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Candidates fighting to the finish

Razor-close election battle haunts Bush, Gore in frenzied final push

By R.W. APPLE Jr.
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — As the 2000 presidential campaign entered its final, frantic 72 hours, with climactic volleys of charge and countercharge delivered in speeches, television commercials and telephone calls, both major-party candidates retained realistic prospects of victory.

No fewer than a dozen states, with a total of 125 of the 270 electoral votes needed for election, were classified as tossups by politicians, pollsters and academic specialists interviewed by *The New York Times*. Gov. George W. Bush of Texas, the Republican nominee, held solid leads in states with 209 electoral votes and smaller advantages in states with 13 more. Vice President Al Gore, his Democratic rival, seemed safe in states (and the District of Columbia) with 168 electoral votes and ahead in another, Pennsylvania, with 23.

If those estimates prove valid, Bush would need to add 48 electoral votes to win, which he could pile up, for instance, by taking Florida, Tennessee, Missouri or Wisconsin and a small

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Texas Gov. George W. Bush is energized by supporters during a rally in Pittsburgh yesterday.



Vice President Al Gore is buoyed by the crowd in Huntington, W. Va., yesterday. With him is the state's Sen. Jay Rockefeller.

HARGRAVES-MCMANUS

High stakes fueling fervor in state rep race

By MELISSA EVANS
Sun Staff

GROTON — It's a race that's been marked by ugly exchanges, high-stakes fund raising, and high-profile visits from top Republicans and Democrats.

The race for the 1st Middlesex District seat between incumbent Republican Robert Hargraves and his Democratic challenger Joe McManus has drawn heated chatter in local coffee shops, and has lingered in the statewide spotlight.

The reason varies depending on whom you talk to. Both sides, however, agree that the race is a study in contrasts.

"You have a fresh face in politics running for the first time, versus someone who has been in politics his whole life," says McManus, 30, a former music teacher at the Groton School.

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BADGES OF COURAGE LOST — AND FOUND

Lowell Korean War vet to get new medals 40 years after they perished in a fire

By JASON LEFFERTS
Sun Staff

LOWELL — The first thing Andrew Popolowski shows a visitor to his Lowell apartment is a photograph of him in Korea, standing beside Johnny Russo and Joe DeLuca.

The photo shows the three some arm-in-arm on a dirt road.

Before they shared a broken jar of marshmallow from home.

Before Popolowski shot two North Korean soldiers sprinting away from American troops.

The Purple Heart Before Popolowski was wounded in the ankle by shrapnel.

Before Popolowski's friend Russo, from their hometown of Woburn, was killed in action. In his 14 months in Korea as a corporal in the U.S. Army,



All Andrew Popolowski of Lowell has to mark his Army service in Korea is this picture of himself and his war buddies. His medals were destroyed in a fire, but an effort is under way to get him new ones, possibly as early as Veterans Day. For a guide to holiday observances, see Page 8. SUN/MICHAEL PIGEON

Popolowski saw all of that and more.

He felt bullets whiz by his head. While crawling up a hill in a country half a world away, he stumbled over and fell on the body of a North Korean burned by Napalm. He went home only when a superior officer realized just how long he had been in the heat of

battle. "I still think an awful lot about what happened over there. I think about two years ago, I jumped out of bed thinking shells were coming in," Popolowski said. "We would be under steady mortar fire for 12, 14 hours... You could feel

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55 years after they were lost at sea for Navy, Chelmsford brothers to get lasting memorial

By IAN BISHOP
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — For Muriel Harrington, the loss of the Russian submarine *Kursk* followed two months later by the attack on the destroyer *USS Cole*, painfully reignited the anguish she endured a half century ago.

Fifty-five years ago, her younger brother, Allan D. Clark, was aboard the submarine *USS Swordfish* when it was lost at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean while patrolling Japanese shipping lanes, claiming the lives of all aboard.

Two months after her family was notified, her older brother, Herbert S. Clark, was also killed in action as the destroyer *USS Longshaw* took fire from Japanese shore batteries as it ran aground on a coral reef near Okinawa.

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Allan D. Clark



Herbert S. Clark

AIDS deaths among priests fuel worries within Church

By JUDY L. THOMAS
The Kansas City Star

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Concern within the Roman Catholic Church about the number of priests who have died of AIDS-related illnesses is growing, as is evidence that the death rate exceeds earlier estimates.

In January, *The Kansas City Star* reported that hundreds of priests had died of AIDS-related illnesses and that hundreds more were living with the virus that causes the disease. The controversial finding was based in part on estimates from AIDS experts and priests and an analysis of health statistics.

Since then, *The Star* has documented more than 300 AIDS-related priest deaths nationwide through death certificates and interviews with family members and religious colleagues. Because death records are closed in nearly two-thirds of the states, experts say that the exact AIDS death toll among U.S. priests will never be known.

But the newspaper was able to examine documents in 14 states, including Massachusetts, in

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Bob Dylan plays Lowell Nov. 11.



Central Catholic's Corrine Willis, Wilmington's Lauren Rappoli clash. SUN/BILL BRIDGEFORD

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Chelmsford brothers to get memorial

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"It's ironic the Russian sub and the *Cole* was hit in two months time," Harrington said, choking back tears. "And my two brothers, on a sub and a destroyer in the same time..."

Wearing the same uniform and patrolling much of the same waters while fighting for the American cause, both now share an eternal resting place in the vast depths of the Pacific Ocean.

Herbert Clark was 27-years-old when he was killed, leaving behind a wife and an 11-month-old son. Allan Clark was just 20, and still single. The Clarks — a family of five boys and four girls — are believed to be the only Chelmsford family to lose two children in World War II, according to Veterans Agent Marty Walsh.

