



## Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*

# From the Captain's Log Loss of Vineyard Lightship #73



Lost at sea on September 14, 1944 the "Vineyard" never received her Medal of Honor, nor did her crew who lost their lives trying to save her. Built in 1900 at the Spedden Shipbuilding in Baltimore she first began service as a manned aid-to-navigation on Pollock Rip Shoals, off Chatham MA. In 1924 she was repositioned to neighboring Vineyard Sound, off Cuttyhunk island, and during WWII transferred from the US Lightship Service to the US Navy, and given a less visible paint scheme and submarine bell silenced and light extinguished to prevent attacks from marauding enemy U-boats. Her crew, however, were not given weapons nor pulled from her station. However, she did not lose her life to a U-Boat, but to Mother Nature.

On 9/12/44 weather conditions along the US Atlantic Seaboard became "sporty" as the "Great Atlantic Hurricane" raced up the East Coast. The crew prepared for the worse. By late evening the wind and seas increased and she was torn off station by the surge, dragging by both main anchors. Running her engine at full speed could not stop her dragging - Mother Nature would not be quelled. Eventually the seas over washed her decks, toppling her smokestack and opening up her decks, which flooded her boiler and engine rooms. The end was near. The captain attempted a distress signal to nearby Cuttyhunk in hopes of bringing out a rescue party but all the local residents saw was a sudden burst of man-made light that went out as quickly as it had been lit. Deceased crew washed up ashore the next day and US Navy Rescue Divers traced a multi-mile scar from her dragging anchors to find her lying in 80ft of water, upright, her



mainmasts sheared at deck level, her smokestack torn, and her bow staved in from the seas. She has been left there to this day, with her trapped crew still aboard her, as if still on station. Only one crewmember survived.

You will find just a monument to her on the docks in New Bedford, but no ode to her as was the mighty Edmund Fitzgerald, but her fight to the end just as gallant. •

May 2022 News





# Anesthesia Errors

If you or a loved one is planning on having a major surgery, you'll likely research the hospital, the doctors and surgeons who will be involved in your care, and possibly even the surgery itself (if you aren't doing this type of research, you really should, since not all hospitals and surgeons are created equal!).

But one critical medical provider you may overlook is the anesthesiologist. Anesthesiologists are highly trained medical professionals who sedate patients during surgical procedures, ensuring that the patient doesn't feel pain during the procedure or even remember the procedure itself.

But, as with any part of a medical procedure, mistakes can and do happen when anesthesia is administered.

Some of the most common anesthesiologist mistakes include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to monitor the patient
- Administering too much or too little anesthesia
- Leaving a patient unattended
- Not assessing a patient properly before surgery (this can include not asking about a patient's prior medical history, not checking on any allergies a patient may have to medications or other items, or not asking if a patient has had anesthesia before and whether the he or she experienced any problems if they did)
- Not controlling the sedation gas flow properly
- Improperly administering oxygen

If you or a loved one suffered serious injuries as a result of a medical procedure or surgery, it can be difficult to determine exactly what went wrong and who was responsible, and medical malpractice cases can be incredibly complex. If you have questions about problems or injuries that arose from a surgery, please call us to make sure your rights are protected. •



# I Filed for Bankruptcy... Why Am I Still Receiving Contact from Bill Collectors?

People are often surprised to learn that even after they file for bankruptcy, they may occasionally receive letters from bill collectors for a week or two afterwards.

In a perfect world, the letters should stop as soon as you file for bankruptcy. After all, when you file, you are immediately under the protection of the Court and a Federal injunction, called the automatic stay, which prohibits any and all further collection activities by bill collectors, including sending letters or making phone calls.

However, because many creditors and bill collecting companies are large, bureaucratic organizations, it can take a little time – maybe even a couple weeks – for a notification from the Court to get to the right department of a big creditor and get entered into the system properly so that letters, or irritating phone calls, to stop. So, if it's just a week or two after filing and you still receive some contacts, it's nothing to be worried about.

There are times, though, when a wayward bill collectors will simply choose to ignore a bankruptcy notification and continue sending you letters, all in violation of the Federal injunction. But there is a cure for that as every violation can mean severe sanctions from the Federal Courts, and in NH that can include \$1000 and attorney's fees for each violation. What we tell our clients is to give a violating bill collector one chance, get their name and phone # and tell them you have filed for bankruptcy and the next call will carry a \$1000 bill – they usually never hear again from that collector. •

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*Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights*



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## Drugs and DWI

When it comes to driving under the influence (DWI), many people think just of impairment due to alcohol. However, a myriad of drugs—illegal, prescription, and over-the-counter—can also impair one's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle and subject a person to DWI charges. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that in 2014, approximately 22 percent of drivers involved in fatal auto accidents were impaired by drugs. In over half those cases, prescription drug usage was involved.

Drugs of many varieties can cause drowsiness, dizziness, impaired motor skills, diminished reflexes, sensitivity to light, and impaired judgment—all of which can make driving a perilous venture. In addition, not all drugs affect people in the same way.

Measuring a person's blood-alcohol concentration can be done easily and with a high degree of accuracy at the time of a traffic stop or shortly thereafter. Measuring drug impairment is more difficult. For instance, some drugs can be detected for weeks after use, which makes it difficult to determine actual impairment at a specific time.

It is important to remember that the use of prescription drugs or legal use of marijuana does not preclude an arrest for DWI. In other words, it is not a defense to prove that impairment is due to drugs that are otherwise legal. Officers are trained in detecting impairment due to drugs. The odor of an alcoholic beverage will not be the only indicator that they are looking for. •

