

Jack Mayberry

ATLANTA, IL - Jack Mayberry, 84, of Atlanta died at 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014, at Heartland Health Care in Normal.

Funeral services for Mr. Mayberry will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, at Quiram-Peasley Funeral Home in Atlanta. Mr. Andy Glass will officiate.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014, at the funeral home.

Burial will be at Atlanta Cemetery.

Leo Jackson Mayberry was born July 30, 1930, in Eminence Township, rural Atlanta, to Roy and Edith McCrea Mayberry. He married Geneva Gordon on Nov. 3, 1950, in McLean. She preceded him in death on July 6, 2007.

Surviving Mr. Mayberry are his children: Judy (Dennis) Colaw, Ron (Mary) Mayberry, Diann (Dean) Langley and Mike (Thao) Mayberry, all of Atlanta; grandchildren: Kristie Israel, Scott Colaw, Stacey Pourchot, Brian Mayberry, Rodney Langley, Michele Brown, Chase Mayberry and Emily Mayberry; great-grandchildren: Ryan, Trevor, Zach, Vince, Blaine, Jacob, Wes, Allyxandrea, Cohnor, Avarie, Dylan, Laurynn, Emmett and William; and one great-great-grandchild, Laynie.

Jack was preceded in death by brothers: Jim, Bob and William; and sisters: Helen and Ruth.

Jack was a graduate of Atlanta High School. He retired from Caterpillar after 30 years of employment and was a member of UAW #974. Jack had served on the Atlanta Township Board and city planning commission. Following his retirement, Jack worked part-time for road commissioners, Melvin Chaudoin contracting, Tommy Young HG&N and Joel Farms.

Memorials may be made to: Atlanta Rescue Squad or Atlanta Fire Department.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 1 to Nov. 3, 2014

Marjorie J. "Clare" Reiners

LINCOLN, IL - Marjorie J. "Clare" Reiners, 92, of Lincoln, formerly of Emden, passed away at 9:14 p.m., Oct. 30, 2014, at The Christian Village in Lincoln.

Marjorie was born Dec. 26, 1921, in Lincoln, Ill. Marjorie was raised in the New Holland area by C.C. and Mabel Been. She married Earl H. Reiners on Sept. 27, 1941, in Emden, Ill. Earl preceded her in death on Oct. 13, 1996.

Marjorie is survived by one son, Larry (Judy) Reiners of Tulsa, Okla.; two daughters, Jeanne Reiners (Gerry) Rudolph of Mt. Washington, Ky., and Debra Zelnio of Tucson, Ariz.; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Linda (Rich) Reed of Rockwall, Texas and Jo (Ben) Broughton of Hannibal, Mo.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son, Robert; a grandchild; one sister and one brother.

Marjorie was a retired teacher of Lincoln Elementary School District having taught at Washington-Monroe School. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Lincoln, the Oasis, and the Emden American Legion Auxiliary.

Services for Marjorie will be at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014, at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln with the Rev. Michael Paulsen officiating. Burial will be at Hartsburg Union Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Monday evening at the funeral home.

Memorials may be given in her name to: First United Methodist Church of Lincoln or Oasis Senior Center.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 1 to Nov. 3, 2014

Linda A. Sheley

LINCOLN, IL - Linda A. Sheley, 74, of Lincoln passed away at 7:50 p.m. on Thursday evening, Oct. 30, 2014, at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lincoln.

A Memorial Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday at the Zion Lutheran Church with the Rev. Mark Thompson officiating.

No visitation is scheduled.

Linda Ann Sheley was born Jan. 26, 1940, in Lincoln, the daughter of George and Margaret Ann Starchevich.

She was united in marriage to Robert Dale Sheley on Oct. 4, 1958, in Lincoln. He survives.

Also surviving are her three sons: Doug (Pam) Sheley, Brad (Angie) Sheley, and Greg (Cindy) Sheley; and eight grandchildren: Isaac (Jennifer), Emily, Grace, Hannah, Cole, Halle, Garrett, Summer.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Richard Starchevich; and one sister, Nancy Starchevich.

Linda was a member of Zion Lutheran Church.

She has been co-owner of the Sheley Repair Shop for 35 years.

Memorials may be made to: Zion Lutheran School or Carroll Catholic School.

Peasley Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 1 to Nov. 3, 2014

John R. Belcher

MASON CITY, IL - John R. Belcher, 77, passed away Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014, at his residence in Mason City.

He was born April 18, 1937, in Lincoln, Ill., the son of Theadore and Minnie (Linkner) Belcher. He married Lynette Aston on March 17, 1979, in Mason City, Ill., and she survives.

John is survived by four children: Larry Wagner of Mason City, Kelly (Rory) Tucker of Mason City, Jeff (Brenda) Belcher of Mason City and Daniel Sims of Springfield. Also surviving are six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, three sisters and one grandson.

John was a member of the Mason City Community Chapel. He was an Operating Engineer for the State of Illinois. He was a member of the NMRLA. He spent many hours volunteering at Pets Without Parents and at New Salem State Park. He was a Traditional Luthier, and he built and flew RC model aircraft. He enjoyed attending, and was a member of, the Wednesday Night Middletown Black Powder Gun Makers Group.

Cremation rites will be accorded and a memorial service for John will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8, at Mason City Community Chapel. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service beginning at 10 a.m. Pastor Curt McCallister will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Mason City Community Chapel or Pets Without Parents.

Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City, Ill., is assisting the family with arrangements.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 4 to Nov. 5, 2014

William R. Wheeler,

Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.)

