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OBITUARIES

Donald Edmund McCarthy

Donald Edmund McCarthy, 51, of Chester died March 18 of complications due to AIDS.

McCarthy was born and reared in Holyoke, Mass. He worked as a registered nurse in Wilmington, Del.

With bachelor's and master's degrees from several universities, McCarthy pursued careers in engineering, social work and nursing. He was a veteran of the U.S.

Army, where he participated in the Concerned Officers' Movement, an anti-Vietnam War group.

McCarthy was a communicator, chorister, vestry member and receiving officer at St. Mary's Hamilton Village Episcopal Church, as well as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and the Freedom Roundup.

He participated in the Singing City Chorus, as well as a

number of gay and lesbian groups, including Integrity, Dignity and From All Walks of Life's annual AIDS walk.

McCarthy is survived by his mother, Elsie Schmidt; a sister, Susan Drapeau; and a nephew, Rodney Faille.

A memorial service will be held April 20 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 3916 Locust Walk in Philadelphia. Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Mary's. ▼

Ilka Tanya Payan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK—Actress and activist Ilka Tanya Payan, a former city official who announced she was HIV-positive at a 1993 news conference, died April 6 of AIDS at her Manhattan home. She was 53.

Payan was a member of the city Human Rights Commission when she went public with her condition, saying she wanted to end the "rampant ignorance" surrounding the disease. For the rest of her life, she became a leading voice for women and Latinos living with AIDS.

Payan, an actress, newspaper columnist and lawyer, came to New York from her native Dominican Republic in 1956. She's known to Spanish-speaking audiences for roles in soap operas, films and

theater; she also appeared with Raul Julia in an HBO film, "Florida Straights."

She was a columnist with the Spanish-language New York paper El Diario, and her law practice focused on immigration issues. Mayor David Dinkins appointed Payan to the Human Rights Commission in 1992; she spent two years in that job.

Payan was also supervisor of the Immigrants with HIV Project for the Gay Men's Health Crisis. Just two months ago, she was featured as the keynote speaker at the Quilt Project meeting in San Francisco. In 1993, she appeared on a United Nations panel in observation of World AIDS Day.

Payan, at her 1993 news conference, said she contracted the virus in 1981 from

an artist, but didn't learn of her condition until 1986. She kept it a secret for the next seven years until her news conference.

Asked why she came forward, Payan replied she wanted people to know she was "an individual with a serious medical condition that has compromised my immune system — not someone with a religious, moral, social or economic class disorder."

She is survived by a daughter, Genevieve Gabrielle Gazon, of Manhattan; and three sisters: Luisa Payan, of Manhattan; Mavra Payan, of Orange City, Fla.; and Lil Palau, of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. There were no plans for a funeral, but a memorial service was planned for a later date. ▼

Zimbabwe leader blames son's AIDS death on West

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe
Breaking with local con

former guerrilla leader Joshua Nkomo announced April 6 that his son had died of AIDS, a disease he said was "imported

Nkomo, 79, flanked by his rival in Zimbabwe's war for liberation, President Robert Mugabe, said in a graveside