

Rosalie Smith Bertoni

MT. PULASKI - Rosalie Smith Bertoni, 88, passed away at Vonderlieth Living Center on Wednesday, October 30, 2013, at 1:35 p.m.

She was born to Wilbur and Hazel Sullivan Smith in Chestnut, Ill., on July 25, 1925.

She married Waldo E. Bertoni on June 17, 1948. He preceded her in death on October 8, 2011.

Her son, Paul, parents, a sister, and three nephews also preceded her in death.

She graduated from Mt. Pulaski Township High School in 1943, the [University of Illinois](#) at Champaign in 1947, and taught English at Hopedale High School for one year. Rosalie was a military wife and homemaker.

She and her husband lived on the East Coast for over 50 years and returned to his hometown of Mount Pulaski, Ill., in 2005.

Rosalie was a member of the [World War II](#) Girls Club, Mt. Pulaski American Legion Auxiliary Unit 447, was a Life Member of the Mt. Pulaski Township Historical Society, and served with Waldo on the Mount Pulaski 175th Anniversary Planning Committee in 2011.

She is survived by a nephew, Gregory Martin, of Chestnut, Ill., and numerous cousins.

Services will take place at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home on Sunday, November 3, 2013, at 3 p.m. with visitation one hour before. Pastor Rachel Stockle will officiate.

Burial will be at Mt. Pulaski Cemetery at 10 a.m., Monday, November 4, 2013.

The burial service will be conducted by Pastor Rachel Stockle in Mt. Pulaski Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Chestnut United Methodist Church or the Mt. Pulaski Township Historical Society. Services were entrusted at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Mt. Pulaski.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 1, 2013

Darrell Alvin Miller

URBANA - Darrell Alvin Miller, 81, of Urbana died at 9:25 p.m., Tuesday, October 29, 2013, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, November 2, 2013, at Renner-Wikoff Chapel and Crematory, Urbana. Rev. Donald Ehlers will officiate. Burial will be in Grandview Memorial Gardens, Champaign. Visitation will be held from 10–11 a.m., Saturday, at the funeral home.

He was born on September 27, 1932, in Lincoln, the son of Alvin F. and Ruth L. Wiemer Miller. He married Norma Bartman on June 14, 1953, in Emden; she died November 21, 2003.

Survivors include one son, Blake (Dana) Miller of Brentwood, Tennessee; three daughters, Valerie Fox of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Vicki (Don) Rubenstein of Greenville, South Carolina, and Tara Kirby of St. Charles, Illinois; and thirteen grandchildren.

He graduated from the [University of Illinois](#) with a B.S. and M.S and [Purdue University](#) with a PhD.

Mr. Miller was a U.S. [Army](#) veteran.

He was a Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois in Plant Breeding and Genetics and Forage Consultant, where he received numerous teaching and advising awards.

Mr. Miller was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Urbana, where he served in numerous positions in the church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church Norma A. Miller Scholarship Fund or to the Darrell A. Miller Scholarship Fund at the University of Illinois.

Condolences may be offered at www.renner-wikoffchapel.com.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 1, 2013

J. Dalen

Shellhammer

MT. PULASKI - J. Dalen Shellhammer, 90, of Mt. Pulaski, passed away at 3:59 p.m., Wednesday, October 30, 2013, at Vonderlieth Living Center.

Dalen was born on April 4, 1923, in rural Illiopolis, Ill., to Herbert and May Ellen Keck Shellhammer. He married Sandra Stewart on November 25, 1962, in Decatur. She preceded him in death on September 20, 2007.

Dalen farmed for many years in Logan and Sangamon counties. He served his country in the [United States Navy](#) during [WWII](#), was a member of the Mt. Pulaski [VFW](#) Post #777, Mt. Pulaski Masonic Lodge, Sons of the American Revolution, numerous genealogical societies, and the Illiopolis Christian Church.

He is survived by three daughters, Melissa (Ken) Kwit of Bloomington, Ill., Tracy (Robert) McDermott of Springfield, Ill., and Sarah (Eric) Hautala of Jacksonville. He is also survived by seven grandchildren.

Masonic services will be held at 6 p.m., Monday, November 4, 2013, at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Mt. Pulaski. Military services will immediately follow. Visitation will be from 4-6 p.m. prior to services at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Vonderlieth Living Center or Land of Lincoln Honor Flight.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 1, 2013

Bill Danley

Reporter, author, outdoorsman and conservationist, Bill Danley, 81, of rural Streator died Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa, Ill.

A native of Logan County, Ill., Danley was born Nov. 29, 1931, to Alberta Sparks Danley and Creede Danley. He married Peggy Martin June 24, 1951, in Cumberland Presbyterian Church in New Holland; they were married 62 years.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m., Monday, Nov. 4 at the Solon-Telford Funeral Home, Streator. Rev. Lon Alderman will officiate.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3 at the funeral home.