SPRINGFIELD - William Rodger Wheeler, 79, died Nov. 3, 2014, at his residence in Springfield following an extended illness.

He was born in Lincoln, Ill., on Aug. 14, 1935, to William Roger and Mary Elizabeth (Kenning) Wheeler. He married Sandra Josephine Dehner on Aug. 21, 1958, a loving and rambunctious union that lasted 56 years. Together they had five children: William Lee (Wendy Mettler), Mary Elizabeth "Liz", Kimberly Ann (Douglas) Euers, Bradley Michael (Tammy Hill), and Mona Lynn "Missi" (John) Whittington.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Thomas R. Wheeler; brother-in-law, Hubert C. Smith; and his parents-in-law, Frederick V. and Mona (Lutz) Dehner.

He is survived by his wife; children; sister, Betty Jo (Wheeler) Smith; brother, Paul "Rick" (Gloria) Meyer; and grandchildren: Seth William Wheeler, Emily Ann Wheeler, Allison Catherine Wheeler, Madeleine Anita Whittington and William Rodger Francis Whittington.

Bill began his career in media sales at The Lincoln Courier in his hometown of Lincoln, Ill., in 1958. An expert swimmer holding Red Cross certifications of Senior Life Guard and Water Safety Instructor, he was shortly thereafter hired by the Mt. Pulaski Park District to manage their swimming pool and skating rink during which time he taught swimming classes for grade school children.

He returned to media sales at WDC Radio in Decatur and subsequently moved to Springfield with his family to become one of the first salesmen to offer the new WTAX FM station (now WDBR) to sponsors. He continued his involvement with swimming and coaching as diving coach at Illini Country Club and at the YWCA. He additionally used his swimming talents by volunteering as a charter member of the Springfield Underwater Search and Rescue Team.

His reputation as a successful salesman led the owners of a new station being developed for the Springfield market to hire him as the first General Manager of the first country and western FM radio station in Illinois: WFMB FM. Under his management, this station successfully hit the airways in 1965 and continues today.

When WPRC, Lincoln's only radio station, came up for sale, he took the opportunity to move into radio station ownership. He later returned to Springfield and joined Midwest Family stations specifically to assist in the revival of WNNS. While there he sold and managed their Sports Shows at the Convention Center, retiring after 44 years in the industry.

Bill was actively involved in charitable volunteer efforts in Springfield. He was named to the Board of Directors of the Illinois Veterans [World War II](#) Memorial in the development stages. As Public Relations Director he worked with the media and throughout the community to raise awareness for its successful completion. For his efforts, the Board of Directors honored him with an American flag flown over the Memorial. It was then presented to him in May of 2013 at a ceremony held at the Memorial.

Always an Abraham Lincoln buff, Bill was one of the first volunteers for the Abraham Lincoln Museum and Library, an effort which he thoroughly enjoyed and for which was asked many times to privately guide family and friends throughout the museum.

When his wife, Sandy, became the Executive Director of the LPGA golf tournament in 1979, he and their children jumped on board and did just about any and everything to help her attain her goals in presenting successful events. He hauled trash, he was a walking scorer, filled in wherever needed...and financially supported the event by playing in the pro ams. He became the voice of the tournament which lasted many years as he monitored the seven radio channels needed to keep things running smoothly.

Bill served his country for over 35 years. He began his military career on April 4, 1957, as a member of Battery "B", 754th Field Artillery Battalion, U.S. [Army](#) Reserve. He advanced rapidly through the ranks of enlisted personnel, eventually accepting the position of Group Command Sergeant Major of the 303rd Ordinance Group in Springfield, Ill. In 1983, in honor of his high degree of professionalism, he was appointed to the rank of Command Sergeant Major, HQS, 86th U.S. Army Reserve Command in Chicago, Ill. As an ARCOM Command Sergeant Major, he served as an outstanding role model for soldiers of all ranks and experience throughout the United States. He completed his military service with the 687th Supply and Service Battalion in Decatur, Ill., on Aug. 14, 1995. During his career, he was awarded many commendations for distinguished and outstanding service, including the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Bill was widely known for his candor and sense of humor, which never left him during his years of decline. Devoted to family and country, generous with his time and talent, and always good for a laugh, our beloved husband, father and grandfather will continue to live through us all but will forever be missed.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7 at Staab Funeral Home in Springfield. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8 at Staab Funeral Home, followed by graveside services at approximately noon at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Lincoln, Ill., where the firing squad of the American Legion Post 263 of Lincoln will conduct military honors. A reception will follow at the Lincoln Knights of Columbus, 217 Limit St., Lincoln, IL 62656.

Memorial donations can be made to: WWII Illinois Veteran's Memorial, P.O. Box 5652, Springfield, IL 62705 or an Alzheimer's [charity of choice](#)

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Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 6 to Nov. 7, 2014

Barbara J. "Jane" Rohrer

LINCOLN, IL - Barbara J. "Jane" Rohrer, 84, of Lincoln died at 11:44 p.m. on Nov. 4, 2014, at [St. Clara's Manor](#) in Lincoln.

Jane was born Aug. 29, 1930, in New Holland, the daughter of Archibald Ely and Mildred Guiser McNeil. She married Arthur D. Rohrer on Dec. 12, 1951, in the Chapel at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill. They were married for 62 years. He survives in Lincoln.

