



WOUNDED VETS GET BACK IN THE RACE

Enza Jacobowitz was first introduced to Achilles International in 2005 and started to volunteer in a program to help wounded veterans. She stepped up her efforts in 2007 after the death of her brother, Army Cpl. Luigi Marciante Jr., killed in action while serving in Iraq. Enza has now made helping disabled vets her full time career.

In 2005 Enza Jacobowitz was so inspired by Trisha Meili's book, *I Am the Central Park Jogger, A Story of Hope and Possibility*, that she asked her to be the keynote speaker at an event at her place of work. Trisha Meili, had survived a brutal attack while jogging in Central Park and the first time Meili went running after her attack was with a chapter of Achilles. Meili was a board member of Achilles International, an organization whose mission is to enable people with all types of disabilities to participate in mainstream athletics. Enza and her co-workers volunteered the following year at the Achilles Hope and Possibility Race in Central Park in New York City. Enza continued to correspond with Trish to learn more about Achilles and began to volunteer regularly as a guide for Freedom Team members.

The annual Central Park five mile race raises money for the Achilles' Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans Program that specifically deals with the needs of wounded members of the U.S. military. Program participants receive training as well as use of specialized adaptive devices, such as hand-crank wheelchairs. The goal for the program is to give disabled veterans the opportunity to participate in athletics once again.

The specialized wheelchairs are particularly suitable for people with injuries that have resulted in amputation or paralysis. According to the Congressional Research Service, as of May 2012, there have been 1,599 battle injury amputees from military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, 1,356 were major limbs. Achilles begins working with veterans while they are in Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, MD; Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA; and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX, and continues their support after the patient rejoins the general population.

On September 20, 2007, tragedy struck the Marciante family. Enza's brother Luigi was killed in action in Iraq. Louie was a Corporal in the Army. He met Stephanie, an Army MP and they married in 2006. Louie was deployed when his wife was 5 months pregnant. He was given an eighteen day leave so he could be home for the birth of his son, Lorenzo, on August 11, 2007. He returned to Iraq on the twenty third and in less than a month was a victim of a roadside bomb.

The news was devastating to the Marciante family and to the Peterstown community of Elizabeth, NJ where the family was rooted. Enza turned her grief for her loss into energy. She was already committed to helping wounded veterans. She did so with the thoughts of her brother being in harm's way, but now she would act in memory of Luigi. She dedicated more time to the cause and was joined by a host of friends and family in support.

In June of 2008, Enza organized her own team for the Hope & Possibility called Team S.O.S. Support Our Soldiers - in honor of fallen and wounded veterans. That first year the team had ninety participants who signed up to run or walk. The team's goal was to raise \$3,500, the cost of a hand crank wheelchair and of course to donate all proceeds to the Achilles Freedom Team. From that modest start to five years later Team S.O.S. has had over four hundred people participate in the Hope and Possibility event, and they collectively raised \$150,000 and have endowed thirty hand crank wheelchairs.

In 2011 Enza added an additional event to the team's efforts, an annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser held prior to the Central Park race. The dinner, held in the school cafeteria of St. Anthony's Church in Peterstown, gives an opportunity for hundreds of more people aside from the runners and walkers to get involved. Local businesses were also extremely generous in donating food and also prizes to be raffled.

Enza eventually became a board member of Achilles International, together with her husband, Richard, they have made the Freedom Team a priority in their lives. Their success has been a motivation to do more. The results of their efforts are not measured in dollars or the number of wheelchairs purchased but in the quality of the lives that they have touched. There is no measure for the program's objective: to bring hope, inspiration and the joys of achievement to wounded veterans. The effects that the Achilles programs have on a veteran's outlook on life and mental clarity are even more important. Many veterans must deal with the complex stresses of adapting to life with a disability and the pressure that the situation has on personal relationships.

When Freedom Team members leave the hospital they are encouraged to continue the program and their physical and emotional healing process by joining local Achilles chapters available throughout the country. Enza was offered the challenge and has accepted the position of Director of Community Relations at Achilles. It will demand her full time attention. She left her previous job and started her new career on August 13, 2012 with a trip to Walter Reed National Military Hospital in Bethesda, MD.

Enza says "It's not really work when you do what you love."

(left, l-r) During the 2012 Achilles Central Park Race Enza Jacobowitz guided Marine Cpl. Tyler Southern, a triple amputee from when he stepped on an IED in Afghanistan. They were joined by celebrity starter Jon Stewart, Southern's wife Ashley and Enza's cousin Frank.