Burial will be in St. Andrew of Field's Cemetery, rural Grand Ridge. Pallbearers will be, Dave Danley, Steve Danley, John Danley, Creede Centko, Jesse Danley, Will Centko and Mike Danley.

A graduate of New Holland High School, he earned a journalism degree from Eastern Illinois University in 1954 before embarking on a legendary 15-year career as a newspaper [reporter](#) covering the La Salle County police beat for The Times in Ottawa and NewsTribune in La Salle.

He won four top state news service awards including two in feature writing for "The Ballad of Jim Matthews" – a 40-line masterpiece about the man who cold bloodedly executed a young gas station attendant in Streator.

And, as the first reporter on the scene who broke the story to the world about a triple-murder in St. Louis Canyon, he will forever be remembered for his coverage of the Starved Rock murders in 1960. For much of his career as a reporter, he worked alongside renowned editor and friend, Herb Hames of Oglesby.

Danley was a Sea Scout leader in a pilot program of the Illinois Youth Commission and, as president of the Cedar Point School Board, helped create the La Salle County Educational Alliance for Special Education (LEASE).

He was hired by Illinois Valley Community College in 1968 as its first journalism instructor and he resurrected the college newspaper, The Apache.

In 1969, he organized a fund drive by IVCC students that led to the creation of Horizon House, the sheltered care workshop in Peru, and served as its early board president.

He drafted plans for IVCC's 600-seat Cultural Centre, and as its director brought in Chicago City Ballet, National Shakespeare Theatre and such luminaries as mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, author George Plimpton, journalist Sydney J. Harris and Nobel laureate Isaac Singer.

As a 27-year Director of IVCC's Public Information office, he played a vital role in the creation of the IVCC Foundation in the mid-1970s and served as its secretary until his retirement in 1994. Each of his ten children attended IVCC.

In retirement, Danley wrote three books: "Chumsong, The Ballad of Talkin' John," "Keesee of Virginia" and "La Salle and Logan Counties in Song and Story" and was working on a fourth.

In the late 1970s he and his sons built the family homestead on the banks of the Vermilion River northwest of Streator. He lived there the rest of his life coon hunting with friends and raising beagles. He originated the BlueSong strain of AKC Blue tick beagles and was founder and president of the Upper Vermilion River and Lower Egg Bag Creek Tree Hound, Bank Pole and Blank Verse Society.

In 2008, Danley was inducted as a charter member into the IVCC-LPO Hall of Fame.

He is survived by nine children: Becky Antas of rural Streator, David (Paulette) Danley of rural Streator, Steve (Jan) Danley of Murphysboro, Lori Danley of Lake Zurich, Kim (Bruce Horn) Danley of Bloomington, Mary (Pete Shanks) Danley of Charleston, Jane (Anthony) Cruz of Waukesha, Wis., Jenny (Rick Koltveit) Danley of Streator and John (Roseann) Danley of Murphysboro.

In addition, he is survived by 11 grandchildren: Amy Wilson, Creede Centko, Jesse Danley, Emma Danley, Will Centko, Claire Centko, Alix Zelligman, Zoe Zelligman, Kate Shanks, Sophia Cruz and Naomi Hatzer; and a great-grandchild, Wade Centko.

He was preceded in death by daughter, Beth Centko of Streator, in 2011.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed in Bill's name to the Illinois Valley Community College Foundation for Cultural Centre enhancement at 815 N. Orlando Smith Rd, Oglesby, IL 61348.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 2, 2013

Chad Robert Merreighn

RIVER RIDGE, LA - Chad Robert Merreighn, 35, formerly of Lincoln, Ill., died at his home at 11:15 a.m., Oct. 29, 2013.

Chad was born Sept. 24, 1978, in Springfield, Ill., the son of Robert L. and Laura Winegardner Merreighn.

He is survived by his father, Robert (Janice Stewart) Merreighn of Lincoln; his mother, Laura (Eddie) Bowden of Sioux Falls, S.D.; two sons, Chad Merreighn, Jr. and Trey Martin, both of River Ridge, La.; his fiancée, Jillena Hebert of River Ridge, La.; three brothers: Jonathan Lubick of Daluth, Ga., Ty (Josie) Merreighn of Greenwood, Ark., and Casey (Lyndsay) Merreighn of Whitefield, Okla.; nieces and nephews: Tyler, Trey, Emma, Kacelynn, Conner, Grant and Juliet.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Nancy Winegardner and William Winegardner, and paternal grandparents, Wilfred Merreighn and Beverly Gaddy.

Chad was a welder and member of St. Rita's Catholic Church in Harahan, La.

Visitation will be Monday Nov. 4, 2013, from 4-7 p.m. at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln. Services for Chad will be 10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lincoln.