Jane is also survived by three sons: Stephen (Susan) Rohrer, Mike (Darla) Rohrer, and Jim (Debra) Rohrer, all of Lincoln; one sister, Marjorie Spuzello of West Des Moines, Iowa; seven grandchildren: Ty (Rachel), Jennifer (Jeff) Leesman, Amy (Brent) Morgan, Douglas, Neil, Jason (Taylor) and Tayt; two great-granddaughters, Kallie Morgan and Jenna Leesman.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Virginia Becker and Sandra Willhoite.

Jane earned a B.A. in Art from MacMurray College. She and Arthur lived in Oceanside, Calif., while Arthur served in the U.S. Marine Corps. They then returned to Lincoln to begin farming. She later continued her education at Illinois State University receiving her degree in teaching. She taught one year at Broadwell and then taught at Chester-East Lincoln until retiring. She served on the Chester East Lincoln Board of Education for eight years. She was a member of the Logan DeWitt Retired Teachers Association and a charter member of Chapter JW P.E.O. She was a member of St. John United Church of Christ.

She was loving, caring, and very active in her grandchildren's lives.

At her request, there will be no public services. A private family memorial service is planned.

Memorials may be made in her name to: [St. Clara's Manor](#) or [donor's choice](#).

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 6 to Nov. 7, 2014



Joyce J. Shaffer

ATLANTA, IL - Joyce J. Shaffer, 83, of Atlanta passed away at 6:40 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014, at Illinois Knights Templar Home in Paxton.

Funeral services for Mrs. Shaffer will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8 at the [Atlanta United Methodist Church](#). The Rev. Rob Roy will officiate.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7, at Quiram-Peasley Funeral Home in Atlanta.

Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery in Waynesville.

Joyce June Steiling was born June 17, 1931, in Waynesville, the daughter of Earl and Opal Matthews Steiling. She married Charles F. Shaffer on Jan. 28, 1950. He preceded Joyce in death.

Surviving Joyce are her children, Jeffrey (Darlos) Shaffer of Paxton and Debra (Steven) Menzel of Lincoln; one sister, Marilyn Calame of Alton; six grandchildren: Chad (Jamie) Shaffer of Makanda, Rachel (Jeff) Palmer of Rantoul, Rebecca (David) Caspers of LeRoy, Matt (Elaine) Menzel of Lincoln, Natalie (Shawn) Perrone of Normal, and Brian Menzel of Lincoln; one step-granddaughter, Darcy (Tom) Meents of Paxton; nine great-grandchildren: Madison Palmer, Cora Caspers, Zach and Emma Menzel, Gage and Gavin Hutchison, Addilyn Perrone, Dreyden Pozsgai and Adriana Menzel; and four step-great-grandchildren: Zach Palmer, Jacob Moore, and Jared and Colton Eichelberger.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Sam Steiling and Harold Steiling; and two sisters, Dorothy Fletcher and Fernie Fox.

Joyce grew up in and attended schools in Waynesville. She was a graduate of Waynesville High School. In addition to being a farmer's wife, she worked through the years as gift store manager at the DIXIE Truck Stop in McLean, receptionist for Doris Real Estate in Lincoln and hostess at the Tropics restaurant in Lincoln. She was a member of the [Atlanta United Methodist Church](#).

A love of spending time with her family was balanced with her hobbies of gardening, baking, painting, crafts and writing poetry. Joyce expressed her love of music by singing in her church choir and playing the trumpet in the Atlanta Community Band.

Memorials may be made to: [Atlanta United Methodist Church](#) or an organization of the donor's choice.

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

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 6 to Nov. 7, 2014

Thomas D. Hertzfeldt

MACKINAW - Thomas D. Hertzfeldt, 65, of Lavander Creek Farm in Mackinaw died at 5:40 p.m. November 5, 2014 at BroMenn Medical Center, Bloomington, IL.

Tom was born March 15, 1949 in Lincoln, the son of Vincent L "Dutch" and Mabel I. Sotzen Hertzfeldt. He married Barbara Merrill August 12, 1968 in Lincoln. She survives in Mackinaw.

Also surviving Tom are his children: Juliana (Phil) Hertzfeldt Kaminski of Danvers, IL; Karie (Darrell) Hertzfeldt Friling of Orland Park, IL; Thomas (Tracy) Hertzfeldt II of Peoria, IL; Grandchildren: Amber, Jacob, Joshua, Nathan, and Nicholas Kaminski; Abigael , Rachel, Josie and Grace Friling; Charlie and Jaime Hertzfeldt; one brother: Jerry (Judy) Hertzfeldt; two sisters: Linda (Frank) Rickord and Barbara (Butch) Brandt. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Tom worked as a sales representative for Overhead Door Corp, East Peoria, IL. He was a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Peoria.

Services for Tom will be Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home, Lincoln with Ron Miller officiating. Visitation will be from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. prior to the service. Burial will follow the service at New Union Cemetery, Lincoln. Memorials may be given in his name to the [American Cancer Society](#)

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 7 to Nov. 8, 2014

Casey Lane Nelson

MIDDLETOWN, IL - Casey Lane Nelson, 23, passed away Nov. 4, 2014, at her home in Middletown.

Visitation will be held at noon on Monday, Nov. 10, 2014, with funeral services immediately following at 1 p.m. at Holland Barry and Bennett Funeral Home in Lincoln. Burial will take place at Irish Grove Cemetery in New Holland.

Casey was born Oct. 2, 1991, in Belleville, Ill., the daughter of Sandra Nelson.

Casey graduated from Lincoln Community High School in 2010 and attended Lincoln College. She enjoyed scary movies, reading and writing stories and poems, and spending time with her family and friends. She was a jokester and loved to play pranks. Her favorite color was pink. She loved her kitty, MJ.