(above) Rich Jacobowitz tunes up a Freedom Team athlete's handcrank in preparation for the race.





Around About Peterstown welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

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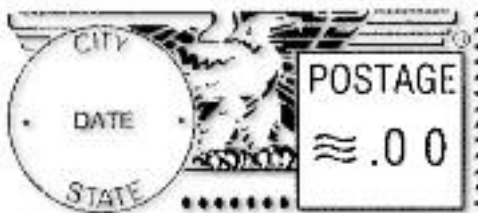
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Letters to the Editor



Sincerely,
Ralph Froehlich
Union County Sheriff
Elizabeth, NJ

Thanks,
Janet Papetti
Clark, NJ



(above, l-r) Charlie, Bob and Joe.

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*The Family of Emmanuel Sortino
(pictured below)*



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Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

I get extremely sad and angry over the issues concerning our men and women serving in the military. Sad because I see the sacrifices that our soldiers make. The worse discomfort in civilian life is nothing compared to the most basic demands to those in the military. Soldiers suspend the comforts of home, the physical contact with loved ones, and freedom to be carefree and frivolous.

When deployed young men and women are deprived of any luxury and barely have the basics for survival. In that environment they are challenged with almost impossible tasks while in constant risk of bodily harm. Stresses of war are felt physically, emotionally and socially. Extreme forces can result in injury or even death, a soldier's ultimate sacrifice.

Running in the Achilles Foundation Hope and Possibility Race in Central Park I get a chance to see many of our wounded vets, some severely wounded, and I just want to cry my eyes out. I can't imagine all they went through from their initial injury to their participation in this race. And they all seemed so upbeat and there is genuine joy shared between everyone involved. It is quite an experience. The race is an entire community of over 4,000 able bodied and disabled athletes sharing so much love.

It is tough to shake the sadness and I reflect deeper on how blessed I am when I think about Luigi Marciante who was killed in action five years ago. The sadness that his family still feels for their loss I can't imagine. Luigi's sister, Enza has used her emotion as motivation to help wounded veterans. She has definitely been an inspiration to me.

I am angered by so many people who trivialize the sacrifice that our soldiers make. No one hates war more than I do. No one wishes that every one of our soldiers can be home tonight and sleep in their own bed. I don't know how to make that happen and I'm pretty certain that the people condemning what our troops are doing don't know either.

Somewhere between the claims that these wars are the meaningless product of the military-industrial complex and the assertion by our government that the wars are vital to our homeland security lies the truth about their necessity. The space between these views is vast with many degrees of opinions. There is a possibility that everyone is correct and that war is so complex that all theory is valid.

I appreciate sincere, genuine opinion based on reason but too often the opinions I hear promote an agenda, be it political, professional, financial or social. The people who have the largest audience are the most egregious.

The plight of the soldier is not the consideration of any of the talking heads doing the finger pointing. Debates are conducted between two sides vying for the same prize, power and money. The honest analysis and most intellectual solutions get the least attention.

I do believe there is a solution to minimize war and reduce the harm to our soldiers. The price they pay with their bodies and lives should be in the forefront of all

discussions.

There is no simple solution and I don't see anyone working towards one either. The debate in the media and between elected officials is one based on a power grab. The young men and women in the military are only considered after the pundits and officials take care of their own personal concerns - which is never.



all other entitlement

programs should take

a back seat to

veteran health care.



(above) Enza presented Freedom Team Athlete Gunnery Sgt. John Hayes with a handcrank wheelchair which rode at the Hope & Possibility Race. They are pictured with his wife Janel and Mark Degnan, CEO GM Military Discount Program who endowed a handcrank wheelchair on behalf of General Motors and Chevrolet in honor of Louie.

THANK YOU

The Hope and Possibility 5M and our team's success would not be possible without the tireless love and support of so many people. To name a few I must acknowledge Captain Giacomo Sacca, members of the Elizabeth Police Department and Elizabeth PBA Local #4 for supporting us every year and of course coming out to participate in the race. Mayor Chris Bollwage and the City of Elizabeth, Courtney Villani and the Villani Bus Company, John Sacco and family, Deacon Joe Caporaso and Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, Elizabeth Rotary Club, Joe Renna, Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO, Liz and Emilio Rangone of Flower's By Emilio and Dr. Heather Robberson of Cassada Medical LLC. A tremendous thank you to all of my very special Team S.O.S. Members - I could never do this without any of you!