Memorials may be given to the Chad Merreighn Memorial.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 2, 2013

Steven Jon

Newman

LINCOLN, IL - Steven Jon Newman, 52, passed away at 9:51 p.m., Oct. 31, 2013, in rural Lincoln.

Steve was born Jan. 11, 1961, in Lincoln to Robert N. and Madge Hazen Newman. He worked as a revenue tax specialist for the Illinois Department of Revenue. He was a past president of AFSCME and a chief steward of the union. Steve was a mentor and longtime friend who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others. He possessed a deep understanding of the importance of bringing people together and this allowed him to successfully bring about positive change at the Department of Revenue.

Steve is survived by his siblings: Larry (Debbie) Newman of Rockford, Ill., Marsha Dahl of Lincoln, Ill., and Robert (Sigrid) Newman of Midland, Mich. He has many nieces and nephews, two of which he had a special relationship, Melissa K. and Jordan M. Dahl.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services for Steve will be at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013, at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln with Pastor Henry M. Johnson officiating. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. prior to services at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Parkinson's Disease Research or to the [American Diabetes Association](#).

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 4, 2013

Mary Z. Chaudoin

ATLANTA - Mary Z. Chaudoin, 91, of Atlanta, passed away on Sunday, November 3, 2013, at the Christian Village Nursing Home in Lincoln.

Funeral services for Mrs. Chaudoin will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013, at Quiram-Peasley Funeral Home in Atlanta with Rev. Rob Roy officiating.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home prior to the service.

Burial will be in Atlanta Cemetery.

Mary Z. Chaudoin was born on November 13, 1921, in Paynesville, Ky., the daughter of William and Ella Mae Hardesty Graham. She married Melvin Francis Chaudoin on September 14, 1941. He preceded her in death on December 7, 2001.

Surviving are her daughters, Connie (Kenneth) Timm of Atlanta and Vickie (Paul) Loercher of McLean; one daughter-in-law, Shirley Ritchhart of Lincoln; one brother, Ralph Graham of Hopedale; and one sister, Donna De Hoff of Texas; seven grandchildren, Craig (Jamie) Chaudoin, Chad (Brita) Chaudoin, Robert (Angie) Timm, Amy Timm, Corey Loercher, Eric (Julie) Loercher and Justin Loercher; and nine great-grandchildren, Dylan and Morgan Chaudoin, Maddy and Kenzie Timm, and Oliver, Eden, Jaden, Rylee and Avery Loercher.

She was preceded in death by one son, Gary Chaudoin; one sister, Ruth Adams; and two brothers, Monroe and Charles Graham.

Mary was a member of the Atlanta United Methodist Church and Atlanta Women's Club.

Mary's family thanks the staff at Christian Village for the wonderful care given to her.

Memorials may be made to the Atlanta United Methodist Church or Christian Village of Lincoln.

Final arrangements are entrusted with Quiram-Peasley Funeral Home of Atlanta.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 5, 2013

Florence Wiltz Ruble Klockenga

LINCOLN, IL - Florence Marie Wiltz Ruble Klockenga, 99, passed away Monday, Nov. 4, 2013, at The Christian Village in Lincoln.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church in Lincoln with the Rev. Thomas Taylor, Celebrant.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church.

Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery in Lincoln.

Florence Marie Wiltz was born July 31, 1914, in Peoria, Ill., the daughter of Arnold and Marie (Wedmire) Wiltz. She married Earl Ruble on Dec. 2, 1944, in Peoria. He passed away on March 9, 1982. She then married George F. Klockenga on Nov. 24, 1983, in Lincoln, Ill. He died on May 13, 2005, after 22 years of marriage.

Surviving are one daughter, Gay Ruble (John) Bowen; two granddaughters, Jennifer (Ryan) Keith of Lincoln, and Julie (Kris) Atwood of St. Joseph, Ill.; six great-grandchildren: Gracelyn and Emersyn Keith of Lincoln, and Madison, McGwire, McKenzie and Miles Atwood of St. Joseph; son-in-law, Dick Stapleton of Bartonville; three sisters: Mary Wiltz Barron of Colorado, Sr. Estelle Wiltz, OP, of Sinsinawa, Wis., and Anne (Joseph) Mais Phoenix, Ariz.; one brother-in-law of Sun City West, Ariz.; and two sisters-in-law, Rosemary and Ruth Wiltz of Peoria.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a daughter, Mary Ruble Stapleton; four brothers: William, Robert, George and Arnold Wiltz, Jr.; two sisters, Coumba Shedlock and Angela Mattingly; and a granddaughter, Kristi Piatckek.

Florence had been a floral designer in Peoria, and was a cake decorator at Ey's Bakery in Lincoln. She retired from Lincoln Developmental Center in 1978 after several years as a Supervisor in the Clothing Department. She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church and past president of the Daughters of Isabella and the Alter & Rosary Society .

Memorials may be made to Carroll Catholic School.