Surviving are her mother, Sandra Nelson of Middletown, Ill.; her fiancé, James Massey; grandmother, Wynona Skinner, both of Middletown; uncles: Dale (Kay) Nelson of Mason City, Butch (Toy) Bibly of Park Forest, and Jack Bibly of Benton Harbor, Mich.; cousins: Dale (Lisa) Nelson of Lincoln, Ill., Jessie Nelson of Springfield, Ill., and Mike Parrish of Lincoln, Ill.; and several other cousins. She is also survived by her godmother, Tammy Rodems, and her good friend, Dana Heyen, both of Middletown, Ill.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, "Skip" Skinner.

Memorial donations may be made to Sandra Nelson and will be received at the funeral home.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 8 to Nov. 10, 2014

Virginia I. Klockenga

LINCOLN, IL - Virginia I. Klockenga, 95, of Lincoln died at 12:19 p.m. on Nov. 7, 2014, at St. Clara's Manor in Lincoln.

Virginia was born May 8, 1919, in rural Lincoln, the daughter of Elmer C. and Georgia Sparks Sheley. She married Walter G. Klockenga on June 30, 1940, in Hartsburg, Ill. He preceded her in death on Dec. 18, 1982.

Virginia is survived by three sons: David (Eunice) Klockenga of Lincoln, George (Bel) Klockenga of Akron, Ohio, and Paul (Nancy) Klockenga of Daytona Beach, Fla.; three daughters: Nancy (Jerry) Snedecor of Bondfield, Ill., Bonnie (Bob) Wintz of Elk Grove Village, Ill., and Lois (Pete) Alby of Burlington, Wis.; five brothers: Wayne Sheley, Homer Sheley, Bob Sheley and Howard (Diane) Sheley, all of Lincoln, and Jimmy (Joanie) Sheley of New Holland; two sisters, Jessie Rankin and Mildred (Marion) Maaks of Lincoln; 17 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one granddaughter; two brothers, George and Richard Sheley; two sisters, Betty Downs and Dorothy Snyder; and one great-grandson.

Virginia was a retired cook for Lincoln School District 27 and Lincoln Community High School, a homemaker and farmed with her husband. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lincoln; the Ladies Aid of the church; Farm Bureau Women's Committee and the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Services for Virginia will be at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014, at Immanuel Lutheran Church with the Rev. Candida Turner officiating. Burial will follow at Zion Cemetery in Lincoln. Visitation will be Monday evening from 4-7 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Memorials may be made in her name to: Immanuel Lutheran Church, the Oasis Senior Center, St. Clara's Manor or [Memorial Home Services](#).

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

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 10 to Nov. 11, 2014

Earl F. Ott, Jr.

FANCY PRAIRIE, IL - Earl F. Ott, Jr., 89, passed away peacefully in the morning of Sunday Nov. 9, 2014, at his home in Fancy Prairie, Ill.

Earl was born May 28, 1925, the son of Earl and Ruth Ingram Ott.

His parents and brother, Joe Ott, preceded him in death.

Surviving are his wife, Donna M. Ott; son, Randal A. (Suzanne) Ott of Drums, Pa.; daughter, Tanya E. Ott (Greg Burge) of Fancy Prairie, Ill.; two sisters, Audrey (Dean) Bryson and Helen (Howard) Burton; brother, Cecil (Myra) Ott; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Earl was skilled at carpentry. He had farmed, and was a truck driver for many years of his life. He proudly served his country under George Patton in [WWII](#). He fought in and survived "The Battle of the Bulge".

A celebration of life is planned for family and friends in the Spring of 2015.

Arrangements for a cremation Lifespan Memorial has been entrusted to Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 13 to Nov. 14, 2014

Donald L. Ragland

LINCOLN, IL - Donald L. Ragland, 74, of Lincoln passed away at 2:53 p.m. November 12, 2014 at his home surrounded by his family and his two beloved dogs.

Don was born January 19, 1940, in Sycamore, Illinois the son of Orval and Leona Freimuth Ragland. He married Bonnie Fehrmann September 24, 1960 in Nashville, IL. She preceded him in death February 3, 2008.

Don is survived by two daughters: Crystal (David) Hickey of Lincoln, Candace (Steve) Buche of Lincoln; five grandchildren: Amber, Adam, and Autumn Hickey, Zachary and Rachel Buche; three great-grandchildren: Gage, Kennedy and Zayden; one brother: Lester (Connie) Ragland of Lincoln; and one sister: Judi (Marvin) Guthrie of Sandoval, IL.

Don served in the U.S. Army from 1958-1960. He worked in manufacturing at Lehn and Fink Products, Lincoln for thirty years. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lincoln.

Services for Don will be at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, November 15, 2014, at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home, Lincoln with Rev. Candida Turner officiating. Burial will follow in Atlanta Cemetery, Atlanta, IL, with military rites accorded by the Lincoln American Legion Post #263. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be given in memory of Don to: Safe Haven Hospice or Humane Society of Logan County.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 14 to Nov. 15, 2014

Catherine B. Sloman

PAWNEE – Julia "Catherine" Bentley Sloman, 101, of rural Pawnee, Ill., entered into eternal life Nov. 11, 2014, at Wyndcrest in Rochester, Ill.

