



## Williams case spurs move to change law

Sunday, June 13, 2004

By **KIBRET MARKOS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

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Tabitha Walrond and Nathan Hall are both convicted felons.

A jury found Walrond guilty of negligent homicide in 1999, ruling that the young Bronx mother was responsible for the death of her emaciated 7-week-old baby. She was sentenced to five years' probation.

Hall, of Vail, Colo., also was convicted of negligent homicide. He was sent to jail for three months in 2000, followed by probation, after a high-speed skiing run ended in a crash that killed another skier.

Neither would have been considered criminals in New Jersey, however.

Following a jury's refusal in April to convict former NBA star Jayson Williams for the shooting death of a limousine driver, some lawmakers and law enforcement officials are pushing for legislation to create the crime of negligent homicide in the state. They say it would give prosecutors more teeth against defendants who, while not intentionally or recklessly taking someone's life, put someone at risk through their actions.

"When someone who has been drinking picks up a loaded gun and kills someone, when a parent leaves his child in a car on a hot day in July and the child dies, that is negligent homicide," said state Attorney General Peter Harvey. "It's a case where the conduct is close to reckless and results in death."

The proposal is being challenged by defense lawyers who are cautioning against turning negligence into a crime.

"Since roughly the beginning of Western civilization, the definition of crime has been restricted to willful misconduct of a defendant," said Jack Furlong, a trustee at the New Jersey Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

"If acting stupid becomes a crime, we won't have enough prison space to hold the millions of qualifying citizens," he said.

### Awareness of risk

Criminal homicide in New Jersey is classified as murder, manslaughter, or death by auto. Prosecutors must prove in each case that the defendant either purposely or knowingly killed another or acted recklessly in causing the death of another.

In most of the 23 states where negligent homicide is a crime, the defendant must have carried out an act with a risk of harm without being aware of the risks.

That is less culpable than reckless manslaughter, where the defendant was aware of the risks in his act but carried out the act anyway.

The crime of negligent homicide existed in a few states until the American Law Institute, a non-governmental

group of prominent lawyers and judges, published the Model Penal Code in 1962. The document, which was meant to be used by states as a starting point for codifying their criminal laws, recommended that negligent homicide should be a crime.

Within the next two decades, negligent homicide was in state criminal codes in nearly half the nation. New Jersey steered clear of it, however. Although the state's criminal code, which came out in 1979, was heavily influenced by the Model Penal Code, the drafters chose to leave out negligent homicide.

"Back then, the prevailing view was that it didn't make sense for negligence to be considered a crime," said Eldridge Hawkins, an East Orange lawyer who, as chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee at the time, wrote most of the criminal code. "You don't punish people for crimes unless there is a criminal state of mind."

Hawkins called the current proposal an unjustified expansion of criminal law.

"We drafted the code to make punishment fit the crime," he said. "Unfortunately, many legislators today think they can keep creating crimes only because they think it's a good idea."

Extreme indifference

Of all the efforts in the past couple of decades to make negligent homicide a crime in New Jersey, perhaps the most aggressive is the one that has followed the Williams trial.

Prosecutors argued that the former New Jersey Nets forward was reckless and acted with extreme indifference to human life when - after a night of drinking and partying with friends on Feb. 14, 2002 - he flicked shut a loaded shotgun in the bedroom of his Hunterdon County mansion and pointed it at Costas "Gus" Christofi.

The gun went off, and the blast hit Christofi, 55, in the chest, killing him within minutes.

Williams' lawyers argued the shooting was a tragic accident and that their client had no intention of firing the weapon.

Although jurors acquitted Williams of the most serious charge of aggravated manslaughter, they were hung 8-4 in favor of acquittal on the charge of reckless manslaughter. He was convicted of lesser charges of trying to cover up the shooting.

Williams' act was "stupid, but not necessarily criminal," Angela Pravata, one of the jurors, said after the April 30 verdict.

"That was negligent, but not reckless," said Shalisha Martin, another juror.

Prosecutors have since decided to retry him on the reckless manslaughter charge.

Diana Collentine of Waldwick was walking her two daughters - Kristy, 9, and Jenny, 6 - to school on Jan. 4, 2002, when they were struck and killed by a car driven by Herbert Clarke, 54, of Midland Park, who had passed out behind the wheel. Bergen County prosecutors opted not to charge Clarke, who suffered from a kidney problem.

A law on negligent homicide may or may not have changed the outcome of that case, said Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli. A doctor whom Clarke had consulted specifically about driving told him he could, Molinelli said.

However, Molinelli said, a negligent homicide statute "would have presented an alternative" to prosecutors.

"It's hard to say, though," he added. "I haven't seen any statute. The statute hasn't been written."

Had there been one, Molinelli said, "it would have been something we would have looked at."

A Passaic County case prompted Sen. Gerald Cardinale, R-Demarest, to introduce a bill that proposes a two-year mandatory minimum prison sentence for a driver who causes a fatality as a result of negligent driving and leaves the scene of an accident.

Daniel Lanza, 46, of West Milford was run over and killed by a vehicle driven by Chester resident Frederick Harvey during a road-rage incident on Nov. 2, 2002. Harvey, 46, pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident and received four years' probation in April.

Cardinale said Friday that his bill, which has been pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee, will give way to a more comprehensive negligent homicide bill working its way through the Legislature.

A state of mind

Williams' case underscores the need for a negligent homicide statute - at least when a firearm is involved - said Sen. Paul Sarlo, D-Wood-Ridge, one of the lawmakers who proposed the bill.

"It gives the law enforcement community another tool in prosecuting cases when the standard to prove recklessness is difficult," he said.

That argument irks defense lawyers. They say they fear that negligence - a state of mind that everyone lapses into once in awhile - would begin to be viewed as depraved human behavior worthy of punishment.

"To treat negligence as a culpable form of conduct would unconstitutionally expand liability into areas previously reserved to the civil courts," said criminal defense attorney Kevin Roe.

Defense lawyers also say such an amendment to the code could allow prosecutors to charge people with homicide every time a fatal accident occurs.

"The risk here is that the statute can be used to turn every accident into a crime," said attorney Brian Neary.

Molinelli disagreed. As is the case with other laws, he said, the mere existence of a negligent homicide charge wouldn't prompt a prosecution frenzy.

"We have had a death-by-auto statute in New Jersey for many years, for instance," Molinelli said. "But I think prosecutors have carefully evaluated every case before they decided to prosecute."

Harvey noted that negligent homicide laws have been used effectively in several other states.

"I don't think it will be overused in New Jersey, just like it has not been overused in the states that have it," he said.

A third-degree offense

In the states that have such a law on the books, negligent homicide is a third-degree offense that carries up to five years in prison. Reckless manslaughter, a second-degree crime, carries up to 10 years in prison. In some states, such as Minnesota, negligent homicide is a second-degree crime that carries a maximum of 10 years in prison.

The bill introduced in the New Jersey Legislature regards negligent homicide as a third-degree offense punishable by anywhere from probation to five years in state prison.

Introduced in the state Senate by Sarlo, Sen. Stephen Sweeney, D-Gloucester, and Sen. Andrew Ciesla, R-Ocean, it has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. It could become law by the end of the year.

An identical bill was introduced in the state Assembly in January by Democrat Sheila Oliver, whose district includes Essex and Passaic counties. It has been referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

If the measure passes, the Attorney General's Office will issue guidelines on when the negligent homicide statute should be used, Harvey said.

The proposal requires prosecutors to prove a degree of negligence higher than ordinary lapse of care, the attorney general said. That would eliminate concerns that it would turn every accident into a felony offense, he said.