Peasley Funeral Home in Lincoln is in charge of arrangements.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 6, 2013

Thomas F. Musick III

LINCOLN, IL - Thomas F. Musick III, 92, passed away Friday, Oct. 4, 2013, in Lincoln.

Thomas was born Oct. 30, 1920, in Lincoln, the son of John and Helen Mathein Musick.

Private graveside service and interment will be at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lincoln, Ill.

The family of Thomas F. Musick III is being served by Kirlin-Egan & Butler Funeral Home, 900 S. 6th St., Springfield. Please visit butlerfuneralhomes.com to offer your condolences.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 6, 2013

Harold V. Turley

BENSON, AZ - Harold V. Turley passed away in his sleep on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2013, at his home in Benson, Ariz.

Harold was born July 29, 1932, and raised in Lincoln, Ill., to the parents of Ora and Ora Clemmons Turley.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Henry; a sister, Mary Elizabeth; and his first wife, Marlene Jackson Turley.

Harold is survived by his second wife, Betty Turley; his children from his first marriage: Mike (Ann), Debra, Pamela (Craig), and Russell; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brothers, Harrison (Nola) and Charles (Fern); sister-in-law, Lill Duncan; brother-in-law, Rip (Ruth) Hobson; several nieces and nephews.

Harold and his family lived in Phoenix, Ariz., then throughout Arizona. He made a living as a electrician. He was a die-hard St. Louis Cardinal fan.

Harold strongly believed in right and wrong and treating others with respect. He was always ready with a helping hand to anyone who crossed his path.

He loved his wife, children and family with all his heart. Harold was the greatest man that you would ever want to know. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 6, 2013

Anna M. French

DECATUR, IL - Anna M. French, 98, formerly of Lincoln, Ill., died at 2 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013, at Heartland Health Care Center in Decatur.

Anna was born Oct. 16, 1915, in Springfield, Ill., the daughter of William and Anna Nistahl Stach. She married Cletus O. French on Sept. 21, 1940, in Springfield, Ill. He preceded her in death on Jan. 21, 1974.

Anna is survived by two daughters, Betty Deverman of Bloomington and Bonnie (Mike) Tish of Decatur; one stepdaughter, Gayle Lessen of Lincoln; one sister, Freida Maloney of Springfield; six grandchildren; four step grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one son, William; daughter, Connie Fulscher; three brothers and two sisters.

Anna was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lincoln and was a retired lunchroom coordinator for District 27 schools.

Services for Anna will be 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013, at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln with Rev. Dan Stalker officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will be in New Union Cemetery in Lincoln.

Memorials may be given to Immanuel Lutheran Church or Heartland Health Care Center for the Activity Center.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 7, 2013

Thomas Charles Krepel III

BUFFALO, IL - Thomas Charles Krepel III, 70, passed away Monday, Nov. 4, 2013, at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Ill.

Tom was born Jan. 28, 1943, in Alton, the son of Thomas Charles and Ruth Mary Smith Krepel II. He married Linda L. Beck on Jan. 21, 1967.

He was a member of the Illiopolis Christian Church and owned and operated Tom's Auto Supply in Illiopolis for 31 years.

He was a member of the N.R.A., N.W.T.F., Ducks Unlimited, and White Tails Unlimited. Tom was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. He enjoyed every minute spent with his four beloved grandsons.

There was no greater love than that between Tom and Linda. They had 46 years of happiness together.

He is survived by his wife Linda; two daughters, Tara Davis of Mt. Pulaski and Kimberly Hepperly (Scott) of Springfield; four grandsons: Lane, Wade, Jack and Reid; two brothers, Dennis Krepel (Marsha) of Springfield and Ron Krepel (Regina) of Moorpark, Calif.; and nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013, from 4-7 p.m. at the Illiopolis Christian Church. Funeral services will be Friday, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. at the church, the Rev. Melissa Ebken officiating, with burial at Rochester Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the [American Diabetes Association](#) .

Fullenwider-Park Funeral Home in Illiopolis is serving the Krepel Family. Please visit our online obituaries at

fullenwider-park

funeralhome.com

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 7, 2013

Mary Lois Laun

LINCOLN, IL - Mary Lois Laun, 90, died at 4:36 a.m., Nov. 8, 2013, at The Christian Village in Lincoln.

Mary was born Oct. 12, 1923, in Logan County, daughter of George W. and Marie Seefeldt Laun.

She is survived by sisters, Maxine Laun and Betty Litwiller, and brother, George J. (Sara) Laun, all of Lincoln; seven nieces and nephews, and 11 great-nieces and -nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Dorothy Laun; brother-in-law, Carol "Sonny" Litwiller; and nephew, Neil Litwiller.

Mary retired as a legal secretary in 1997. She attended Hartsburg United Methodist Church.

