

Griffith

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Entire families live in huts about the size of one bedroom of an American home. They suffer from crocodile and hippo attacks, which are usually fatal, and die daily from malaria.

Dr. Griffith, 35, describes her role in improving the medical care in Shinyanga as a “rich, rewarding experience.”

She says the African people are overtly grateful for her assistance and that’s the primary force that’s pushed her through a nearly two-year stretch where she’s often felt alone.

“People can’t fathom why or how I, a foreigner, could possibly live in a such a remote place, devoid of most modern conveniences, comforts, and most of all, other foreigners,” said Griffith, who adds she’s had time for great self-reflection. “What do you do there? I get asked that a lot. How do you live there? And if I’m honest, most foreigners probably wouldn’t last more than a couple of weeks alone in Shinyanga. There’s not exactly an expat community and ingrained social support system. And there really isn’t much to do. I’ve read a lot of books, I’ve talked to chickens, and I’ve learned to deal with all aspects and facets of myself from one emotional pendulum swing to the next.”

Dr. Griffith is nearing the end of her medical mission in Africa.

She’s decided to return to the United States where she’s taken a job with the breast oncology group at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Even after her departure, she wants her work in Africa to continue.

“I have a very interested and compassionate surgeon eager to take the baton from me, but the problem is money,” said Kayla, the daughter of Bruce and



**Pictured is an anchor photographed by Kayla Griffith.**

Sherry Griffith. “We’ve been making ends meet, but without additional funding, the effort to continue surgical and medical education in Shinyanga will come to an end, which is incredibly heartbreaking for me as I’ve done this mostly alone. It would be completely devastating for the area of Shinyanga.”

Dr. Griffith has started several fundraisers, which includes selling canvas prints of the photos she’s taken in Africa.

She’s also started a campaign called #KiliForACause. “My goal is \$50,000 and I currently have \$3,000,” she said.

Before she leaves Africa and returns to America, Griffith is going to take advantage of her unique opportunity and will be attempting a seven-day climb to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest mountain. She begins that trek this Sunday.

Seven days after her scheduled return, she’s planning to run the Kilimanjaro Marathon on March 4. “I’m trading physical labor for financial help,” she said.

Anyone interested in contributing by buying one of her canvas prints can do so at [kaylafaithgriffith.wordpress.com/canvas](http://kaylafaithgriffith.wordpress.com/canvas).

If you’d like to donate to the #KiliForACause campaign in general, the address is [kaylafaithgriffith.wordpress.com/kiliforacause](http://kaylafaithgriffith.wordpress.com/kiliforacause).

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"BLACK PANTHER"

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FRI. THRU THURS. FEB. 16 - 22

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- PG -

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HELD OVER 2ND WEEK THRU THURS., FEB. 22

"15:17 TO PARIS"

- PG13 -

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- R -

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OBITUARIES

Joe Howard Eller, 92

Mt. Juliet resident and DeKalb County native Joe Howard Eller, 92, was born April 26, 1925 and died Feb. 15 at Providence Place Assisted Living in Mt. Juliet following a three-week illness.

Retired from Coca-Cola Bottling Company and the University of Tennessee Knoxville, a United States Army veteran of World War II, and a member of the Baptist Church, he was the son of the late Charles David and Martha Kansas Puckett Eller. He was married March 19, 1949 to Loray Simons Eller, who preceded him in death Dec. 19, 2013. In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by son, Joe David Eller; grandchild, Janette Eller; brother, Ralph Eller; and sister, Ann Buckner.

He is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Vicki Eller of Mt. Juliet; two grandchildren and spouses, Michelle and Ryan Nelson of Brentwood, and Jillian and Ryan Hudson of Knoxville; three great-grandchildren, Maggie Nelson, Levi Hudson and Savannah Hudson; daughter-in-law Susan Eller of Knoxville; and several nieces and nephews also survive.

A graveside service and interment will be held at 12 p.m. (ET) Sunday, Feb. 18, at Lynnhurst Cemetery in Knoxville with military grave rites administered by the East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard. Visitation will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at High’s. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project at P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675-8517. Online condolences may be made at [www.highfuneralhome.com](http://www.highfuneralhome.com).

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Geneva Joyce “Joycey” Mullican, 76

Ms. Geneva Joyce “Joycey” Mullican, 76, of McMinnville died Tuesday, Feb. 13, at Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital in Nashville.

She was born July 9, 1941, in McMinnville, was a former employee of McMinnville Garment Company, Powermatic, Federal Mogul, and personal assistant with DNS, member of Bethel Hill Baptist Church, formerly served with the Civil Defense Corps, and was preceded in death by parents Cloy Lee “Trader” and Freda Overall Griffith Mullican, brothers Dwyane, L.B., and Sammy (Linda) Mullican, nieces Beth Mullican Ivie and Kristi Mullican, and nephew Budgie Mullican.

Survivors include her children Ronald Lee Mullican, Donna Lee Mullican Wanamaker and husband Barry, Judy Mullican Orrick and husband Jimmy, grandchildren Jacob and Penny Wanamaker, Coty, Brian, and Drew Mullican, great-grandchildren Helena, Treyton, and Hayden Mullican, brother Gary Edmond Mullican, sisters-in-law Wanda Mullican and Jean Mullican. Numerous nieces, nephews, and family members also survive.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, at McMinnville Funeral Home Chapel. Bro. Tony Burnett will officiate. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory Cemetery. The Mullican family will receive friends Friday from 2 to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the parlors of McMinnville Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at [www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com](http://www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com).