Such a proposal agrees with the concept that negligent homicide is a low-level felony offense meant to fill a gap in the law, said Paul Robinson, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

"What this law punishes is those people who are so indifferent to the value of other people's lives that they are not willing to pay attention to the risks they create," said Robinson, a leading scholar on criminal law.

"It is certainly less blameworthy than intentional or reckless killing, but I would think that kind of indifference is something we would want to punish," he said.

But a prosecutor in Minnesota - where a negligent homicide conviction can come with a 10-year prison sentence - argues it's best to leave negligent behavior to the civil courts.

"Prosecuting and convicting a person, punishing them, and labeling them a felon is an enormous event in people's lives," said the prosecutor, Robert Johnson. "If the Legislature wants to control negligent human behavior, it should consider ways other than just the criminal code to do that."

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## Kin of man killed in road rage incident decry probation sentence

Saturday April 03, 2004

PATERSON, N.J. (AP) A Morris County man who pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of a fatal accident has been sentenced to probation and community service, drawing criticism from the family of his victim.

"For the record, this was not an accident. This was a crime," Karen Sibilia, a sister of Daniel Lanza, said Friday during the sentencing of Frederick Harvey in Superior Court.

Harvey, 57, of Chester, was sentenced to four years' probation and 500 hours of community service for the Nov. 2, 2002, hit-and-run that killed Lanza, an auto parts wholesaler.

Lanza, 46, had left his West Milford home to buy bagels and apparently cut Harvey off, triggering a back-and-forth between the two men in which Harvey tailgated Lanza, who then jammed on his brakes.

Lanza was struck after he stopped his car and began walking toward Harvey's oncoming car. Harvey was driving slowly, and unsuccessfully attempted to swerve around Lanza, who suffered internal injuries.

Before he was sentenced, Harvey offered an apology.

"I regret the entire incident. It's on my mind every day," Harvey told Judge Miguel de la Carrera.

The judge said there would not have been a case had Harvey not cooperated.

Lanza's death spurred state lawmakers to consider a bill that calls for a mandatory two-year prison term for people convicted of leaving the scene of a fatal accident. The measure was approved by the state Senate in June, but has been in an Assembly committee since.

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## Road rage victim's family slams sentence

Saturday, April 3, 2004

By **ASHANTI M. ALVAREZ**  
**STAFF WRITER**

The family of a West Milford man killed in a road rage incident said that the justice system failed victim Daniel Lanza.

Frederick Harvey, a 57-year-old Chester resident, received four years of probation and 500 hours of community service after he pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of the November 2002 hit-and-run that left Lanza dead.

Lanza's family members said in state Superior Court that his death was no accident.

"For the record, this was not an accident; this was a crime," said Karen Sibilia, one of Lanza's six siblings.

The crime spurred state Sen. Gerald Cardinale, R-Demarest, to introduce "Dan's Law," a bill calling for a mandatory two-year prison term for people convicted of leaving the scene of a fatal accident. It passed the state Senate in June last year and has been in an Assembly committee since. Penalties now range from probation to five years incarceration, at the judge's discretion.

In Nov. 2, 2002, residents found Daniel Lanza on Clinton Road in West Milford with massive internal injuries but few signs of external trauma. They thought he had suffered a heart attack, but an autopsy revealed he had likely been struck by a car.

After police spent several days circulating fliers of a silver pickup truck witnesses saw leave the scene, Harvey turned himself in and explained that the two men had engaged in a cat-and-mouse interaction.

Lanza, a 46-year-old licensed private pilot and auto parts wholesaler, had left his house in the morning to buy bagels and apparently cut Harvey off. Harvey tailgated Lanza, who responded by hitting the brakes. The two drivers passed each other several times, and witnesses saw the encounter.

At some point, Lanza stopped his car in the two-lane roadway and started walking toward Harvey's oncoming truck. Driving slowly, Harvey attempted to swerve around Lanza but struck him and then ran over him with a front wheel of his truck.

Before being sentenced, Harvey apologized for Lanza's death.

"I regret the entire incident," Harvey told Judge Miguel de la Carrera. "It's on my mind every day."

Ken Lanza, one of Daniel Lanza's brothers, said that as a firefighter who has served the City of Passaic and the county for 15 years, he feels the prosecutor's office let his family down.

"Not once did I ever think this plea deal was fair or just," Ken Lanza said. "The one time I needed Passaic County to help us in our time of need, they let us down."

"In the absence of Harvey cooperating," De la Carrera said, "the state would have had virtually no case."

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## Judge OKs new plea deal in fatal hit-run

Friday, November 14, 2003

By **DOUGLASS CROUSE**  
**STAFF WRITER**

A judge who had rejected a probation-only plea deal for a Morris County man who left the scene of a fatal accident agreed Thursday to approve an amended agreement that includes "substantial" community service.

Frederick Harvey, 57, of Chester had pleaded guilty in state Superior Court in Paterson to leaving the scene of an accident that left Daniel Lanza dead on Nov. 2, 2002.

The accident prompted a bill, called "Dan's Law" and sponsored by Sen. Gerald Cardinale, R-Demarest, that would bring a two-year prison term for anyone convicted of leaving the scene of a fatal accident.

Aides in Cardinale's office did not know the status of the bill, but Lanza's sister, Karen Sibilica, said it had not yet passed. The victim's mother, Monica Lanza, works in the senator's office.

With Thursday's agreement, Harvey now faces up to 500 hours of community service, as much as five years' probation, and some sort of license suspension when he is sentenced Jan. 12. A retired computer professional, Harvey sat alone in the courtroom opposite three of Lanza's relatives Thursday.

Lanza's relatives, who had expressed dissatisfaction with the previous plea deal, declined to comment on the addition of a community-service requirement. The probation-only plea deal was rejected in August.

On the day of the accident, Lanza pulled out of his driveway on Clinton Road in West Milford, apparently cutting Harvey off. Some cat-and-mouse interactions followed.

Witnesses told police they saw the drivers pass each other, and at some point, Lanza stopped his car and started walking toward Harvey's truck. Harvey then attempted to swerve around Lanza, but his truck struck him, officials said.

Harvey then drove off. Lanza had no external injuries, and police who found his body at first thought he had suffered a heart attack. The medical evidence showed Harvey was driving just a few miles per hour. Harvey has said he did not know he had hit someone.

State Superior Court Judge Miguel de la Carrera gave Harvey credit for coming forward after reading news accounts of the accident.

"But for Mr. Harvey's cooperation, there would have been no likelihood whatsoever for Mr. Harvey's being charged in this matter," De la Carrera said.

He said he would most likely order Harvey to work with others in his community service, perhaps with injured people. James Wilson, Passaic County senior assistant prosecutor, agreed on that course.

"He could probably spread the word a lot better than we could about the dangers when you're involved in an accident," Wilson said.

Harvey's lawyer, William Ware, said basing legislation on Lanza's case was inappropriate because he had a history of driving infractions.

State records show that from 1976 to 1991, his license was suspended seven times, he was involved in four accidents, and he received 11 tickets for speeding and other offenses.

"If you want to look at legislation, I think the victim should have clean hands," Ware said.

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## Judge rejects probation plea for man in fatal accident

(Sat, Aug/16/2003)

MORRISTOWN, N.J. - A Morris County judge rejected a probation plea agreement Friday for a man accused of leaving the scene of a fatal car accident, saying instead that the defendant belonged in jail.

State Superior Court Judge Miguel De la Carrera's ruling means Frederick Harvey's guilty plea cannot be used against him. The case is expected to be back in court in October.