Thank you to the countless people who have supported us this year and in the past - whether you posted our information, shared our story, attended one of our events or made a donation you are all part of helping us reach our goal and continuing our efforts for the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans.

I've become very fond of a quote recently, "Sometimes it's the same moments that take your breath away that breathe purpose and love back into your life." Losing my brother was by far the worst day of my life and at times felt like it had taken the life right out of me but I found my purpose. I have an opportunity everyday to honor him and make a difference in the life of a wounded veteran. Physically gone but never forgotten Louie's legacy will live on through my work. His spirit is present in my day to day efforts and the countless lives he's touched. We will never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country and I thank you for keeping Louie in your hearts.

*Thank you,
Enza Jacobowitz*

A poem in honor of Louie's 5th Anniversary

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY IN HEAVEN

Cpl Luigi "Louie" Marciante Jr
11/10/81 - 9/20/07

You said goodbye to none,
Your spirit flew before we knew,
your work on Earth was done

We miss you now,
our hearts are sore
As time goes by
we miss you more

Your warm smile,
your handsome face
No one can ever fill
your vacant place

Your life was love and labor
Your passion for life true

You did the best for all of us
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GRAN CENTURIONS CELEBRATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

On June 2, 2012, The Gran Centurions of Clark celebrated the 40th Anniversary of their clubhouse located on Madison Hill Road. The formal Gala celebration hosted by Joseph Colombo, included an historical overview by the Chairman of the Board, Len Patanella, and welcoming remarks by Club President, Robert Tarte. Vice Chairman, Angelo Preite, spoke about the Club's annual granting of scholarships to worthy high school seniors. The highlight of this gala event, Chaired by Dr. Valerie Barto, was a video presentation showing the actual clearing of the land and the construction of the building and pool complex. This video, produced by Kristine Bates, blended cleverly-woven photos from the past to the present day in a nostalgic tribute to the many members who comprise the Gran Centurion family.

Ground was broken at the Madison Hill Road site on June 3, 1971. Joseph Vella was Board and Building Chairman, with Anthony Ginesi and Marco Tomassi as Building Foremen. The Gran Centurions acted as their own general building contractor. On May 24, 1972, the members of the Gran Centurions occupied their beautiful, new clubhouse. The building is comprised of a main ballroom, a terrace room and two other rooms used for catering banquets of all sizes. In the summer, members can enjoy swimming in a very large pool with picnic area, snack bar, and locker room facilities. It is in celebration of that event-the opening of the club and pool- that was celebrated at the 40th Anniversary Gala. The legacy of this fraternal organization is to pass on the knowledge and appreciation of the Italian culture to family and friends for many years to come.



(above, l-r) The Gran Centurions 40th Anniversary Committee members, Myriam Restrepo, Neil Curcio, Joseph Colombo, Marge Voynick Jasman, Len Patanella, Sheila Mueller, Mary Lou DiBiasio, Kaye Guarino, Millie Giacobbe, Robert Tarte, Chairperson Dr. Valerie Barto and David DeGraw (in rear). Committee members not pictured are Anthony and Carmela Canonico.

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814Americas, in its continuing quest to provide the children of Our Lady of Guadalupe the means to achieve a quality education in the area of science has contributed \$3,000 for the purchase of new science books for the children of the seventh grade.

On June 5th, 2012 Smithfield Foods, Inc awarded

814Americas the opportunity to award a nonprofit of its choice \$3,000 when 814Americas received a grant as part of being the recipient of the President's Award for its environmental excellence. The award is part of the continuing effort by Smithfield Foods, Inc to reward on an annual basis, its subsidiaries efforts to prevent pollution and to enhance environmental stewardship.

With the addition of the new science books and lab materials the children of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be better educated when faced with science issues and therefore be better able to understand and provide sustainability to their communities throughout their lives.



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(above, l-r) Michael Patracuolla, General Manager of 814Americas peruse the new science books donated by his company with OLGA Principal Joe Caporaso.

OLGA Principal Deacon Joe Caporaso developed a “Wish List” of items the school can use.