Services for Mary will be Monday, Nov. 11, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. with a visitation one hour prior to the service at Hartsburg United Methodist Church. Rev. Tami Werschey-Kessinger and Ryan Edgecombe will officiate. Cremation will follow services; burial will be at a later date at Hartsburg Union Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#) or Hartsburg United Methodist Church.

Arrangements were entrusted to Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln.

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Louis G. Ellegood

DECATUR, IL - Louis G. Ellegood, 84, formerly of Middletown, Ill., passed away Tuesday evening, Nov. 12, 2013, at McKinley Court in Decatur.

Funeral services for Mr. Ellegood will be held at the Peasley Funeral Home in Lincoln on Friday, Nov. 15, 2013, at 10:30 a.m.

Visitation will be held Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013, from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Harmony Cemetery in rural Beason. Military rites will be accorded.

Louis G. Ellegood was born May 12, 1929, in Middletown, the son of William A. and Lela Johnson Ellegood. He married Doris Ketcham on Sept. 23, 1952, in Carlinville. She survives in Decatur.

Louis is also survived by his children, Shannon (Rick) Jones of Lincoln and Shelly (Max) Klinger of Clinton; seven grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one son, Randy Ellegood; five brothers and three sisters.

Louis served our country in the U.S. Army during the [Korean Conflict](#). He retired from Caterpillar Inc. in 1990. He was a member of the Middletown American Legion Post, Historical Society in Middletown and served on the New Holland-Middletown School Board.

Memorials may be made to New Holland-Middletown Schools.

Final arrangements were entrusted with Peasley Funeral Home in Lincoln.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 14, 2013

Pat Fry

LINCOLN, IL - Pat Fry, 63, passed away at his home on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013.

A visitation is scheduled for Friday evening from 5-7 p.m. at the Peasley Funeral Home in Lincoln.

No services are scheduled. Cremation rites have been accorded.

Byron Patrick Fry was born Jan. 8, 1950, in Hammond, Ind., the son of Bryon K. and Mildred A. Hickey Fry. He married Marsha Lohrenz on March 12, 1969.

Surviving Pat are his twin sons: Kevin (Dawn) Fry and Kerry (Tina) Fry; one sister, Kathy (Brian) Diamond; one brother, Ray (Katie) Fry; six grandchildren: Haley Fry, K.J. Fry, Kyle Fry, Codie Cheatham, Patrick Fry, and Brandon Fry; and two great-grandchildren, Daiton Cheatham and Bentley Cheatham.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Ann K. Mardis; three brothers: Mike, Jay, and Mark; and his companion of many years, Sheron Ramlow.

Pat graduated from Lincoln Community High School in 1968. He was a member of the Lincoln Sportsman Club.

Memorials may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation or to his family.

Final arrangements are entrusted with Peasley Funeral Home of Lincoln.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 14, 2013

John F. Cassens

LINCOLN - John F. Cassens, 89, of Lincoln, passed away on Friday, November 15, 2013, at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Lincoln, Ill. John was born August 28, 1924, to Lee and Hattie (Lucht) Cassens in Tallula, Ill., where they raised three children on their rural family farm. After graduation John served in the U.S. Army during [WWII](#) and the [Korean Conflict](#). He returned from military duty to farm his parents' farm. He continued farming in Tallula until 1971 when he moved his family to a Logan County farm he purchased in rural Lincoln. He continued farming until 1988 when he retired and moved into Lincoln. John was fortunate to spend his entire life doing what he loved most--farming.

John is survived by his wife of 26 years, Marion Cassens of Lincoln; daughters, Sherry (Gary) Reed, Jefferson, Iowa, and Janet Younker, Howe, Texas; 18 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and brother-in-law, Carl Theilen. He is preceded in death by his parents, brother, Raymond (Dorothy) Cassens, and his sister, Rosalie Theilen.

John was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Lincoln, Ill., and was an avid St. Louis Cardinal fan. He also enjoyed visiting with friends and family.

Graveside services will be held Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at 11 a.m. in Rose Hill Cemetery with the Rev. Jan Johnson officiating. Visitation will be one hour before the service at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. John's United Church of Christ in Lincoln. To express online condolences to the family please visit www.hurleyfh.com.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg assisted the family with arrangements.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 18, 2013

Richard W.

Lawson

BLOOMINGTON, IN - Richard W. Lawson, 85, went to be with the Lord on Friday, Nov. 15, 2013, at Bell Trace Health and Living Center in Bloomington, Ind.

He was born Oct. 5, 1928. An Associate Professor Emeritus at [Indiana University](#) Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department, he retired in 1992 after 37 years of teaching. He received an Associate's degree from North Park College, Chicago, Ill. (1949), and Bachelor's (1951), Master's (1954), and PhD (1970) degrees in Park and Recreation Administration from Indiana University School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation in Bloomington, Ind. His primary teaching responsibilities were in the area of administration, philosophy, and programming. He was known as a pioneer in the analysis of fees and charges for public park and recreation services as well as an advocate for continuing education for park and recreation practitioners in the field. Prior to becoming a member of the HPER faculty at Indiana University, he served as Rural Youth Extension Specialist at the [University of Illinois](#), Director of Parks and Recreation at Evergreen Park, Ill., and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation in Amarillo, Texas.