Harvey, 56, of Morris County, is accused of leaving the scene of an accident last November in which 46-year-old Daniel Lanza was killed. Lanza's family had originally hoped Harvey would be charged with death by auto, a more serious offense.

"The thing that had troubled us the most all along was the fact that he wasn't going to go to jail," said Ken Lanza, the victim's brother.

Police said Lanza had pulled out of his driveway in West Milford and cut off Harvey, who began tailgating Lanza. When Lanza stopped at one point and began walking toward Harvey's pickup truck, officials said, Harvey swerved to try and go around Lanza but wound up running over him. Harvey then drove off.

Harvey told investigators he didn't know he had hit anybody.

State records show that from 1976 and 1991, Harvey's license was suspended seven times and he was involved in four accidents. He also received 11 tickets for speeding and other offenses, officials said.

Lawyers on both sides argued that the original plea deal was fair. Passaic County senior assistant prosecutor James Wilson pointed out that there was no physical evidence tying Harvey to the crime.

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## Judge Rejects Probation plea for Man in Fatal Accident

**TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - August 16, 2003** — A Morris County judge rejected a probation plea agreement Friday for a man accused of leaving the scene of a fatal car accident, saying instead that the defendant belonged in jail.

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## Judge rejects plea bargain in road-rage death

Saturday, August 16, 2003

**By JENNIFER V. HUGHES**  
**STAFF WRITER**

A judge on Friday took the rare step of rejecting a probation-only plea deal for a Morris County man who left the scene of a fatal accident, saying the defendant deserved to spend time in jail.

Now, Frederick Harvey's guilty plea will be rescinded and cannot be used against him, and the case will be back in court in October.

"The thing that had troubled us the most all along was the fact that he wasn't going to go to jail," said Ken Lanza, the victim's brother, who had sat in the back row of the Paterson courtroom with his fingers crossed as the judge's ruling became clear. The family had long been unhappy with the plea bargain.

Since the incident, a bill has been introduced that would change the law so that leaving the scene of a fatal accident brings a two-year prison term.

Harvey, 56, of Chester, was charged with leaving the scene of a fatal accident after a road-rage incident with Daniel Lanza, 46, on Nov. 2. Lanza pulled out of his driveway on Clinton Road in West Milford, apparently cutting Harvey off.

Harvey tailgated Lanza, who responded by hitting the brakes. Witnesses told police they saw the two drivers pass each other, and at some point, Lanza stopped his car and started walking toward Harvey's truck. Harvey then attempted to swerve around Lanza, but his truck struck him, officials said.

Harvey then drove off. There were no external injuries, and police who found Lanza's body originally believed he had suffered a heart attack. The medical evidence showed Harvey was driving just a few miles per hour.

State Superior Court Judge Miguel De La Carrera said there was nothing to show that jail would be an unnecessary hardship on Harvey - one of the factors considered in sentencing. He also said he doubted Harvey when he told investigators he didn't know he had hit anyone.

"I find it hard to fathom how ... Mr. Harvey thought he was going over rocks, instead of a 200-pound human being," he said. Harvey, a retired computer professional, showed no reaction to the ruling.

Both James Wilson, Passaic County senior assistant prosecutor, and defense lawyer William Ware argued the plea was fair and should stand.

Wilson said there was no physical evidence tying Harvey to the crime, and it would have been unsolved if he had not come to police about a week after the incident. While the victim's family lamented the fact that a more serious death-by-auto charge was not brought, Wilson said grand jurors rejected that option.

Ware noted that Lanza had a history of driving infractions. State records show that from 1976 to 1991, his license was suspended seven times, he was involved in four accidents, and he received 11 tickets for speeding and other offenses. Ware also said the state Division of Motor Vehicles has already suspended Harvey's license for 30 months.

"He will regret that day for the rest of his waking hours," Ware said. Before pleading guilty, Harvey had applied for a program similar to probation, but even more lenient. He was rejected, but now Ware said he will appeal.

"This should not have happened, but it was an accident," he said.

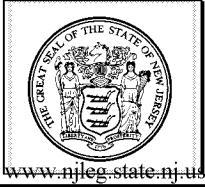
When they had a chance to speak in court, none of Lanza's family members asked the judge to reject the deal, but afterward they said they were pleased.

In court, Karen Sibilia, Lanza's sister, said she couldn't understand how someone could "run a human being completely over and leave them dying in the street."

"Good people don't do things like that," she said. "This was a crime, not an accident."

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# News Release from . . . NJ Senate Republicans

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June 30, 2003

Contact: Janet Dunigan/Brad Schnure

Senator Gerald Cardinale (R-39)

(201) 567-2324

## **“DAN’S LAW” TOUGHENING HIT AND RUN PENALTIES APPROVED BY SENATE**

### *Measure Prompted by West Milford Road Rage Incident that Ended in Fatal Hit and Run*

Motorists who leave the scene of a fatal hit and run accident would face a mandatory sentence of two years in prison, under the terms of legislation that was approved today by the New Jersey Senate.

Senator Gerald Cardinale (R-39), the sponsor of the measure, said the bill was introduced in response to the death of a 46-year-old West Milford man, who was involved in what started out as a road rage incident, but ended in a fatal hit and run.

“Daniel Lanza was on his way to pick up bagels for breakfast when he met up with someone with a killer temper. Apparently, this motorist felt that Daniel had cut him off when he backed out of his driveway on Clinton Road and began tailgating Dan,” said Cardinale.

The senator said that the details of exactly what happened next are still to be adjudicated in court. The driver, who has been indicted, turned himself in after a two week manhunt. Investigators say that due to Lanza’s injuries, they believe the driver either backed over him or drove over him very slowly.

“Dan’s killer admits he heard a thump on the hood of his car, but he just drove away,” said Cardinale. “Every bone in Dan’s chest was crushed, but since there were no witnesses to the crime, prosecutors were limited in what they could charge. With ‘Dan’s Law’ in place, other drivers involved in fatal hit and run accidents will get more than just a slap on the wrist. They will spend at least two years in jail.”

Leaving the scene of an accident is currently a crime of the third degree punishable by a term of imprisonment of three-to-five years and a fine of up to \$15,000, or both. However, with first-offenses, plea bargains often result in probation or community service. The senator’s bill would impose a mandatory two-year prison sentence, without the possibility of parole.

“Motorists must realize that there are serious consequences to leaving the scene of an accident,” added Cardinale. “If drivers involved in accidents would stop and call for help, there remains the possibility that some needless fatalities might be prevented.”

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committee's co-chairman, said. "Knowing the income from a cemetery's Maintenance and Preservation Fund will be used for upkeep will provide peace of mind to the families and friends whose loved ones have passed on."

Under the terms of the bill, cemetery companies, which would be exempt from real estate, sales and business taxes, would also be required to maintain a detailed record of interments, Cardinale added. The measure also provides uniform standards governing the transfer of lots and the moving of graves, and requires that cemeteries that want to enlarge receive municipal consent. The bill also mandates the licensing of all salesmen.

"I am pleased that my colleagues, as well as funeral directors and cemetery directors agree on the terms of this bill," Cardinale, R-39, said.

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**June 9, 2003**

**"Dan's Law" Toughening Hit And Run Penalties Approved By Committee  
Measure Prompted By West Milford Road Rage Incident That Ended In Fatal Hit And Run**

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there remains the possibility that some needless fatalities might be prevented."

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**May 29, 2003**

### **Cardinale Bill Allowing Professionals To Take Continuing Education Classes While Holding An Inactive License Passes Senate**

Legislation that would allow professionals holding inactive state licenses to complete required continuing education courses within three years prior to reactivating their license was approved today by the full Senate.