Born May 29, 1913, Catherine grew up in the Lincoln, Ill., area and graduated in 1931 as salutatorian from Lincoln Community High School. She later attended Blackburn College in Carlinville, Ill., graduating in 1937. She married Wheeler Sloman on March 9, 1941. They owned a farm south of Pawnee where Wheeler's grandparents had settled in 1878.

Catherine was preceded in death by her husband, Wheeler; her parents, Denman and Maude Russell Bentley; and brother, Russell Bentley.

She is survived by three children: Maude (Duane) Higgins of Wichita, Kan., John (Rita) Sloman of Rockville, Ky., and Rachel (Wm. Perry) Broughton of Pawnee; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

As a woman of faith, Catherine was generous with her time and talents. She taught Sunday school for more than 50 years and held active memberships in a variety of organizations.

The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. on Nov. 16, 2014, at First Baptist Church of Virden, with a memorial service to follow at 2:30 p.m. The Pastor Joseph Ferreira and Pastor John Parrish will officiate.

Catherine's body has been donated to SIU School of Medicine, and she will be buried at a later date at the Morrisonville Cemetery in Morrisonville, Ill.

The family is grateful for the loving care the Wyndcrest staff provided for the past six years.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts to honor Catherine may be directed to: Mary Bryant Home for the Blind and Visually Impaired, c/o Brandt Thomas Educational Center, 2960 Stanton St., Springfield, IL 62703.

Curry Funeral Home in Pawnee, Ill., is serving the family of Catherine Sloman. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.curryfh.com](http://www.curryfh.com).

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 15 to Nov. 17, 2014

Barbara L. Meisner Briones

LINCOLN, IL - Barbara L. Meisner Briones, 64, passed away on Friday, November 14, 2014 at 7:42 a.m. at her home of Lincoln.

Funeral services will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 17, 2014, at Peasley Funeral Home with the Rev. Larry Crawford officiating.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

Graveside services will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014, at Rose Lawn Memorial Gardens in Springfield with military rites accorded by Lincoln American Legion Post #263.

Barbara Lee Meisner Briones was born Oct. 27, 1950, in Springfield, the daughter of Robert Eugene and Virginia Alice Brandon Meisner. She was united in marriage to Frank Briones in 1986. He preceded her in death in 1999.

Surviving Barbara are her children: Lisa (Tony Hill) Snider, Ruth Walton and Ernie (Crystal Otter) Walton all of Lincoln; one sister, Nancy (Dale) Voyles of Sun City, Ariz.; brothers, Johnnie (Sue) Meisner of Forest City, Ill., and William (Carol) Meisner of Athens; nine grandchildren: Todd, Corey, Tiffany, Jordan, Kari, Dakota, Laura, Zach and Sarah; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents and one niece, Kelly Meisner.

Barbara graduated from the Buffalo Tri City High School in 1968. She served in the U.S. Army achieving the rank of Private First Class.

She had been employed as a Certified Nursing Assistant for DD Homes in Lincoln.

Memorials may be made to: Safe Haven Hospice or the [Logan County Humane Society](#).

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 17 to Nov. 18, 2014



Oscar L. Kocher

LINCOLN, IL - Oscar L. Kocher, 96, of Lincoln, passed away Friday, Nov. 14, 2014, at Christian Village in Lincoln.

A visitation will be held from 9-10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 708 W. Main St., Urbana, IL. A funeral mass will be held following the visitation at 10 a.m., with Fr. Joel Phelps officiating. Military rites will be performed by the Urbana American Legion Post 71 at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Kocher was born July 26, 1918, in Claremont, Ill., to parents Aloysius and Anna (Scheddelbauer) Kocher. He married Lucille Rennie on Oct. 8, 1949, in St. Marie, Ill. She preceded him in death on Aug. 28, 2008.

His parents, three sisters, and four brothers also preceded Oscar in death.

Survivors include children: Karen Petty (Duane) of Lincoln, Lynn McElfresh (Gary) of Dunedin, Fla., Julie Dapp (Tim) of Crofton, Md., and Kenneth Kocher (Monica), of Madison, Ga.; sisters, Irene Kappes of Tuscola and Wilmajean Geier of Newton; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Kocher served in the U.S. Army during [WWII](#). After being the 153rd person drafted, Oscar became a Flight Engineer/Top Turret Gunner on a B-17 in the Army Air Force.

After his service, Oscar worked as an air conditioning and refrigeration mechanic for the University of Illinois. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, American Legion, Pipe Fitters Union, and the Boots and Bows Square Dancing Club.

Memorial contributions may be made to: The [American Cancer Society](#) or the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 17 to Nov. 18, 2014

Marilynn J. Geskey

BLOOMINGTON, IL - Marilyn J. Geskey, 87, of Bloomington, died at 8:12 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014, at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington.

Memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, 2014, at Carmody-Flynn Funeral Home in Bloomington, where visitation will be two hours prior to services from 9-11 a.m. Cremation rites have been accorded. A private inurnment will be at McLean Cemetery in McLean, Ill.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: the [Community Cancer Center](#), 407 E. Vernon Ave., Normal, IL or First Christian Church, 401 W. Jefferson, Bloomington, IL.

To express condolences online, please visit [www.carmodyflynn.com](http://www.carmodyflynn.com).

She was born Nov. 3, 1927, in McLean, daughter of Thomas and Adeline Cornelius Swearingen.

She was preceded in death by her parents; six brothers; and two sisters.

Surviving are one daughter, Kay (Paul) O'Brien of Bloomington; two granddaughters, Emily (Jason) Stults of Elkhart, Ind., and Claire (Christopher) Lantz of Bloomington; two great-grandchildren, Izzy and Jackson Lantz of Bloomington; one sister, Ellen Carpenter of Normal. Marilyn also leaves behind two great-granddogs and two great-grandcats.