He served for 25 years as Director of Indiana University Great Lakes Park Training Institute. The Institute is a premier model of how a university can share its research with professionals in the field.

He was a Distinguished Life Member of the Indiana Park and Recreation Association, after serving for many years as executive secretary of the organization. He was a 50+ year member of Indiana University I-Men's Association, Past President of the Indiana University Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, and a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Lawson; daughters, Nancy Giebel (Don) and Susan Shanel (William); grandchildren, Ashley and Will Shanel; sisters-in-law: Colette Lawson of Fairfield Bay, Ark., Marian Reinhart of Beason, Ill., Myrna Wilson of Beason, Ill, and Marilyn Wilson of Washington, Ill.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Miriam Lawson, and his brother, Alan.

Private graveside services will be held at Harmony Cemetery in Beason, Ill.

Memorials may be given in his memory to IU Health Bloomington Hospice, P.O. Box 1149, Bloomington, IN 47402.

Services are entrusted to Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln, Ill.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 18, 2013

LaVara Elizabeth Leonard Moore

LINCOLN, IL - LaVara Elizabeth Leonard Moore, 104, passed away at 8:05 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013, at St. Clara's Manor in Lincoln.

LaVara was born Jan. 9, 1909, in Atlanta, Ill., daughter of Berte and Ethel Green Leonard. She married Carl B. Moore on Aug. 3, 1939, in Grand Haven, Mich. He preceded her in death on May 1, 1960.

LaVara was a grade school [teacher](#) for 38 years. She was a member of The United Methodist Church in Lincoln, Methodist Women, Illinois Retired Teacher Association, Book Club, and the Philanthropic Education Organization.

She is survived by one son, Charles L. Moore of San Diego, Calif.; two grandchildren, Jacqueline Roecker of Naples, Fla., and Richard Roecker of Chicago, Ill.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers, and daughter, Margaret.

Services for LaVara will be 10 a.m., Friday, Nov. 22, 2013, at the First United Methodist Church of Lincoln with Rev. Roger David officiating. A burial at Zion Cemetery will follow the service.

Memorials may be given to the Chaddock Children Foundation. Services.

Services were entrusted to Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 19, 2013

Jeffrey G. Hilscher

Jeffrey G. Hilscher, 52, of Springfield, died at 3:17 pm, Monday, November 18, 2013 at St. John's Hospital. He was born February 9, 1961 in Lincoln, IL to Donald and Carol V. Yeates Hilscher, Sr.

Survivors include his lifelong partner, Amber Horrighs of Springfield; two daughters, Kaelynn Horrighs and Makinzie Hilscher both of Springfield; three sons, Christopher, Patrick and Cortland Hilscher all of Springfield; mother, Carol Hilscher of Lincoln; three brothers, Donald L. Hilscher, Jr. of Lincoln, Jerry E. (Wanda) Hilscher of Modesto, CA and Daniel Hilscher of Bloomington and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father and one infant son, Jeffrey Scott Hilscher.

Jeffrey was a US [Army](#) veteran serving from 1981 – 1985. He was a collector of Hot Wheels and older toys. He enjoyed working on his 1975 Laguna.

Jeff worked at St. John's Hospital as a controller for the past ten years.

Visitation: 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 21, 2013 at Staab Funeral Home.

Graveside Service: 10 a.m., Friday, November 22, 2013 at Camp Butler National Cemetery where Sangamon County Interveterans Burial Detail will conduct military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family of Jeffry Hilscher.

Share stories, pictures, Facebook and Twitter at:

StaabObituary.com

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 20, 2013

Frances Ann (Kocman) Sabo

Johnston, IA- Frances Ann (Kocman) Sabo, 61, passed away on November 18, 2013 in Iowa City, Iowa. She will always be remembered for her loving, kind and gentle spirit as well as her love for family and friends.

Frances was born November 12, 1952 in Hammond, Indiana. She attended [Indiana University](#) in Bloomington, Indiana and in 1973 moved to Lincoln, Illinois and raised a family of two cherished girls, Alicia and Abbey.

Growing up in Hammond, Indiana the Kocman children all played flute, studying with their father, Frank. During her youth Frances performed in bands and sang in many choirs. During her adult life she worked at Lehn & Fink, Economy Fire and Casualty Insurance Co., and the State of Illinois Child Support and All Kids.

Above all else, Frances devoted her time and efforts to her two daughters, Alicia and Abbey, trying to give them an understanding of life that would always be true and beautiful. She was thrilled with their success in life and was even happier when two grandchildren, Henry and Mira Clevenger, were born and became a part of her life.