Sponsored by Senator Gerald Cardinale, the measure, S-1089, would ensure that the applicant returning to active status would be conversant with the most current information available in the field in which he is licensed.

"The technological and medical strides of recent years has forced most professions to require their licensees to take continuing education courses to keep up with the rapid advances in their fields. Practicing doctors, dentists, insurance agents, accountants and nurses, to name a few, must continue educating themselves so they can remain proficient in their profession. However, prior to now, there has been no continuing education provision for professionals who have let their license lapse," Cardinale, R-39, said. This legislation would protect our state's men, women and children by ensuring them that each and every professional licensed by New Jersey, whether that professional had recently reactivated their license or had maintained an active status for their entire careers, has taken continuing education courses that keep them abreast of any and all advances in their profession."

Cardinale added that the bill provides that individuals who have chosen to be inactive in their field may complete any continuing education requirements associated with their license, registration or certification at any time during the period of inactive status.

"This bill would also spare professionals who have been inactive the cost of taking all the educational requirements required to reactivate their license at one time," Cardinale said.

---

**May 29, 2003**

### **Cardinale Introduces Bill Calling For Abolishment Of New Jersey Supreme Court Justices' Lifetime Tenure**

Senator Gerald Cardinale, a vocal critic of a number of recent New Jersey Supreme Court decisions, has announced he will introduce legislation today designed to reign in the arrogance of the State Supreme Court.

"For far too long, New Jersey's Supreme Court justices have acted as though they believe the court has the authority to rewrite our laws in direct defiance of the State Constitution. This is evidenced with the Mount Laurel and Abbott decisions, decision that have completely undermined the ability of our towns to control sprawl or rising property taxes," said

April 2, 2003

**RE: DAN LANZA'S UNTIMELY DEATH AT THE HAND OF A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER!!! YOU CAN HELP!!! JUST MAIL THE THREE ATTACHED FORM LETTERS, TO INSURE HIT-AND-RUN DRIVERS GET WHAT THEY DESERVE.**

Dear Friend:

We know Dan has made many, many friends through the years through his many activities, interests and endeavors, and that his death was as terrible a shock to you as it was to us.

To help us in our grief, Senator Gerald Cardinale has introduced a bill in the New Jersey Legislature called "Dan's Law," to require jail-time for hit-and-run killers. The bill is the identical version of one already existing in the Assembly, sponsored by Assemblyman James W. Holzapfel.

Please e-mail or write to the two following senators now (and you can keep hammering away between now and the end of May, which is when we will find out if our e-mails and calls will have had the desired result).

The first step to help Dan's Law to become law, requires that the bills, S-2475, and A-979, must first be released from the committees to which they have been assigned. To have them released from committee, please e-mail, call or write to the three chairmen. They are Senator Peter A. Inverso <[SenInverso@njleg.org](mailto:SenInverso@njleg.org)>, Senator John a Girgenti <[SenGirgenti@njleg.org](mailto:SenGirgenti@njleg.org)> and Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes, Jr. <[AsmBarnes@njleg.org](mailto:AsmBarnes@njleg.org)>.

We have composed form letters for you to use. Please send three separate letters, as follows, to the two co-chairs of the Senate Committee and to the Chairman of the Assembly Committee. Be sure to print your name and address since legislators ignore anonymous letters. A signature is not necessary, since a printed name is okay. Feel free to make copies of and forward each of the three letters anywhere and everywhere since the more mail they receive, the more likely they are to place the bill on their committee agendas for action.

PLEASE DO THIS RIGHT AWAY, SINCE TIMING IS CRITICAL.

Thank you.

The Lanza Family

<SenInverso@njleg.org>

Senator Peter A. Inverso, Co-chair  
Law & Public Safety Committee  
3691A Nottingham Way  
Hamilton, NJ 08690

Dear Senator Inverso:

Thank you for becoming a prime sponsor of "Dan's Law," Senate Bill S-2475 which requires a mandatory 2-year jail term for people convicted of a hit and run involving a fatality. Please schedule the bill for a hearing in your committee on May 8th.

Senator Cardinale sponsored the Senate version of an existing bill, A-979, upon learning that his legislative aide, Monica Lanza, recently lost her son Daniel Lanza, under the wheels of a pick-up truck, with the driver callously fleeing the scene. The Grand Jury indictment found him guilty only of leaving the scene of an accident, and it is possible that as a first-time offender, he may not be sentenced to jail.

Senator Cardinale is hoping that his version will clear the Senate Committee quickly, and I am hoping that you will agree that this bill should be posted on May 8th. **It is terribly unfair that someone can kill a human being, drive away, and when caught, plea bargain and walk away free. Again, thank you.**

<SenGirgenti@njleg.org>

Senator John A. Girgenti, Co-chair  
Law & Public Safety Committee  
507 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Dear Senator Girgenti:

Senator Cardinale's bill S-2475 has been assigned to your committee, called "Dan's Law," which requires a mandatory 2-year jail term for people convicted of a hit and run involving a fatality.

Senator Cardinale sponsored the Senate version of an existing bill, A-979, upon learning that his legislative aide, Monica Lanza, recently lost her son Daniel Lanza, under the wheels of a pick-up truck, with the driver callously fleeing the scene. The Grand Jury indictment found him guilty only of leaving the scene of an accident, and it is possible that as a first-time offender, he may not be sentenced to jail.

Senator Cardinale is hoping that his version will clear the Senate Committee quickly, and I am hoping that you will agree that this bill should be posted on May 8th. It is terribly unfair that someone can kill a human being, drive away, and when caught, plea bargain and walk away free. Again, thank you.

<AsmBarnes@njleg.org>

Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes, Jr. Chairman  
Assembly Law & Public Safety Committee  
1967 Route 27, Suite 20  
Edison, NJ 08817

Dear Assemblyman Barnes:

Assemblyman Holzapfel's Bill, A-979, which requires a mandatory 2-year jail term for people convicted of a hit and run involving a fatality, has been assigned to the Assembly Law & Public Safety Committee

While this bill was introduced by Assemblyman Holzapfel last year, I have now become interested because of the hit-and-run fatality affecting someone dear to me and have learned that Senator Cardinale has introduced the identical version in the Senate. S-2475, and is calling it "**Dan's Law**." He became interested upon learning that his legislative aide, Monica Lanza, recently lost her son Daniel Lanza, under the wheels of a pick-up truck, with the driver callously fleeing the scene. The Grand Jury indictment found him guilty only of leaving the scene of an accident, and it is possible that as a first-time offender, he may not be sentenced to jail.

Senator Cardinale is hoping that his version will clear the Senate Committee quickly, and I am hoping that you will agree that this bill should be heard in your committee as well. It is terribly unfair that someone can kill a human being, drive away, and when caught, plea bargain and walk away free. Again, thank you.

Again, e-mail addresses are: <SenInverso@njleg.org> and <SenGirgenti@njleg.org>  
You can also write and/or call as follows:

Senator Peter A. Inverso, Co-chair  
Law & Public Safety Committee  
3691A Nottingham Way  
Hamilton, NJ 08690  
Phone: (609) 586-1330      Fax: (609) 586-1906

Senator John A. Girgenti, Co-chair  
Law & Public Safety Committee  
507 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506  
Phone: (973) 427-1229      Fax: (973) 423-5895

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## Bill calls for prison in hit-and-runs

Friday, March 21, 2003

**By ASHANTI M. ALVAREZ**  
**Staff Writer**

Leaving the scene of a fatal accident would automatically warrant two years in prison under a bill introduced Thursday and named after a West Milford man who died after a road rage incident.