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Charles Edward Green, 70

Charles Edward Green, 70, of Spencer passed away Thursday, Feb. 8, at his home after an extended illness. He has resided in Spencer most of his life. He was a member of Spencer Church of God and a retired factory worker.

He was born Feb. 26, 1947 in Grundy County to Charlie Ray Green and Alma Gertrude King Green, who preceded him in death along with his sister, Faye Green Dukes.

He is survived by wife Carol Yvonne Bouldin Green; daughters Angie (Harvey) May, Tina (Tommy) Turner and Crystal Green, all of Spencer; brother Bobby Green of Knoxville; sisters Joyce Armstrong of Doyle, and Elsie Hall of Bon Air; grandchildren Joseph (Jessica), T.J. (Kayla) and Kimberly Turner, Allan Ray, Tim (Kayla) Kilgore and Katelain Kilgore.

Funeral service was Monday, Feb. 12, at Spencer Church of God with Bro. Jason Graham officiating with burial following at Spencer Town Cemetery.

Layne Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Spencer was in charge of arrangements.

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Joyce Eileen Southard, 65

Joyce Eileen Southard, a Christian, passed from this life to be with her Lord and family members that have gone on before her on Feb. 14, at age 65.

She was a member of Arlington Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward “Red” Powell and Cornelia “Tooter” Adcock Powell; and son, Andrew “Andy” Southard.

She is survived by her husband of 39 years, Ronald “Ron” Southard; children, Edward “Eddie” Southard, Dan and Jenna Harp and Jamie Southard Silvers; granddaughter Marli Jane Southard; uncle Carl Adcock and wife Eliz; brother and sister-in-law Ronald and Diana Powell; sisters and brothers-in-law Gerane and Lou Benkarski and Kathy and Rudie Thomsen; niece Tammy Fults and husband Dan; nephews Richard Sexton and wife Angie, Jesse Powell, Dathan Todd and wife Paige, Galen Todd, MacCrae Thomsen; brother-in-law, Freedland Southard; and sisters-in-law, Pam Mitchell and husband Lesley and Carol Preslar. Several great-nieces and great-nephews also survive.

Eileen dedicated her life to teaching others. She taught 40 years in the Warren County School System and after retirement continued to teach her granddaughter, Marli. She also received The Hometown Hero award from a former student and his father on Veterans Day. This was the MOST notable honor of her teaching career. She also taught at church, to family members, friends and co-workers. She loved swimming, reading and watching TV.

Visitation will be at High Funeral Home on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 3 to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Funeral service will be held Sunday at Smyrna Church of Christ at 1 p.m. with MacCrae Thomsen, Farrah Griffith and Ronald Powell to officiate. Interment will follow at Smyrna Cemetery with Rachel Cantrell, chaplain from Avalon Hospice in McMinnville, to officiate. Online condolences may be made at [www.highfuneralhome.com](http://www.highfuneralhome.com).

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Willie Taylor Smith, 87

Mr. Willie Taylor Smith, 87, of McMinnville died Wednesday, Feb. 14, at Saint Thomas River Park Hospital.

He was born July 31, 1930, in McMinnville, was a former supervisor with Powermatic, farmer, logger, and was a member of Sunny Hills Baptist Church where he previously served as Sunday school superintendent and taught Sunday school class. He also was a former deacon at Blue Wing Baptist Church, formerly serving as church treasurer and was preceded in death by parents Taylor Floyd and Sophronia Ethel Bell Smith, sisters Naomi Barrett, Hilmer Hale, Verner Fuggett, Annie Lee Todd, and Alice Steed, and brothers Charlie Ray Smith and Raymond Smith.

Survivors include his wife Dorothy Dean Ritchey Smith, children Deborah Lorraine (Jimmy) Christman of Murfreesboro, Dwight Douglas Smith, Darl W. (Renee) Smith, Danny L. (Diane) Smith, and Mark D. Smith, all of McMinnville, eight grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and sisters Nonnie Matheny of McMinnville, and Audrey Gant of Indiana. Numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, family members, and friends also survive.

Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at McMinnville Funeral Home Chapel. Dr. Jimmy Christman will officiate. Interment will follow at Blues Hill Cemetery. The Smith family will receive friends Friday from 4 to 8 p.m., and again Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. at the parlors of McMinnville Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at [www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com](http://www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com).

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Deborah “Debbie” Renee Carr, 57

Ms. Deborah “Debbie” Renee Carr, 57, of McMinnville passed from this life Monday, Feb. 5, at her residence in McMinnville.

Debbie was born Friday, Dec. 2, 1960 in McMinnville to the late Thomas and Ethel (Brooks) Carr. She worked as a registered nurse and in nursing informatics. She lived throughout the western United States and Alaska. She loved traveling, the outdoors, her pets and working in fiber arts.

Surviving are sisters Karen Carr of McMinnville and Kim Luther of Murfreesboro, brothers Timothy Carr of Dickson, and Thomas Carr of Columbia, nieces and nephews, Rebecca Luther, Nathan Luther, Joe Luther, Dayanera (Carr) Coil, and Darren Carr.

The family will receive friends Saturday, Feb. 17, from 12 to 2 p.m., the time of the service. Memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m. with pastor Tommy Vann officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to HAWC (Helping Animals of Warren County) at [helpinganimalsofwc@gmail.com](mailto:helpinganimalsofwc@gmail.com), or Knit and Crochet Tennessee at [knitandcrochetttn.org](http://knitandcrochetttn.org).

Online condolences may be made at [gardensofmemoryfuneralhome.com](http://gardensofmemoryfuneralhome.com).

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