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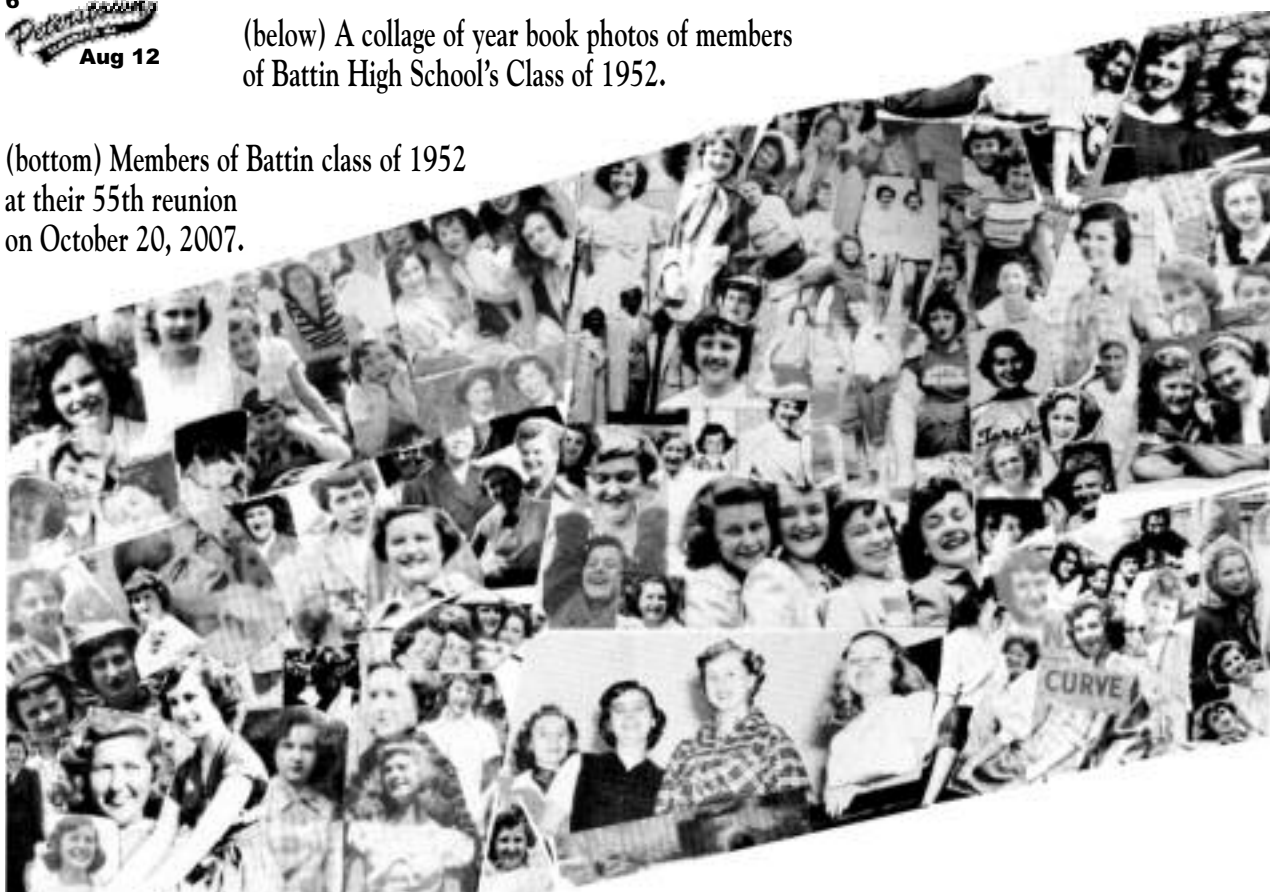
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(below) A collage of year book photos of members of Battin High School's Class of 1952.

(bottom) Members of Battin class of 1952 at their 55th reunion on October 20, 2007.