Marilynn worked at State Farm Insurance Company for many years and later worked for the Penny Saver Newspaper. After her retirement, she volunteered at the [Community Cancer Center](#) in Normal, RSVP and at Bent School as a reading tutor.

She was a member of First Christian Church in Bloomington, where she was very active and was a former deacon. She was also a member of the Red Hat Society, enjoyed playing in a local Bunco club with her daughter and was formerly active with the Community Players Theater.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 18 to Nov. 19, 2014

Eldon Leonard Hawks

LINCOLN, IL - Eldon Leonard Hawks, 92, passed away Nov. 16, 2014, at his residence in Lincoln.

A visitation will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, at Full Gospel Tabernacle in Lincoln with funeral services at 11 a.m., also at the church, with the Rev. Steve Owens officiating. Burial will follow at New Union Cemetery in Lincoln.

Eldon was born March 27, 1922, in Arnold's Park, Ill., the son of Albert Logan Hawks and Elizabeth Mary (Shoemaker) Hawks. He married Dorothy Ellen (Dennison) Smith on June 11, 1988, in Lincoln. She survives.

Also surviving are his daughters, Mary Garcia of Joliet, Ill., and Glayds (Carl) Patrick of Westmont, Ill.; his sisters-in-law, Elizabeth (David) Jackson and Jill Gardner, both of Williamsville, Ill.; a brother-in-law, Roger (Mary Joan) Dennison of Elkhart, Ill.; four grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Dennis Hawks; a daughter, Cheryl Rosson; and two sisters, Gladys and Eleanor.

Mr. Hawks was employed as a welder for [General Motors](#) for 28 years.

Memorial donations will be received at Holland Barry and Bennett Funeral Home and may be made to: Full Gospel Tabernacle.

Holland Barry and Bennett Funeral Home has been entrusted with his care.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 19 to Nov. 20, 2014

Kenneth D. "Smitty" Smith

LINCOLN, IL - Kenneth D. "Smitty" Smith, 69, passed away peacefully at his home in Lincoln surrounded by his family on Nov. 19, 2014.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21, 2014, at Holland Barry & Bennett Funeral Home in Lincoln. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. with Henry Johnson officiating. Burial will follow at New Union Cemetery in Lincoln with military rites provided by the Lincoln American Legion Post 263.

The family requests casual dress. Please honor "Smitty" by wearing your Jeff Gordon, Chicago Bears, or Chicago Cubs apparel.

Ken was born Jan. 20, 1945, in Monmouth, Ill., the son of Benjamin and Zelma (Hartman) Smith. He married Patricia Ann Lakin on July 7, 1975, in Aledo, Ill.

Mr. Smith proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam. He retired from the Illinois Dept. of Corrections as a lieutenant after 25 years and nine months of service. He was a member of the Lincoln Church of Christ, the American Legion, and the Eagles Lodge #2708. He enjoyed woodworking and loved to fish. He was a dog lover. He was an avid Jeff Gordon, Chicago Bears, and Chicago Cubs fan.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia "Pat" Smith of Lincoln, Ill.; his children: Angelique (Wayne) Verplataese of Matherville, Ill., Deidra (John) Engle of Aledo, Ill., Alicia (Jason) Miller of Matherville, Ill., Travis VanWinkle of Aledo, Ill., Andrea (Brian) Newsom of Milan, Ill., Jason (Amanda) VanWinkle of Lincoln, Ill., and Freda (Nathan) Adams of Lincoln, Ill.; 23 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sisters, Janel Joles of Florida and Connie Sur of Aledo, Ill.; and his canine companion, Smitty's Honey Babe.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Donald Dean Smith; brother, James Smith; sister, Pauline Vance; and two granddaughters.

Memorial donations will be accepted at the funeral home and may be made to: The Humane Society of Logan County or Memorial Home Hospice.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 20 to Nov. 21, 2014

Rod Malerich

LINCOLN, IL - Rod Malerich, 64, of Lincoln passed away at 8:15 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, at Peasley Funeral Home in Lincoln with the Rev. Jeffrey G. Laible officiating.

Visitation will be held 5-7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, at Peasley Funeral Home.

Burial will be at St. Mary's Cemetery in Lincoln.

Rodney Phillip Malerich was born Jan. 15, 1950, in Lincoln, the son of James Frederick and Dorothy Mae Nuckols Malerich. He married Vicki Newingham on July 5, 2002, in Lincoln. She survives.

Also surviving are his son, Christopher (Chrissy) Malerich; two daughters, Megan Marie Malerich and Mindy Lyn Malerich, all of Lincoln; two stepdaughters, Heidi (Ronnie) McGee of Chandler, Ariz., and Megan Michele Chandler of Lincoln; four grandchildren: Mario McGee, Mackenzi Chandler, Molly Malerich and Ryley Correll; and two brothers, James Edward (Karen) Malerich of Howe, Ind., and Greg Malerich of Bloomington.

Rod graduated from Lincoln Community High School and attended Illinois State University. He retired from the City of Lincoln Street and Alley Dept. after 30 years of service.

He was a member of the Eagles Lodge # 2708 and Knights of Columbus Council # 1250.

Rod's hobbies were golfing, hunting and riding his Harley Davison motorcycle with his friends.