Frances moved to Springfield, Illinois in 2002, eventually purchasing a beautiful home, making it even more beautiful with her talents of decorating and gardening. She moved to Des Moines, Iowa, in 2012 to be close to her wonderful grandchildren.

Frances will be lovingly remembered by her two daughters, Alicia Clevenger (Jason) and Abbey Sabo; two special grandchildren, Henry and Mira Clevenger; brothers, Martin Kocman (Janie) and Jan Kocman (Caitlin). She will be greatly missed by her many friends and colleagues from Lincoln and Springfield, Illinois and Johnston, Iowa. Frances was preceded in death by her loving parents, Frank and Anna Kocman.

Memorials may be made to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2013 at West Side Christian Church, 2850 Cider Mill Lane in Springfield, IL 62702. Friends may visit with the family prior to the service from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

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Carol Jean

Hembreiker Leimbach

CHESTNUT - Carol Jean Hembreiker Leimbach, 74, of Chestnut, Ill., passed away at 11:05 a.m., November 21, 2013, at Christian Village, Lincoln, Ill.

Carol was born on December 24, 1938, in Lincoln, Ill., the daughter of Everett and Mildred Sparks Hembreiker. She married Darrell E. Leimbach May 4, 1957, in Lincoln, Ill. He preceded her in death July 5, 2012.

Carol is survived by one daughter, Valerie (George) Davis of Lincoln; two grandchildren, Jason Lee of Lincoln and Ashley Lee of Noblesville, Ind.; and two great-grandchildren, Mason Lee and Cayden Cruz. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and one son, Gregory.

Carol was a homemaker and also manager of the Hub Clothing Store in downtown Lincoln. She was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church of Chestnut.

A private graveside service will be held at Mt. Pulaski Cemetery at a later date. There are no services at this time. Memorials may be given to Memorial Home Hospice. Arrangements were entrusted to Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home, Lincoln.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 22, 2013

Mary F. Musgrove

LINCOLN, IL - Mary F. Musgrove, 86, passed away Nov. 21, 2013, at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Ill.

Visitation will be 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Monday, Nov. 25, 2013, at Holland Barry & Bennett Funeral Home. Funeral services will begin on Monday at 1 p.m., Pastor Wallace Reifsteck officiating. Burial will follow in Irish Grove Cemetery in Middletown, Ill.

Mary was born Dec. 27, 1926, in Lincoln, Ill., the daughter of Frank and Ruth (Boyer) Fulscher. She married Robert E. Musgrove. He preceded her in death in 1969.

She was the owner of Mary's Cafe in Lincoln for 34½ years. Mary was a member of Lincoln Christian Church and the Lincoln, Ill., Eagles Lodge where she loved to play Bingo.

Surviving are her children: Robby Musgrove of Lincoln, Ill., and Robin McKinkey of Dallas, Ga.; two grandchildren, Nicole Heater and Wesley Sparks both of Lincoln, Ill.; great-grandchildren, Greyson and Gentry Heater both of Lincoln, Ill.; and her sister, Doris Morris of Chestnut, Ill.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and three brothers.

Memorials may be made to the Logan County Food Pantry and will be accepted at the funeral home.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 23, 2013

Ferd B. Decker

NORMAL, IL - Ferd B. Decker, 74, formerly of Atlanta, passed away Friday, Nov. 22, 2013, at Advocated BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Normal.

A Memorial Service for Mr. Decker will be held 11 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2013, at the Quiram Peasley Funeral Home with Mr. Norman Decker and Mr. Bill Decker officiating.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until time of service on Tuesday at the funeral home.

Surviving are his wife, Dixie; daughters: Janet (Darrell) Crutchley, Angela (Darrell) Beehn and Dawn (Jeff) Hayashida; one brother; one sister; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Atlanta Rescue Squad.

Published in The Lincoln Courier on Nov. 25, 2013

Thomas C. Leith

LINCOLN, IL - Thomas C. Leith, 68, passed away at 4:55 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Ill.

Tom was born Jan. 10, 1945, in Lincoln, son of Courtland and Rosemary Sheley Leith. He was united in marriage to Myrna Hobbs on Aug. 31, 1975, in Funks Grove, Ill. She survives in Lincoln.

Other survivors include his son, Thomas Eric (Kathlene) Leith of Blue Springs, Mo., with grandchildren, Noah and Henry; daughter: Stacey (Michael) Kabiri of Hilton Head, S.C., with grandchildren, Nicholas and Kelsey; stepsons: Toby (Diane) Pleasant of Decatur, Ill., with grandchildren, Abby Sprague, Blake Pleasant, Dayne Pleasant and Terra Rasmussen, and Timothy (Kelly) Pleasant of Bradenton, Fla., with grandchildren, Karlie Esler, Darcie Pleasant and Tad Pleasant; sisters, Darlene Guy of Lincoln and Roseanne Jackson of Tampa, Fla.; two great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents and his parents.