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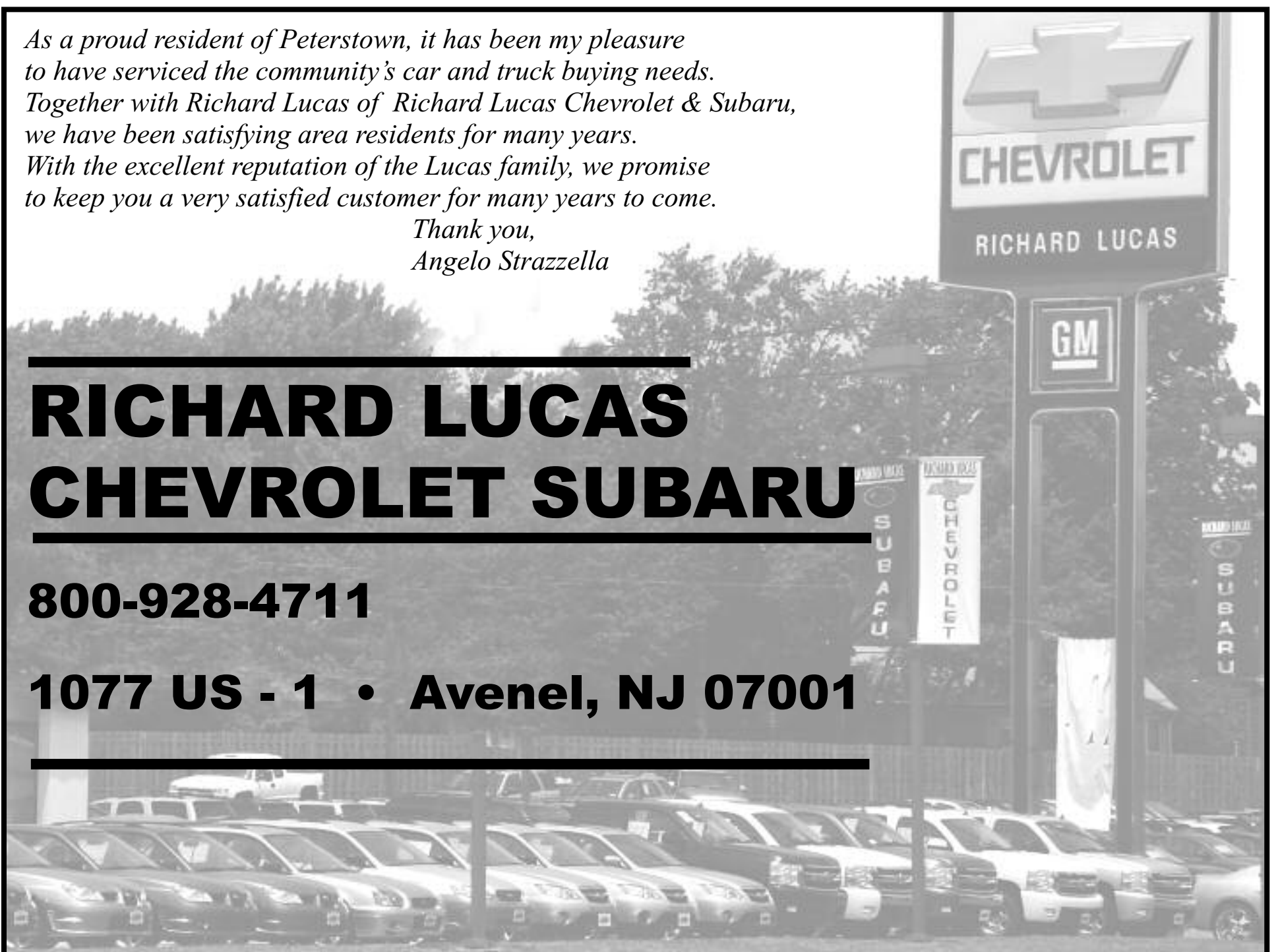
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(above) Yearbook photo of Grace McLain, one of eight classmates organizing her 63rd year High School Reunion. Grace pursued her desire to be a writer as indicated and authored six romance novels.

(left) McLain was also pictured in the yearbook with the senior basketball team.

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(above, l-r) Rocco’s sister Maryanne Trela, Rocco and his brother Nick Netta.



(above, l-r) Jo Ann’s brothers Lou and Jack LaBrutto.



(left) Doreen Sacco sporting an original Domino’s football jersey.



(above, l-r) The job of DJ for the evening was filled by Rocco’s niece Tammy and John.

JO ANN WANTS TO KNOW: WHERE ELSE DOES THIS HAPPEN?

Jo Ann Netta looked around in disbelief at the over 450 people who crowded the cafeteria of Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy. The grammar school was part of the St. Anthony’s Parish, an anchor at one end of the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ.

The neighborhood is where Jo Ann, nee La Brutto, and her husband Rocco Netta grew up. The church is where they were married 38 years ago. The cafeteria was filled with friends and family, who gathered because word got out that Rocco was going through a tough time and could use a pick-me-up.

“Tough time” is putting it mildly. Rocco was battling cancer, an inoperable tumor on his pancreas. He was diagnosed in March of 2011 and was going through an aggressive regiment of chemotherapy treatments that required him to go to New York City on a daily basis. The therapy took a toll on Rocco. Physically the chemo targets the cancer cells but also does a number on the healthy ones. The process was exhausting for him and Jo Ann who was now his care giver and the one to drive him into the city.