Memorials may be made to the [charity of the donor's choice](#)

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 22 to Nov. 24, 2014

Mary A. Riggs

LINCOLN, IL - Mary A. Riggs, 76, of Lincoln, died at 8:27 p.m., Nov. 20, 2014, at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Ill.

Mary was born Nov. 13, 1938, in Prairie Township, Shelby County, Ill., the daughter of Albert and Pauline Kruger Newman. She married Chuck Riggs on May 28, 1981, and he preceded her in death on Oct. 7, 1994.

Mary is survived by two sons, David A. (Cindy) Newman of Lincoln and Brian (Denise) Leathers of California; one daughter-in-law, Tina Leathers of Kenney, Ill.; two brothers, Charles (Lena) Newman of Delavan, Ill., and Harry Newman of Tennessee; grandchildren, Megan Leathers of California and Becca Lee of Lincoln; and one great-grandchild, Liam Jones.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Jim Leathers; brothers, Kenneth Newman and Max Newman; and a sister, Dorothy Hardin.

Mary was retired from Lehn and Fink in Lincoln.

Graveside services for Mary will be at 1 p.m., Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, at New Union Cemetery with Scott Marsh officiating. Burial will be at New Union Cemetery. There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be given in her memory to: The [American Cancer Society](#)

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 22 to Nov. 24, 2014

James L. Willson

LINCOLN, IL - James L. Willson, 77, of Lincoln, Ill., and formerly of Pana, Ill., died Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Lincoln, Ill.

He was born Sept. 30, 1937, in Moweaqua, Ill., the son of Wilbur C. and Grace I (Fry) Willson. He was a graduate of Pana High School, Class of 1956, and was a member of their only untied/undefeated football team in 1955. Jim served in the U.S. [Army](#) from January 1957 to 1960, spending 26 months in Japan.

He was the owner-manager of New Green Soil Service which he opened in the 1960's. The business was sold in 1989. He went to Harbrand, Inc. in Clinton as a supervisor over several facilities, retiring in 2002. He was a member of Masonic Lodge #226 in Pana, [Elks Lodge](#) #914 in Lincoln where he served on the Board of Directors, and served on the Board of Directors for Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Assoc., Inc. from 1983–1985. He was a former member of Pana Country Club where he also served on the Board of Directors. Jim enjoyed golf, fishing, going fishing in Canada, hunting (especially rabbits), woodworking, and loved his golden retrievers. He especially loved his family and grandchildren.

James L. Willson and Norita J. Dickey were united in marriage on June 10, 1962, at the First Methodist Church in Pana.

He is survived by his wife, Norita J. Willson of Lincoln, Ill.; sons, Michael G. Willson (wife, Michele) of Williamsville, Ill., and Philip R. Willson (wife, Beth) of Mason City, Ill.; four grandchildren: Emelee and Ryan, and Logan and Brooke; sisters, Mary Vemmer (husband, Leon) of Decatur, Ill., and Nell R. Castle (husband, Herbert) of Pana, Ill.; and by his brother, Roy "Ike" Willson (wife, Margaret) of Pana, Ill.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by his brother, W. Arch Willson on Dec. 27, 2009.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 28 at McCracken-Dean Funeral Home. Elks rites will be at 7 p.m.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, at McCracken-Dean Funeral Home with Pastor Steven Palmer and the Rev. Marge Overlot officiating. Burial will be at Linwood Cemetery in Pana with graveside military rites provided by Pana Veterans Honor Guard.

Memorials may be made to: [Pana Community Hospital Foundation](#) or Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 25 to Nov. 26, 2014

Eugene L. "Gene" Miles

LINCOLN, IL - Eugene L. "Gene" Miles, 74, of Lincoln, passed away at 2:30 a.m., Nov. 24, 2014, at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Lincoln.

Gene was born Jan 28, 1940, in Pocahontas, Ill., the son of Elmer Nelson and Ida Rosina Rae Miles. He married Donna J. Geriets on Oct. 21, 1961, in Lincoln. She survives in Lincoln.

Gene is also survived by his son, Jason Miles of Chicago, Ill., and his daughter, Lisa Miles of Olympia, Wash.

He is the last of his immediate family. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, and two sisters.

Gene served in the U.S. Army. He was a well-known carpenter in the Logan County Area for over 50 years and a good friend to many. He attended Jefferson Street Christian Church in Lincoln and he is a West Lincoln Township Trustee.

Services for Gene will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, at Jefferson Street Christian Church of Lincoln. Burial will follow at New Union Cemetery in Lincoln with full military rites accorded by American Legion Post #263. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 28 at Jefferson Street Christian Church.

Memorials may be given in Gene's memory to: [American Cancer Society](#) [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#) or Jefferson Street Christian Church.

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

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 26 to Nov. 27, 2014



Anne Lee Newcomb

MCLEAN, IL - Anne Lee Newcomb, 71, of McLean, passed away at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, at her daughter's home in Atlanta.

Funeral services for Anne will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, Nov. 28, 2014, at Quiram-Peasley Funeral Home in Atlanta. Mr. Maurice Stribling will officiate.

Visitation will be held from 10-11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 28, 2014, at the funeral home.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Burial will be at McLean Cemetery at a later date.

Ann Lee Hanes was born July 12, 1943, the daughter of Donal and Mary Hoblit Hanes.

Surviving Anne are her children, Jacki (Mike) Pavlik of Atlanta and Becki Warren of Waltham, Mass.; and three grandchildren: Heather Pavlik, and Garrett and Rylie Warren.

Anne was preceded in death by her parents.