Without a burial marker for either of the two brothers, family members have clung to pictures, medals, and the two letters signed by then-President Harry S. Truman, describing the nation's "Grateful Appreciation" for the sacrifice the brothers made.

But on Friday, the day before Veterans Day, the brothers will finally receive a lasting memorial in their hometown, not far from the Dunstable Road home where they were raised.

"Maybe this will bring some closure," Harrington said.

A stone memorial — at the intersection of Groton Road and Main Street — will give their family and their community a place to pay tribute.

"This is good for the community," said Walsh. "A lot of people in this town knew them."

Walsh was instrumental in pushing the town to build the memorial.

"I became aware of them (the Clarks) about a year ago," Walsh added. "Four of them went into the service and two of them died for their country."

The brothers had almost been forgotten until Harrington and her husband, John, told Walsh of their sacrifice.

"You feel an obligation not only to the family, but also the community," Walsh said.

Despite the passage of time, Harrington still chokes with emotion as she flips through a scrapbook — half dedicated to Allan, half to Herbert.

The book holds a history of each vessel, and yellowing clippings from *The Sun* reporting their deaths.

The pictures, medals and the letter signed by President Truman, along with pictures of the *USS Swordfish* and *USS Longshaw* are neatly framed and resting atop a table in Harrington's dining room.

"When I look at these, I say, 'Geez, they're so young,'" she said.

While Herbert and Allan paid the ultimate price for the future of the country, Harrington recalls with equal pride two other brothers who served.

Her oldest brother, Francis, was an Army officer, rising from the rank of private to lieutenant on the battlefields of Europe. Her youngest brother, Bernard, served aboard a troop transport Navy ship in the Pacific.

Allan, however, was the first to enlist.

In Feb. 1943, less than a year after graduating from high school, he was a Navy man at 18.

Harrington laughs now, recalling how the daring persona of submariners clashed with Allan's personality.

"Allan was very quiet," she said. "He was very conscientious and compassionate. Herbie was the daredevil. He was the one who would play hooky, or jump in with a truck driver and go for a ride."

Shortly after Christmas 1944, the *Swordfish*, left Pearl Harbor to conduct reconnaissance of Okinawa in preparation of the Okinawa Campaign.

By Jan. 9, 1945, the *Swordfish* was in position to perform its mission.

After the assignment, the submarine was to proceed to

Saipan or Midway if she was unable to transmit by radio.

But the *Swordfish* never arrived, and efforts to contact the vessel were unsuccessful. On Feb. 15, 1945, she was reported as missing after her 13th patrol of the war.

The Clark family was notified in mid-March.

Harrington said a family friend tried to provide a glimmer of hope, hearing from a brother involved in bombing runs in the area that the sub had been captured by the Japanese.

"But we never really considered that," she said.

"Two months later, Herbie was killed. Two boys, two months," she added.

Herbert Clark followed his younger brother into the Navy, but he had been involved in naval operations long before he was a serviceman.

"As soon as World War II broke, they were looking for civilian workers to go to Pearl Harbor to salvage the ships that had been bombed," said Harrington.

So just weeks after marrying the former Ellen Dudevoir, Herbert Clark struck out for Pearl Harbor in February 1942.

Over a year later he was back in Chelmsford.

"In the end of 1943 he returned home, feeling he wasn't doing enough for his country," said Harrington.

He joined the Navy in February 1943, and was assigned to the *Longshaw* as a Fire Controlman, third class.

After almost a year aboard the vessel, Herbert Clark and his 290 shipmates saw heavy action in the waters near Okinawa in May of 1945.

For four straight days, the *Longshaw* was called upon for fire support missions.

Then, with a weary crew, the *Longshaw* set course around the island at 6:30 a.m. May 18.

By 7:19 a.m., the ship ran hard aground on coral reefs, listing eight degrees to starboard.

Before American ships could move into position to pull the ship off the reef, the Japanese began a continuous shelling from shore.

By 11:15 a.m. word was passed to abandon ship.

Sixty-six sailors were killed aboard the ship, Herbert Clark among them, before friendly bombardment destroyed the vessel.

"In those days, they released the names of those killed before they released them to the newspaper," said Harrington. "But there were two Herbert S. Clarks on board and they notified the family of the wrong one."

Harrington said the family first felt secure when they read the name Herbert S. Clark in the paper, knowing they hadn't been notified of anything by the Navy.

"It wasn't until my sister-in-law hadn't heard from him" that they realized he died, she said.

"I just remember going to tell my father at work that the second one was killed," she said.

Although the family believes Allan had been killed first, the Navy didn't declare him pre-



Muriel Harrington of Chelmsford has had medals and pictures to cling to the memories of her brothers, Allan and Herbert Clark, who were both lost at sea while serving the Navy in World War II. Come Friday, they'll also be a memorial near their North Chelmsford home to honor them.

SUN/BOB WHITAKER

sumed dead until a year after his submarine disappeared.

"We had that whole year of not knowing," she said.

Now, family members have cherished memories.

When Allan was in basic training in Connecticut, he would often return home on weekends.

"He always brought a person home who was less fortunate than he was," Harrington said. "That was the type of person he was."

And there was the time Har-

ington and her husband drove to Boston with Herbert's wife and their infant son, Richard.

"Herbie took the train up from New York," she said. "We met him at the station and he got to see the baby for an hour before he had to go back."

"We exchanged a lot of letters," she said. "They were proud of what they were doing."

She is also comforted knowing Herbie and Allan were able to spend time with each other

before their deaths.

"They met in Pearl Harbor just before Allan sailed out on his last mission," she said, bowing her head and fighting through moist eyes. "They were the last to see each other."

Now the family will take comfort in a lasting tribute that all can see.

Ian Bishop's e-mail address is ibishop@towellsun.com

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