Though the Nettas never complained, it was obvious to friends and family who visited them that they were at a critical point. Five years ago, Rocco retired from the Carpenter’s Union at 55. They owned a Deli in Long Beach Island, NJ, where Jo Ann worked every week. The Black Dog Deli was truly a family-run business. At one time or another all four of their daughters worked there along with their friends, nieces and nephews.

Jo Ann struggled to keep the deli open and take care of Rocco’s needs. She did as much as she could but it wasn’t enough. Rocco’s treatment became too demanding. The deli is now leased and under new management. Funds were getting tighter. The cost of daily transportation and parking alone was an added burden on their budget. Jo Ann was taking her financial woes in stride but was having a tough time seeing her husband in so much pain.

Because Jo Ann and Rocco grew up together they had many of the same friends from the neighborhood, lifelong friends. Friends like them selves who married each other. It was a unique trait for the crew he grew up with.

Rocco and his best buddies called them selves The Domino’s, it was the name of a football team they formed to play in the park as kids. The guys stuck together and were involved in each other’s lives. It was not uncommon for Rocco to get a daily visit from someone to see how he was doing.

With no formal plan, maybe it was just a suggestion, a few of the guys said “We should have a Domino’s reunion. We’re coming to se Rocco any way, we’ll just all come to gether.”

That smoking ember of an idea is all that was needed to create a firestorm. Everyone who caught a hint of the plan wanted ot come. Formalities were put in place before the plan got out of hand. Rocco was way to modest to ever give his concent for a party where he was

the center of attention. But by the time he found out, it was too late. The cafeteria was booked, John Sacco would cater, and his niece Tammy would DJ.

In short time the quite Domino’s get together was a full fledge event. Tickets were sold and printed and the concept that Rocco and Jo Ann can use some financial support elevated the event into a fund raiser.

Jo Ann said it was impossible to thank every person who helped. She received help anonymously and from people she didn’t know, work buddies and friends of friends. Businesses donated elaborate gifts for a tricky tray raffle. Dozens of baskets offering everything from dinners to vacations. All the food and drink was donated also, Santillo’s Pizza, Costa’s Restaurant, Pinho’s Bakery, Buy Rite Liquors, ASeabra Foods, Villagio’s Pizza, VB3 Restaurant, Frenchy’s, Spirito’s and Emilio’s Florist. More was donated but the sources were impossible to trace. Friends were bringing cases of wine. Sally Pantina baked 2,500 cookies for the occasion. The business administrators of two carpenter and millright unions, Mike DeRosa and Michael D’Agostino, rallied the ranks to help a brother.

Hours flew by and the party never slowed down. Friends came from hours away. Conversations that started thirty years ago were being continued.

It was in the middle of all the commotion that Jo Ann turned around. She did a 360 and looked at the hundreds of people who came out to support her husband with no more than a suggestion and a few weeks notice. It was then that she asked the question. “Where else does this happen, but Peterstown?”

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Jo Ann Netta is a devout Christian and has attributed the blessings in her life to her faith. She over came the challenges of caring for her husband Rocco over the past year with the support of her friends from Calvary Tabernacle in Cranford, NJ where she is a parishioner. Though Rocco has suffered and his diagnosis was grim there has been optimistic results in his treatment. There is hope of recovery and she attributes the good news to the power of prayer.

There are aspects to life’s hardships that are spiritually rewarding. She says that the way that friends and family came together at for a fundraising event was miraculous. At a time when she was at her wit’s end a wave of support poured her way. Enough to pull the family out a financial downward spiral. An answer, she says, to her prayers to the Holy Spirit.

The Nettas’ battle will continue but knowing that they are not alone, that there are a host of people who care and are praying relieves a lot of Jo Ann’s stress. There is an intense feeling of isolation that caregivers experience. The support that came her way increased her faith. Feeling that your prayers were answered is pretty empowering.

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(above, l-r) The Netta Family, Roxanna LaCorte, Joanna Penn, Jo Ann, Rocco, Jessica Calas and Erica Tromp.



(left)
 Kitchen crew
 Anthony Bottitta,
 Tina Sacca, John
 Sacco, Cuck Sacca,
 Jennifer Sacca,
 Tony Izzo, and
 Sissy Scala.



(above, l-r) Rocco's son-in-laws, Joe Penn, Jeff Calas, Nick Netta (nephew), Chris LaCorte, Jack Tromp, with Nick Genovese.



(above, standing, l-r) Friends spanning over fifty years Cuch DeRosa, Joe Spirito, Pete Casano, Frank Crincoli, John Sacco, Tony Izzo, Anthony Bottitta, Eddie Foti, and Len Merlo. Rocco Netta is seated with one of the event organizers Rusty Harris.

