle nature, many friends

Kevin R. Washburn's quiet, introspective personality belied his splashy hard-rock image.

Long-haired and usually clad in a leather jacket, Kevin, 30, was kind and easygoing, reluctant to draw attention to himself.

"He was a quiet guy, but very friendly," says his sister Sharon Washburn, sitting in the living room of the house in Franklin, Mass., where Kevin lived with his mother, Rina. "Everybody just really loved Kevin."

"We've gotten calls from his old friends and girlfriends, people he worked with, even from people he went to kindergarten with. It's been one right after the other," said his mother, her eyes welling with tears. "It's been just amazing. It makes me glad to get the calls, makes me feel like I did a good job."

Kevin, who worked for four years in the shipping department of SourceOne, a national distribution center in Hopkinton, Mass., had a separate circle of friends for each of his favorite activities: rock concerts, playing music, watching the Boston Bruins or NASCAR.

He went to the Great White show with his longtime best friend Michael Stefani of North Kingstown, who escaped the fire.

Kevin, a 1990 graduate of Franklin High School, had an associate's degree from New England Institute of Technology.

He loved art and played electric guitar, got tattoos and named his yellow Labrador puppy "Harley" because strangers sometimes called out, "Hey, Harley" when he went out.

"I used to joke around with him, saying 'But Kevin, you don't even ride a motorcycle,'" his sister said.

He would sometimes spend all day drawing finely detailed pen-and-ink illustrations. A handsomely-sketched picture of a cheetah standing in tall, waving grass, one of his works, is displayed in the living room.

"I thought that he bought it at first," his mother says with pride. She said her son was planning on going back to school to study design.

Because he spent much of his time concentrating on just-so details, Kevin would argue playfully when someone was imprecise.

"Sometimes I'd call home and ask to talk to Mom. Kevin would ask, 'Who's calling?'" recalls his sister. "When I'd say, 'C'mon, it's me,' I'd hear him yell over to her, 'Mom, there's a 'me' that wants to talk to you.' He'd do stuff like that all the time."

"He would always tease," says his mother, smiling. "He was so silly sometimes."

Kevin was the best of buddies with Sharon's son, Kamaron. A dutiful uncle to the 11-year-old, he had been teaching Kamaron how to play chords on the guitar.

And although Kevin was never really into sports growing up, he grew to love playing in the co-ed Franklin softball league that Sharon, who lives in town, organized about three years ago.

"He'd say, 'Ma, I wish you could have seen the game today. I got a double; you should have seen this double,'" Rina recalls. "He was so excited. . . ."

"Oh, he was so good," she says. "Even as a baby he was always smiling and sweet."

— David McFadden



### Tommy Woodmansee, 30 'Could always make you laugh'

Everett T. Woodmansee III — known as Tommy — was a spirited sports fan.

A loyal follower of the Boston Red Sox, the New England Patriots and NASCAR driver Mark Martin, he was ecstatic when the Patriots won the Super Bowl last year.

"I'm glad he lived to see that," said his sister, Cheryl Haines. Tommy lived with Cheryl and her family in Charlestown.

Tommy, 30, was a trivia buff, belonged to a horseshoe league, and had a warm, outgoing personality. A music lover, he could often be heard singing around the house.

"He could always make you laugh," his sister said.

While they were growing up in Carolina, Haines said, she used to take care of Tommy, who was 10 years her junior, while their parents were at work.

"We were very close — I loved him dearly," she said. "I was like a second mother to him."

A graduate of Charho High School, Tommy graduated from the New England Institute of Technology in 1995. He had been working as a union electrician with the International Brotherhood of Electricians, Local 99, and served for three years in the Army National Guard, in East Greenwich.

Haines said that her brother saved the life of his girlfriend, Ashley Poland of Narragansett, during the fire.

"He pushed her up to the window and got her out," she said. "Then he started helping others get out. That's in his nature."

— Erin Emlock



### Robert Young, 29 A big laugh, a loving heart

To family and friends, he was Big Bob, the gentle giant.

After all, Robert D. Young, 29, of Taunton, stood 6 feet, 6 inches and had a perpetual smile.

For fun, he loved sports, and he loved music, especially heavy-metal "hair bands" like Poison, Guns N' Roses and Great White.

So it was no surprise when Bob and three friends attended Great White's show at The Station. The gang had gone to see Guns N' Roses last year at The Fleet Center. It was one of the best times they'd had together, says Nate Chadwick, a close friend and business partner.

They'd also driven down to New Orleans last year, to see the Patriots beat the St. Louis Rams, 20 to 17, in the Super Bowl.

A typical die-hard New England sports fan, Bob couldn't watch during the fateful field goal kick that sealed the Patriots' victory.

"He was bawling 'I can't look,'" his friend says. "'I know he missed it.'"

But that was not the typical Bob, who was known more for his calmness and optimism, even when others were about to crack.

A 1991 graduate of Foxboro High School, Bob studied information systems at Western New England College in Springfield, Mass. He met Chadwick in 1995, and the two hit it off, becoming best friends. Two years ago, they formed a computer consulting business, Chadwick and Young, with Bob designing operating systems and programs for the company's business customers.

Bob and Jennifer were married on Valentine's Day last year. They celebrated their first anniversary the weekend before the fire. Bob bought Jennifer a dozen red roses and they went to Cape Cod.

That kind of behavior was typical, says Josephine Young, Bob's paternal grandmother, who lives in Foxboro. He had a big laugh and a loving heart, she says.

"I loved him dearly. He was my darling. I'm sure that if he was in that fire he was probably trying to help people."

The friends who attended the show with Bob escaped through a side exit, said Chadwick, whose brother, Joe Lusardi, was among the four who attended. Chadwick said his brother told him that as the fire spread, Bob reacted with his typical calmness.

"One of the last things Bob said is 'just calm down. Remember Chicago, because that's how people get killed.'"

When the others got out, they turned and looked for Bob.

"They thought he was right behind them."

— Randal Edgar