The "Dan's Law" legislation by state Sen. Gerald Cardinale, R-Cresskill, is named after Daniel Lanza, a 46-year-old West Milford man who was run over after engaging in a "cat-and-mouse" road rage incident, authorities said.

"Daniel Lanza was on his way to pick up bagels for breakfast when he met up with someone with a killer temper," Cardinale said in a statement. "Apparently, this motorist felt that Daniel had cut him off ... and began tailgating Dan."

Frederick Harvey, 56, of Chester has been charged with leaving the scene of a fatal accident, a third-degree crime punishable by three to five years in prison.

However, first-time offenders rarely are sentenced to jail time. Cardinale's bill would change that, although Thursday's legislation, if passed, probably would not affect the Lanza case.

Lanza's mother, Monica Lanza, has been a legislative aide to Cardinale for 13 years and said she believes that Cardinale would have sponsored the bill regardless of her employment.

"He was just as outraged as we were," she said.

Authorities from the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office have said that on Nov. 2, Lanza apparently cut Harvey off as he pulled out onto Clinton Road from the home he shared with his fiancée.

Once on the road, Harvey tailgated Lanza, who responded by hitting the brakes. The two drivers passed each other several times, and witnesses saw the brief interactions.

At some point, Lanza stopped his car in the two-lane roadway and started walking toward Harvey's oncoming truck, authorities said. Harvey attempted to swerve around Lanza, but struck him and ran over him with the front wheel of his truck. Officials have said Harvey was driving very slowly, then drove away in a panic.

Harvey turned himself in to police about two weeks after the incident, during which time police had launched a manhunt and circulated drawings of Harvey's truck.

Lanza was raised in Wayne, where he and his seven siblings led an active public life. One of his brothers is a Wayne police officer, and three others work for the volunteer fire department. Lanza, a self-employed auto parts wholesaler, was a certified private pilot and a skilled boater.

"He was a kind, generous, witty, intelligent person," said Monica Lanza. "For him to get killed and be left to die like a dog on the road, we think was just ludicrous."

Ashanti M. Alvarez's e-mail address is [alvarez@northjersey.com](mailto:alvarez@northjersey.com)

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*Providing Sexual Assault Victims With A Voice In Plea Negotiations Passes Senate*



**Welcome**

**PRESS RELEASES**

**March 20, 2003**  
**Contact: Janet Dunigan**  
**(609) 292-5199**

**Senator Gerald Cardinale (R-39)**  
**(201) 567-2324**

### **Cardinale Introduces "Dan's Law" Toughening Hit And Run Penalties**

#### ***Measure Prompted by West Milford Road Rage Incident that Ended in Fatal Hit and Run***

Motorists who leave the scene of a fatal hit and run accident would face a mandatory sentence of two years in prison, under the terms of legislation introduced today by Senator Gerald Cardinale. The legislation would be known as Dan's Law.

Cardinale said that he drafted the bill after a 46-year-old West Milford man was killed in what started out as a road rage incident, but ended in a fatal hit and run.

"Daniel Lanza was on his way to pick up bagels for breakfast when he met up with someone with a killer temper. Apparently, this motorist felt that Daniel had cut him off when he backed out of his driveway on Clinton Road and began tailgating Dan," said Cardinale.

The senator said that the details of exactly what happened next are still to be adjudicated in court (a Grand Jury indicted the motorist just two weeks ago), but the man has confessed that when Daniel parked his car and approached him, he ran Daniel over and just kept going. Investigators say that due to Lanza's injuries, they believe the driver either backed over him or drove over him very slowly.

"Dan's killer admits he heard a thump on the hood of his car, but he just drove away," said Cardinale. "Every bone in Dan's chest was crushed, but since there were no witnesses to the crime, prosecutors were limited in what they could charge. With Dan's Law in place, if someone leaves the scene of a fatal accident that person will get much more than a slap on the wrist. They will spend at least two years in jail."

Leaving the scene of an accident is currently a crime of the third degree punishable by a term of imprisonment of three-to-five years and a fine of up to \$15,000, or both. However, with first-offenses, plea bargains often result in probation or community service. The senator's bill would impose a mandatory two-year prison sentence.

"Allowing a motorist to get away with running someone down without having to face serious consequences sends a dangerous message, especially with the increasing frequency of road rage incidents," said Cardinale.



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## Morris man is charged in road rage fatality

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

**By JENNIFER V. HUGHES**  
**Staff Writer**

A Morris County man was charged Monday with leaving the scene of a fatal accident for a November road rage incident in which a West Milford man was killed.

Frederick Harvey, 56, of Chester allegedly struck Daniel Lanza, 46, with his truck after the two drivers engaged in a "cat and mouse" interaction on Nov. 2, said James Wilson, Passaic County senior assistant prosecutor.

When Lanza pulled out of a driveway on Clinton Road in West Milford, he apparently cut off Harvey, Wilson said.

Once on the road, Harvey tailgated Lanza, who responded by hitting the brakes. The two drivers passed each other several times, and witnesses saw the brief interactions, Wilson said.

At some point, Lanza stopped his car in the two-lane roadway and started walking toward Harvey's oncoming truck, Wilson said. Harvey attempted to swerve around Lanza, but struck him and then ran over him with a front wheel of his truck.

Wilson said the investigation could not determine how fast Harvey was driving, but said "he was driving extremely slowly." Harvey then "panicked" and drove away, Wilson said.

Lanza suffered massive internal injuries, but had no external injuries. His clothing was intact and his car was not damaged, so when police arrived they believed he had suffered a heart attack or seizure.

After Lanza died, police searched the neighborhood and found people who saw the altercations, Wilson said. One was able to describe Harvey's late-model Ford F-150 truck, and a photo of the vehicle was given to thousands of residents and business owners, and was shown on TV news programs.

Harvey turned himself in about two weeks after the accident. Wilson said grand jurors were given the option of indicting him on a death by auto charge - a crime that carries up to 10 years in prison. He said the panel apparently did not believe the necessary element of recklessness was present.

"Even though we did not arrest him until 13 days later, there was nothing to suggest he was under the influence of alcohol and drugs," Wilson said. "It was a very low speed. ... It appeared that [Harvey] did not want this confrontation and had tried to leave."

Harvey is free on \$5,000 bail. If convicted, he faces up to five years in prison, but the charge often carries only probation for defendants with no criminal record.

Jennifer V. Hughes' e-mail address is [hughesj@northjersey.com](mailto:hughesj@northjersey.com)

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November 16, 2002

In Brief

*Goshen*

### Former Chester town worker indicted

A former Chester town employee already on probation for taking \$5,200 from town accounts was indicted this week on charges she took more than \$87,000.

Marie C. Curran, 54, of Chester, pleaded not guilty at her arraignment in Orange County Court yesterday on charges of second-degree grand larceny, a felony.

She was indicted Tuesday.

Curran was arrested Oct. 3 after an extensive audit uncovered the missing funds. She is the former parks and recreation director. She worked part time for the two for 17 years and resigned in December 2000 after she repaid \$10,000 of unauthorized purchases on a town credit card. No charges were filed in that case.

The next year, she was charged with third-degree grand larceny when \$5,200 was found to be missing from four years worth of activity fees. She pleaded guilty in March and received probation.

Her next court appearance is Dec. 18.

*Kingston*

### Suspects indicted in two counties

Two Orange County robbery suspects and an Ellenville teen were indicted this week on assault and robbery charges stemming from an attack in Ellenville last month. An Ulster County grand jury indicted Justin Hightower, 21, of Ellenville, Jeremiah Stroman, 24, of Middletown, and Auston Simpson, 17, on charges of second-degree robbery, a felony, and misdemeanor assault, prosecutors said.