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(above) The Netta Family owned and operated the Black Dog Cafe in Long Beach Island since 1996.

(right) Rocco Netta sweeping up at the Black Dog Deli in June 2010.



Recipes

Submitted by Jo Ann (Labruzzo) Netta, Black Dog Deli, Long Beach Island, NJ

Manhattan Chowder

Made for LBI ChowderFest 2004

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 cans 48 oz chopped clams | 3 celery stalks |
| 1 can 48 oz clam juice | 5 potatoes |
| 1 can Italian plum tomatoes | 5 carrots |
| 1 lb bacon | salt & pepper to taste |
| 1 medium onion | 1 tsp thyme fresh or dried |
| 1 box frozen mixed veggies / corn | |

PREPARATION:

- 1) Dice bacon really tiny using a scissor and place in a large soup pot:
- 2) Brown bacon really well (do not burn) and leave bacon grease in.
- 3) Add diced onion, celery, sliced carrots, and diced potatoes
- 4) Add clam juice and juice from chopped clams (do not add clams)
- 5) Bring to boil
- 6) Add plum tomatoes and simmer
- 7) Add frozen veggies / corn
- 8) Add salt and pepper to taste
- 9) Add thyme and clams

Serve with a crusty delish Italian bread

Italian Wedding Soup

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 48oz can chickenbroth | 2 heads escarole |
| 2 Knorr's boullion cubes | 1/2 c romano grated cheese |
| 1 small yellow onion | salt and pepper to taste |
| 6 carrots | 1 box Acini Di Pepe Pasta |
| 1 lb bacon | 1/2 c flavor bread crumbs |
| 1 lb chopmeat | 1 egg |
| mix veal, pork and beef | |

PREPARATION (SOUP):

- 1) Pour 2 cans of chicken broth in a large soup pot and bring to boil
- 2) Add sliced carrots, chopped onion, cleaned and chopped escarole, 2 boullion cubes, and salt & pepper to taste

PREPARATION (MEATBALLS):

- 1) Mix together the chopped meat, bread crumbs, egg, salt & pepper, and cheese in a bowl
- 2) Roll into small 1/2 inch ball and drop into boiling soup

PREPARATION (MEATBALLS):

- 1) Cook the pasta separate and then add to soup

Serve with a crusted Italian bread

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11
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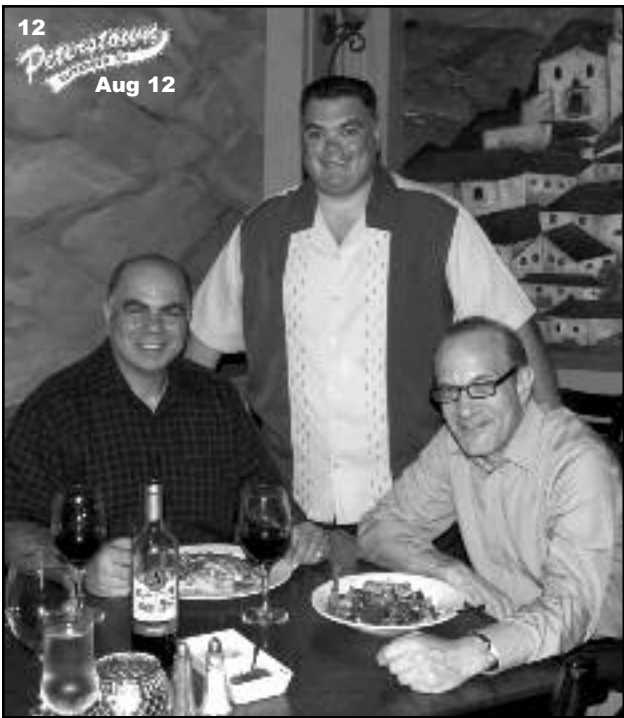
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(above, l-r) Joe Renna and Joe Adona sit and enjoy a fantastic dinner served by owner, Fred Gallo at Gallo's Cafe located at 1153 Inman Avenue, Edison, NJ. Adona won a grand prize of \$1,000 in gift certificates from local restaurants including Gallo's. Adona guested the closest to what place Renna would finish out of 3,447 total finishers in the 5 mile fundraising race for Achilles. Adona guessed 2186. Renna finished 2183.