Anne was a graduate of McLean High School. She enjoyed gardening and decorating for the holidays, especially Christmas, at her home, Maple Hurst. She loved to cook and won several cooking contests and beef cookoff contests. She had worked for the Illinois Elementary School Association as a secretary.

Memorials may be made to: Atlanta Rescue Squad, Logan County Humane Society or Advocate Home Health Services in Normal.

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

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 26 to Nov. 27, 2014

Ethel Jane Boward

MIDDLETOWN, IL - Ethel Jane Boward, 86, of Middletown died at 1:50 p.m., Nov. 25, 2014, at Vonderlieth Living Center in Mt. Pulaski, Ill.

Jane was born Aug. 26, 1928, in Lincoln, Ill., daughter of August and Bess Montgomery Busch. She was united in marriage to Charles "Bill" Boward on Aug. 20, 1949, in Middletown, Ill.; he preceded her in death on Aug. 25, 2008.

Surviving Jane are her two daughters, Cinda (Jeff) Dorgan of Middletown, Ill., and Becky Kunken of Mt. Pulaski, Ill.; grandchildren: Andrew (Annie) Dorgan, Nathaniel (Sally) Dorgan, and Ryan (Rebecca) Kunken; great-grandchildren: Jenna, Hannah and Colin Dorgan.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, William Busch.

Jane was a member of Middletown Methodist Church and the Logan County Retired Teachers Association. She loved reading, needlepoint, word puzzles, and playing cards. She was an avid Cubs fan and enjoyed watching the Bears and Fighting Illini.

Services for Jane will be 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, at Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln, Ill., with Mark Weber officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to service. Burial at Irish Grove Cemetery will follow the service.

Memorials may be given to: Vonderlieth Living Center Activity Fund.

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 27 to Nov. 29, 2014

Darlene Ferguson

CENTENNIAL, CO - Darlene Ferguson, 83, of Centennial, Colo., died at 2:05 p.m. (MST) on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, at Porter Care Hospice.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ferguson will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at Quiram-Peasley Funeral Home in Atlanta, Ill. The Rev. Dayle Badman will officiate.

Visitation will be held from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at the funeral home.

Burial will be at Atlanta Cemetery.

Darlene Baker was born Jan. 27, 1931, in Atlanta, the daughter of George H. and Mildred Foote Baker. She married William E. Ferguson in Atlanta on Feb. 19, 1950. He preceded her in death in 2006.

Surviving Darlene are her children: Bill (Pam) Ferguson of White Bear Lake, Minn., Rev. Julie (Rev. Randy) Azbell of Arenzville, Ill., and Barbara (Brian) Beyer of Centennial, Colo.; 10 grandchildren: Cory Ferguson, Amanda Ferguson, Rachel Barbe, Sarah Beyer, Chris Ferguson, Gentry Ferguson, Kate Azbell, Todd Thompson, Mark Thompson, and Melody Claudius; 10 great-grandchildren: Ainsley, Wren, Ellie, Bailey, Cody, Matthew, William, Grey, Owen and Maia; and one sister, Jane (Don) Matthews of Delavan.

Darlene was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; one daughter, Janice; one son, Martin; her parents; and one sister, Dixie Pittenger.

Darlene was a graduate of Atlanta High School. She worked for many years at Dale Color in Bloomington as a photograph inspector. Darlene was an avid sports fan who followed the Atlanta Braves and enjoyed watching NCAA basketball.

Memorials may be made to: Talking Books of the National Library Service, any public library, a local hospice,

[American Diabetes Association](#)  
or Multiple Sclerosis.

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

Published in The Lincoln Courier from Nov. 27 to Nov. 29, 2014

William DeWayne Snider

BELVIDERE, IL - William DeWayne Snider, 73, of Belvidere, Ill., passed away Nov. 25, 2014.

Bill was born May 13, 1941, son of Elvis and Yvonne (Towles) Snider.

He is survived by his brothers, Joe (wife, Paula) and Mike (wife, Donna); two sons, Brent and Brian; two stepchildren, Jennifer and Matt; four grandchildren: Michael, Andrea, Jessica and Adele; and one great-grandchild, Madison.

Bill married Nancy Cartwright in October of 1961 in Springfield, Ill., (sons, Brent and Brian). He married Karen Hawver in 1987 (stepchildren, Jennifer and Matt).

Bill enjoyed life to the fullest and thru the years made many friends. Bill was an avid fan of St. Louis Cardinals baseball and going to the games with his two sons. Bill was also a fan of World of Outlaws Sprint Car Racing which he enjoyed attending with friends. Additionally he enjoyed nature with his grandchildren.

Bill served on the Belvidere Police Department from Aug. 1, 1966, retiring as a Sargent on Aug. 1, 1991. Following his retirement from the police department, he drove truck for Freedom Express Lines in Eagan, Minn. Most recently, Bill was employed by Greater Rockford Auto Auction.

Bill was very active in the community. He was responsible for getting the first lighted softball field in Belvidere at the Boone County Fairgrounds, operating from 1979-2004. He was a lifetime member of the Illinois Police Association (Division Lucky 13), Belvidere [Moose Club](#) and Belvidere [VFW](#). Bill was a past member of the Belvidere [Elks Club](#).

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, in Anderson Funeral and Cremation Service at Buck-Wheeler-Hyland Chapel, 218 W. Hurlbut Ave., Belvidere with Bill's brother, the Rev. Joseph Snider, retired, United Methodist Church, Northern Illinois Conference, officiating. Visitation will be held from 5-8 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Belvidere Cemetery.

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