Hightower was additionally indicted on a felony possession of a weapon charge and Stroman on five counts of forgery, a felony.

The trio, police said, attacked the victim on Oct. 2 because they believed he was a member of the Latin Kings gang. Police said the victim is not a member of that gang.

The suspects first approached him in a vehicle, followed him one block and then got out. Police said they kicked and punched the victim, leaving him with a superficial cut across his neck and a broken jaw. He was treated at Ellenville Regional Hospital and later transferred to Westchester Medical Center for surgery.

Hightower and Stroman were indicted in Orange County on Oct. 30 in connection with a Town of Walkkill robbery.

*Mongaup Valley*

### United Way hosts campaign brunch

The Sullivan County United Way is hosting a Campaign Report Brunch 1-3 p.m. tomorrow at Gaetano's Cafe in Mongaup Valley.

Although the United Way has already begun fund-raising efforts, this is the first official event to introduce the campaign

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TIMES HERALD-RECORD



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### Police look for road rage driver

 [PRINT ARTICLE](#)



(11/14/02) **WEST MILFORD** - Police in Passaic County are looking for the driver of a silver or light colored Ford F-150 Pickup truck. They say the driver may have been involved in a road rage incident earlier this month that left a man dead.

The body of 46-year-old Daniel Lanza was found on the side of Clinton Road in West Milford. Police say he had massive internal injuries, consistent with being run over.

Some 2,000 fliers have been distributed with the vehicle's description, in hopes of finding the driver.

Police believe Lanza and the driver of the pickup may have had some kind of confrontation, fueled by road rage.

Video : <http://m.file.akamai.com/2840/wmv/cablev.download.akamai.com/2838/news12/newjersey02/4NJRAODRAGE12V.asx>



Tuesday, March 4, 2003



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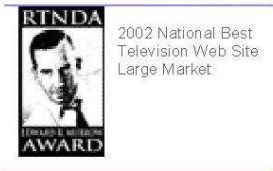
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**Cops think road rage killed Bergen man**



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(11/13/02) **WEST MILFORD** - Police are searching for clues surrounding the death of 46-year-old Daniel Lanza.

Lanza's body was found on the side of Clinton Road in West Milford, less than a half mile from his home.

Police believe Lanza, who was driving his girlfriend's Porsche, and the driver of a silver Ford pickup had some kind of confrontation fueled by road rage.

An autopsy revealed that Lanza died of massive internal injuries, which are consistent with getting run over by a car.

Witnesses say they saw the Porsche that Lanza was driving and a silver pickup truck passing one another along Clinton Rd.

Police believe Lanza pulled out of his hidden driveway ahead of the pickup truck and a game of vehicular cat and mouse ensued.

West Milford police have passed out more than 2,000 fliers of a silver pickup truck and are asking anyone with information to call (973) 728-2800.

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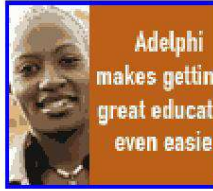
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## Man may be a victim of road rage

ASHANTI M. ALVAREZ

WEST MILFORD - The death of a 46-year-old township man run over on the side of Clinton Road this month may have been a case of road rage, police said Tuesday.

Police on Saturday circulated more than 2,000 fliers with an illustration of the suspected vehicle, a late-model Ford F-150 silver or light-colored pickup truck, which may have a matching silver cap, or enclosure, over the bed.

Teletypes sent to police departments statewide turned up reports of similar vehicles as far away as Bricktown but with no positive results. Police set up checkpoints in town to ask motorists if they may have seen the vehicle.

Witnesses told police they saw the pickup truck pass Daniel Lanza's car soon after he left the house on Nov. 2, and observed Lanza's Porsche pass the pickup truck. Clinton Road is extremely narrow and there is no passing allowed, police said.

There is no description of the truck's driver or license plate, but Detective Harry Shortway said one witness is willing to go under hypnosis to see if he can recall any of those details.

What was most striking about Lanza's death is that he suffered very few external injuries save for a few bruises on his legs. His death, however, was caused by massive internal injuries.

"He sustained head injuries. That gives us the impression he was knocked back [from a standing position]," said Detective Tyrus Hicks. Lanza's slip-on shoes were still on his feet, indicating he was not struck at a high rate of speed.

"We've all come to the conclusion that he was either backed over or the car drove over him very slowly," Hicks said.

Finding the pickup-truck driver is the key to solving Lanza's death, Shortway said. Although police have not ruled out the possibility that Lanza's death was an accident, they wonder why the driver hasn't come forward.

"We're speculating at this time, but we're open-minded," Shortway said. "But why did they leave?"

Emergency workers responding to 911 calls the morning of Nov. 2, seeing



virtually no external injuries, believed that Lanza had died of a heart attack, perhaps stumbling out of his car after experiencing chest pains and collapsing on the side of the road.

It wasn't until two days after Lanza died that an autopsy showed he had been run over. But detectives said they suspected some foul play before that. The car he was driving - his fiancée's 1986 Porche - was stopped in the northbound lane with its emergency brake applied.

Lanza stepped out that Saturday morning to pick up bagels from the Utopia Deli on Warwick Turnpike for him and his fiancée. The couple lived just two-tenths of a mile south of where the Wyckoff auto-parts distributor died, police said.

A makeshift memorial of several elaborate bouquets is set up at the site where Lanza died.

Detective Hicks said that solving Lanza's death is the department's No. 1 priority. His name is in large print on a metal case file set up prominently in the front of the detective bureau.

Ashanti M. Alvarez's e-mail address is [alvarez@northjersey.com](mailto:alvarez@northjersey.com)

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arrested him last month.

Port Jervis cops charged James McDermott, 30, of Washington Avenue, with felony and misdemeanor possession of marijuana, among other things.

He may face a year in jail.

On Oct. 17, authorities from Port Jervis and the Narcotics Unit of the Orange County Sheriff's Office conducted an interstate investigation with New Jersey counterparts from the Sussex County Narcotics Task Force, local sheriff's deputies and state cops.

Police said McDermott sold home-grown pot for \$200 to \$400 and ounce in New Jersey.

New Jersey police charged him with several counts of felony possession and sale of marijuana. He was released on \$5,000 bail last week, and arranged to turn himself in to Port Jervis cops.

City police searched his home Oct. 17 and recovered eight ounces of pot, 14 plants and packs of psilocybin mushrooms.

*West Milford, N.J.*

#### **Hit-and-run suspect sought by cops**

West Milford cops are searching for a pickup truck driver suspected of running down and killing a 46-year-old man Nov. 6 in what may have been a road rage confrontation.

Witnesses told police Daniel Lanza, 46, was erratically driving his Porsche north on Clinton Road. So was the driver of a capped, light-colored Ford pickup truck, the witnesses said. Police believe Lanza confronted the pickup driver, got out of the Porsche and was run down or fell onto the road and was run over.

Clinton Road is generally used by residents of Greenwood Lake, Hewitt, Barry Lakes, Highland Lakes and southern Orange County, New York. The road passes through the Newark Watershed property, and is popular with hikers and hunters, police said.

"We have a whole lot of citizens looking for him too," Detective Ron Oblinger said. We handed out a lot of fliers on Saturday." Call West Milford police with information at 973-728-2800.

*Walker Valley*

#### **Shawangunk cop rescues driver after fiery crash**

A police officer who had just clocked a suspected speeder helped to pull the man from a fiery crash after the man's car left the roadway.