Tom proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the [Vietnam War](#). Tom was the owner of Leith Construction Inc. He was a member of the Lincoln Jaycee's and the [Elks Lodge](#).

Services for Thomas will be held at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013, at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln. A visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 26 also at the funeral home. Burial will follow the service at Zion Cemetery in Lincoln with military rites being accorded by the Lincoln American Legion Post #263.

Memorials may be made to the Logan County Humane Society or to the [American Cancer Society](#) .

A luncheon will follow the cemetery services and the family wishes for those who will be attending to call 217-737-8392.

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Mary Frances Sutton

MT. PULASKI - Mary Frances Sutton, 91, of Mt. Pulaski, formerly of Lake Fork, passed away at 5:32 p.m. on Friday, November 15, 2013, in Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

Mary Frances was born on March 27, 1922, in Lake Fork, Ill., daughter of Harley Saul and Mary Ellen Malone Coats. She married William Leon Sutton in 1944 in Springfield, Ill.; he preceded her in death on December 20, 1989. She was a member of Lake Fork Christian Church for 62 years, Mt. Pulaski Women's Club, and Christian Nursing Home Auxiliary. She was a much loved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Mary Frances was also a homemaker who baked wonderful pies and apple dumplings.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl (Bob) McCue of Mt Pulaski, Ill., six grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, son, Larry, and a great-granddaughter, Marie McCue.

Services for Mary Frances will be 10 a.m., Saturday, November 30, 2013, at The Lake Fork Christian Church with Pastor James Morrell officiating. Visitation will be from 9-10 a.m., Saturday, November 30, 2013, prior to services. A burial will be at Camp Butler National Cemetery at a later date. Memorials may be given to the Lake Fork Christian Church, Lake Fork Community Center, or Mt. Pulaski Library. Services are entrusted to Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Mt. Pulaski, Ill.

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Mary M. "Margie" Watson

LINCOLN, IL - Mary M. "Margie" Watson, 60, died at 10:10 a.m., Nov. 24, 2013, at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Lincoln.

Margie was born Jan. 13, 1953, in Indianapolis, Ind., the daughter of Hubert and Bonnie Davis Estep.

Margie is survived by two children, Joseph (Lisa) Skelton of North Carolina and Cheyenne Skelton of Springfield; two grandchildren, Ariel and Tru Skelton of North Carolina; three sisters: Sandy Graber and Linda (Stephen) Baker of Lincoln, and Ann Kramer of Florida.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Larry.

Margie's wishes were to be cremated and no services to be held.

Memorials may be given to the family.

Arrangements were entrusted to Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln.

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Elisabeth Louise (Stolz) Miller

WOODLAND HILLS, CA – Elisabeth "Libby" (Stolz) Miller, 69, passed away Nov. 6, 2013, at her daughter's home in Los Angeles, Calif.

Libby was born Nov. 11, 1943, in Lincoln, Ill., the youngest of four children, to Bernadine Pfeiffer Stolz and Thomas Ernest Stolz.

She graduated from both Lincoln High School and The [University of Illinois](#) at Urbana-Champaign, where she played on both the women's golf and basketball teams. Following her college graduation Libby moved west to Southern California where she became a physical education teacher for more than 35 years with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Libby married Jack Carl Miller on June 16, 1967, and nothing brought her greater joy than raising her three children, Katie, Amy and Pete. The Miller Family enjoyed many adventures together and Libby was a constant fixture at her children's school and sports events. She enjoyed coaching, traveling and sharing in the lives of her family, friends and colleagues. Above all else, Grandma Libby loved spending time with her four grandchildren and their numerous friends and families at all of their functions and activities. She could not have been more present in their lives!

Throughout her life Libby maintained special relationships with her friends from high school, sorority sisters and colleagues from teaching. She was adored by many and was always known to have put others needs ahead of her own. Libby was a spectacular athlete, funny, kind, clever, and lived a wonderful life. She will always be remembered and missed dearly.

Libby is survived by her husband of 46 years, Jack; her three children: Katie Lewis (Rick), Amy Geer (Cam) and Pete Miller; four grandchildren: Carter, Wyatt and Campbell Lewis and Abbot Geer; two sisters, Annette Seibert and Mary Schramer; one brother, Thomas "Tinker" Stolz; as well as many nephews and nieces.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Bernadine, and father, Thomas.

A Memorial Mass was held Nov. 11, 2013, in Los Angeles at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church followed by a celebration of her life on what would have been Libby's 70th birthday.

Memorials may be given in Elisabeth "Libby" Miller's honor to The John Wayne Cancer Institute, online at St. John's Health Center at www.newsaintjohns.org/Oncology/JWCI/How_To_Help/Make_a_Gift.aspx# or by phone directly to the Institute at 310-315-6111, ask for Mandi or Shelby.

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