First name
Last name

Search history for only one event (optional)

Race Name, Date	Net Time	Overall Place	Gender Place	Age Place	Age-Graded %
Achilles Hope & Possibility June 24, 2012	0:52:48	2183	1244	239	41.29 %
Achilles Hope & Possibility June 26, 2011	0:53:33	2236	1274	96	45.93 %
Hope & Possibility 5M June 27, 2010	56:49	2474	1391	106	42.9 %
Achilles Hope & Possibility 5M June 28, 2009	52:39	1479	800	62	45.9 %

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In honor of her brother Cpl Luigi "Louie" Marcianite Jr., Enza Jacobowitz continued her ongoing commitment to the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans. This was her fifth year participating in the Hope & Possibility 5 Mile Race in Central Park, NYC. In those five years her team has raised over \$150,000 and endowed thirty handcrank wheelchairs.

Joe Renna, Publisher of Around About Peterstown, ran in the race and solicited \$10 donations from readers for an opportunity to guess which place out he would finish out of over 4,000 runners. The closest guess received \$1,000 in gift certificates generously donated by local restaurants.

Enza now works full-time with Achilles International and will continue her fundraising year round. Anyone interested in getting involved with her team can contact her at: enzajacobowitz@gmail.com. To make an online donation visit www.louieslife.org and join the movement today!

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The Early Act Club of Our Lady of Guadalupe sponsored by The Rotary Club of Elizabeth held a Walk-a-thon for the Achilles Foundation on Friday, June , 2012. The students presented organizer Enza Jacobowitz with funds raised at a ceremony at the end of the walk in Union Square on Elizabeth Avenue.

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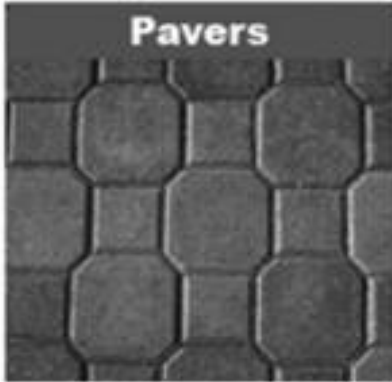
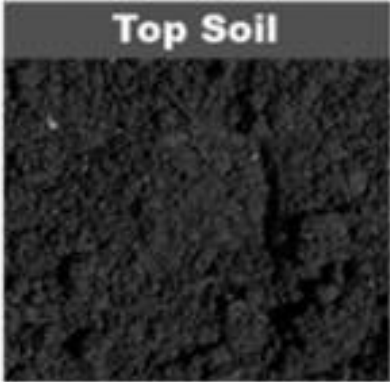
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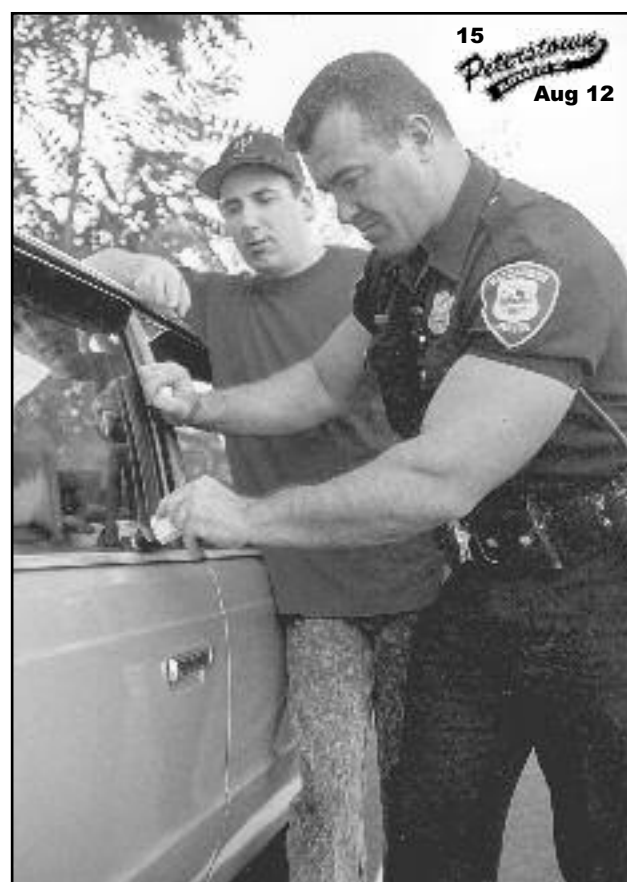
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(right) A 1999 photo of Elizabeth Crime Prevention
Officer Vito Tropeano etching Rich Bove's car
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