Shawangunk Police Officer James Boyd clocked Jason Caston of Gardiner Friday at 63 in a 45 MPH zone, heading west on Route 52 about 10:34 p.m. After passing through the area, Caston's car left the roadway and slammed into a tree before bursting into flames.

When Caston's car caught fire, Boyd pulled up, grabbed the fire extinguisher from his patrol car and attacked the flames. Carson lay trapped in the front seat, his legs jammed in, his seat belt still on.

After the fire extinguisher ran out, Boyd cut Caston's seat belt, but he could only get Caston part way out of the car because his legs were caught under the dashboard. Then, the flames rekindled.

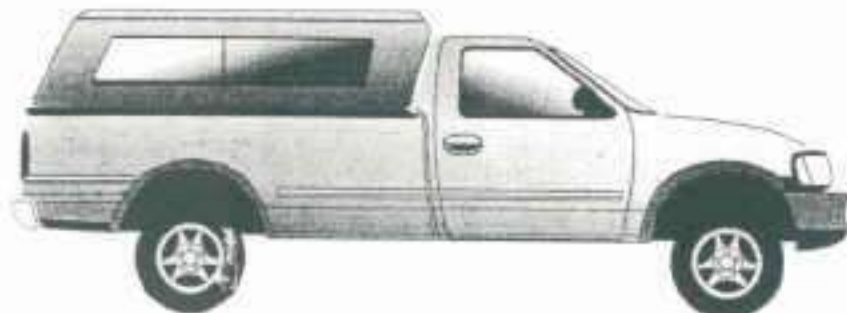
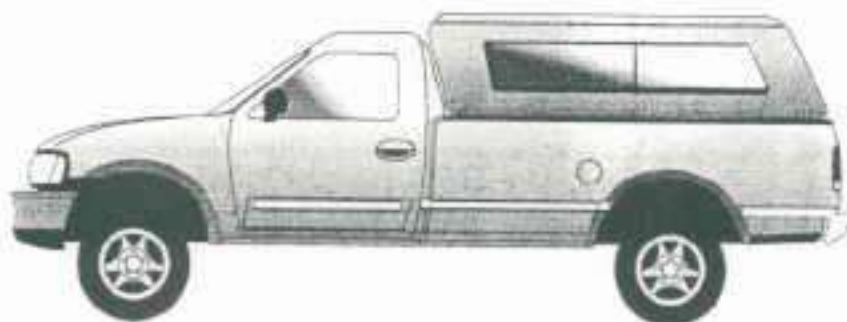
A volunteer fireman from the Walker Valley Fire Department stopped to assist, and between the two of them they able to pry Caston's legs loose enough to get him out of the burning car.

Boyd, the fireman and two others took Caston across the road to a safer area and started first aid. Caston was taken by ambulance to Ellenville Regional Hospital and then by helicopter to Westchester County Medical Center with severe head trauma. Caston's condition was unavailable.

*Town of Walkkill*

#### **Will it be tax break or hike this year?**

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## WE NEED YOUR HELP

**ON SATURDAY 11/2/02 AT APPROXIMATELY 10:20 AM POLICE RESPONDED TO A REPORT OF A MAN DOWN ON THE SIDE OF CLINTON RD., IN THE HEWITT SECTION OF WEST MILFORD. FURTHER INVESTIGATION REVEALED THE VICTIM WAS FATALLY STRUCK BY ANOTHER VEHICLE WHICH THEN FLED THE SCENE.**

**ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, A SILVER, FORD F150 NEWER MODEL (YEARS POSSIBLY 2000, 2001, 2002 OR 2003) WAS SEEN PASSING THE VICTIMS CAR. THE FORD F150 ALSO HAD A MATCHING SILVER CAP ON THE BACK. POLICE WISH TO SPEAK WITH THE DRIVER OF THIS VEHICLE.**

**ANYONE WITH INFORMATION ON THIS TYPE OF VEHICLE OR WHO MAY HAVE WITNESSED THIS INCIDENT IS ASKED TO CALL THE WEST MILFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT, AT 973-728-2800 AND ASK TO SPEAK WITH A DETECTIVE.**



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## Man found dead was hit by vehicle

ASHANTI M. ALVAREZ

WEST MILFORD - A man who police initially thought died of a heart attack on Clinton Road over the weekend actually died from being hit by a vehicle, and authorities are looking for a silver pickup truck witnesses said was in the area.

Daniel Lanza, 46, was found lying in the southbound lane of Clinton Road, near his car, which was parked on the side of the road several hundred feet from his home at 1852 Clinton Road in Hewitt.

Detective Sgt. Harry Shortway said emergency workers initially thought Lanza died of a heart attack or a stroke because there were no signs of trauma.

"They performed CPR on him," Shortway said. "He had no external injuries. There were some abrasions that were not visible at the time. When you see these people get hit, it's usually quite obvious they've been hit by a car."

Shortway said Lanza, a licensed private pilot and Wyckoff auto parts wholesaler, had massive internal injuries, including fractured ribs and vertebrae, and other organ damage.

At 10:20 a.m. Saturday, someone called police and said Lanza was lying on the ground about 10 feet from his car, Shortway said. Not knowing whether he was alive or dead, emergency workers performed CPR on him before he was transported to St. Anthony Community Hospital in nearby Warwick, N.Y.

He was pronounced dead at the hospital, and his body was taken to the medical examiner in Orange County, N.Y. On Monday morning, Shortway said, police received the preliminary report on the cause of death - massive internal injuries.

Then authorities began working the crime scene again. Witnesses there said they saw a late-model silver Ford F-150 pickup truck with a silver bed cap and custom wheels. It was traveling north on Clinton Road, Shortway said.

Detectives believe Lanza may have been having car trouble and pulled off the road to check on the problem. Shortway said a police mechanic would check Lanza's 1986 Porsche to see if it had any malfunctions. The car is at the police impound lot.

"Witnesses say before they saw him they heard a noise and they saw a car go



slowly up the road," Shortway said.

The truck may have struck Lanza and the driver drove away, not knowing he or she struck someone, Shortway said.

"It could have been someone who cut in close, and knocked him down, and then ran him over," he added. "And there's always the chance that someone hit him, and left, and does know what happened."

Shortway said police would be contacting dealerships to see if anyone had purchased a pickup truck with similar custom designs.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Joe Walker at (973) 728-2800.

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# Man found dead was hit by vehicle

By **ASHANTI M. ALVAREZ**  
STAFF WRITER

## Police first thought he suffered heart attack

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Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Joe Walker at (973) 728-2800.

# 46-year-old man dies in Clinton Road car accident

By DONNA ROLANDO  
Correspondent

WEST MILFORD — Just several hundred feet from his home, a 46-year-old local man sustained fatal injuries after being struck by a vehicle on Clinton Road Saturday morning.

Detectives theorize that Daniel Lanza, who died at St. Anthony's Hospital in Warwick, N.Y., may have experienced car trouble and exited his vehicle.

Detective Joseph Walker, who is the lead investigator on the case, said that Lanza had just purchased a new battery for his 1986 Porsche, so mechanical problems cannot be ruled out.

Lanza, who leaves behind a fiancée, sustained massive in-

ternal injuries and is believed to have died instantly, though he wasn't officially pronounced dead until he reached the New York hospital, police said, in a prepared statement. Detective Sgt. Harry Shortway said that it is possible the motorist who struck Lanza was not aware of his actions. The driver, who left the scene, is being sought for questioning.

Meanwhile, construction workers at a house on Clinton Road told police that they saw a 2000-2002 silver Ford F150 pickup truck pass the victim's car at the approximate time of the accident, which was 10:20 a.m. The four-wheel-drive truck, which traveled north on Clinton Road, was further described as having a silver cap and custom wheels. The

construction workers did not see the accident and did not know that someone was injured until a nearby resident looked out her window and saw a body laying on the southbound side of Clinton Road, police reported.

The woman, who was talking on the phone at the time, initially observed only a person's legs, police said, but she went out and found that a man was lying on the side of

the road.

Then she stopped a passing motorist and asked him to call 911; however, cellular reception was poor so she summoned police from her own residence, according to police.

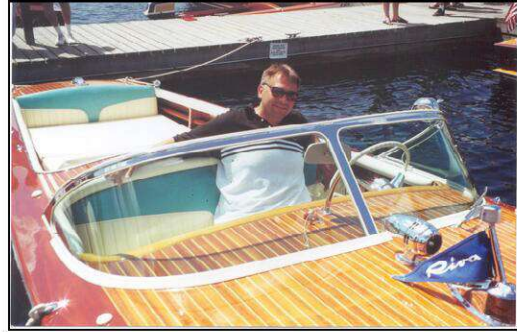
Officers Carol Stelmach and Stephen Stratton responded. Police request that anyone with information relating to the accident contact the Detective Bureau at (973) 728-2000.

## Daniel Lanza

To send condolence to family [Click HERE](#)  
 To get printable version [Click HERE](#)

Daniel J. Lanza "Danny" age 46 of West Milford died Saturday, November 2, 2002 at the Saint Anthony's Hospital in Warwick, New York.

He was born in Passaic and had lived in Wayne before moving to West Milford ten years ago.



Mr. Lanza was the owner for fifteen years of Ultimate Automotive Industries in Wyckoff.

He received his formal education at Wayne Valley High School graduating with the Class of 1974.

Danny was a born brilliant entrepreneur who developed many business interests both in real estate and automotive endeavors. He loved a challenge and was very successful in the business world.

His hobbies included sailing, powerboats and motor-cross motorcycle racing.

Some of his family's fondest memories of him include his interpersonal loving warmth and his fun loving ways. He liked to help others and he would shoulder stress for others in need of help.

Surviving are his Mother Monica Lanza of Hewitt; his cherished and loving Fiance Rebecca Telfer of West Milford; one sister Karen Sibilila and her husband Stephen of Nutley; six brothers William Lanza and his wife Kathy of Towaco, Leonard Lanza and his wife Lisa of Wayne, Anthony Lanza and his wife Heather of Wayne, Thomas Lanza and his wife Niki of Wayne; Reverend Jay Lanza of Corona, California, Kenneth Lanza of Haledon; Nephews and Nieces Jonathan and Joanna Sibilila, Danielle and his godson Alex Lanza, Shaun Lanza, Jaymi and Colette Lanza..

His father Daniel J. Lanza Sr. predeceased him in 1995.

Friends may visit with the family Wednesday 2-4,7-9 PM at the Vander May Wayne Colonial Funeral Home, 567 Ratzer Road, Wayne.

Funeral services will be held 10 AM on Thursday, November 7, 2002 at the funeral home.

Interment will be in Laurel Grove Memorial Park in Totowa.

Memorial donations to the Thousand Island Antique Boat Museum, 750 Mary Street, Clayton, New York 13624 would be appreciated.

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## Guest Book for Daniel J. (Danny) Lanza

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This *Guest Book* will remain online until December 4, 2002.

Every man dies, but not every man lives.

Danny lived his life to the fullest of anyone I've known. He was taken early, and I will miss him.

Vaya con dios.

*Michael Mathias (FL )  
November 4, 2002*

*Michael & Andrea Schumacher (Wayne)  
November 4, 2002*

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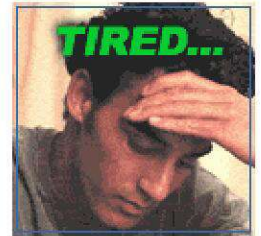
## Daniel J. (Danny) Lanza

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LANZA - Daniel J. (Danny) on Saturday, November 2, 2002 of West Milford, formerly of Wayne. Beloved Fianc of Rebecca Telfer; Cherished son of Monica Lanza; loving brother of Karen Sibia, William, Leonard, Anthony, Thomas, Reverend Jay, and Kenneth Lanza. Funeral services will be held Thursday, November 7, 2002 at 10 AM at the Vander May Wayne Colonial Funeral Home, 567 Ratzer Road, Wayne. Friends may visit with the family Wednesday 2-4,7-9 PM. In lieu of flowers memorial donations in his memory to The Thousand Island Antique Boat Museum, 750 Mary Street, Clayton, NY 13624 would be appreciated. For a photo and more information visit [vandermay.com](http://vandermay.com)

Published in The Record and Herald News on 11/4/2002.

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## Local Obituaries

Monday, November 04, 2002

ROY C. BOSSOLT, 89, of Paramus died Thursday. Before retiring, he was a partner and sales manager with Terre Co., Saddle Brook. He was a member of St. Matthew Episcopal Church, Paramus. Arrangements: Vander Plaats Memorial Home, Paramus.

ADELE M. CASSON CUTLER, 96, of Wayne, formerly of Fair Lawn and Hawthorne, died Sunday. She was a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation R.C. Church, Wayne. Arrangements: Moore's Home for Funerals, Wayne.

RAYMOND R. DiGUGLIELMO, 60, of Wood-Ridge, formerly of East Rutherford, died Saturday. He had been a support services manager for the U.S. Postal Service in Hackensack, where he worked for 42 years and was a member of the American Postal Workers Union. He was a veteran of the Army National Guard. He was a member of St. Anthony Episcopal Church, Hackensack. He had coached Little League baseball and Pop Warner football, both in Wood-Ridge. Arrangements: Kohler Funeral Home, Wood-Ridge.

PAUL C. GORDON, 75, of Saddle River died Saturday. He owned a management consulting company. He retired in 1987 as president of Federal Electric Corp., Paramus. Previously, he was a vice president of ITT Corp. and had been a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received a master's degree from New York University. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. He had played professional basketball for the Baltimore Bullets. Arrangements: C.C. Van Emburgh Funeral Home, Ridgewood.

JAMES J. HOURIGAN, 73, of Toms River, formerly of River Vale, died Saturday. Before retiring in 1993, he was vice president of Remaco Inc., Northvale. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a parishioner of St. Luke R.C. Church, Toms River. Arrangements: Silverton Memorial Funeral Home, Toms River.

JOHN P. KITSON, 71, of Rutherford died Saturday. Before retiring 12 years ago, he was a claims adjuster for CNA Insurance Co. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War. Arrangements: Macagna-Diffily Funeral Home, Rutherford.

THEODORE KLEIN, 67, of Teaneck died Sunday. Before retiring in 1998, he was a mechanical engineer for the White Plains division of Cherry Burrell Co., where he worked for 20 years. He was a parishioner of St. Anastasia R.C. Church, Teaneck. He was a volunteer at Gilda's Club, Hackensack, and St. Anastasia's School, Teaneck. Arrangements: Volk-Leber Funeral Home, Teaneck.

DANIEL J. LANZA, 46, of West Milford, formerly of Wayne, died Saturday. He owned Ultimate Automotive Industries, Wyckoff. Arrangements: Vander May Wayne Colonial Funeral Home, Wayne.

VINCENZO LATONA, 89, of Clifton died Saturday. Before retiring, he was a maintenance worker for Curtiss-Wright Corp. in Caldwell, where he worked for 25 years. He was a parishioner of St. Paul R.C. Church, Clifton. Arrangements: Shook

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