

Obituaries

Mary Breen

Mary E. Breen, 102, of Tuscola, passed away at 6:35 p.m. Monday, May 7, 2018 at her home, surrounded by family. Mass of Christian Burial was Monday, May 14, 2018, at Forty Martyrs Catholic Church, 201 E. Van Allen, Tuscola, with Father Delix Michel as celebrant. Burial followed in the Tuscola Township Cemetery, Tuscola.

A Rosary was recited on Sunday, May 13, 2018, with visitation following at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, IL.

Mrs. Breen was born June 11, 1915 in Golden Gate, Wayne County the daughter of Benjamin and Tressie Harris Smith. She graduated from Bement High School in 1934, and was the last surviving member of her class. She and Charles J. Breen, Sr. were married on July 20, 1935, in Tuscola. They were happily married for over 67 years spending their entire married life in rural Tuscola, until Charles preceded her in death on September 1, 2002.

Mary is survived by a son: Kevin (Janet) Breen of Tuscola; 5 daughters: Joan (Joe) Jacobs of Charleston, IL; Judy (Norm) Bomkamp of Lacey, Wash.; Nancy (John) Bell of Pawnee; Kathy (Vern) Kleiss of Pesotum, and Brenda (Don) Voeller of San Juan, PR; 21 grandchildren: Deidre (Fred) Banks, Leisa Breen, Charles Joseph (Paula) Breen, Patrick (Charlotte) Breen, Emily Taylor, Ben Breen, Jennifer (Russ) Madlem, Melinda (Doug) Daugherty, Lori (Mark) DiVona, Brent (Tammy) Bomkamp, Valerie (Ken) Brodeck, Theresa (Steve) Helmbrecht, Kimberly (Randy) Frick, Kendra (John) Clark, John (Sabine) Bell II, Mary (Ed) Huonder, David (Jeanne) Kleiss, Charles Kleiss, James (Teresa) Kleiss, Sean Breen, and Shannon Breen; 34 great-grandchildren; 14 great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Charles Breen, Jr. and his wife, Shirley; a daughter, Patricia (Charles) Simpson; a great-granddaughter, Madeline Huonder; and four brothers, Carl, Glenn, Delos and Charles Smith, and a sister, Doris Mason.

Mary was a member of the Forty Martyrs Catholic Church and the Altar and Rosary Society. She was honored as the first recipient of the Forty Martyrs Mother of the Year. She took great joy in being a wife and mother, while excelling at many of the different responsibilities on the family farm over the years. Always being an avid reader and lifelong learner, later in life Mary even "read" over 1,000 audiobooks. She enjoyed challenging crossword puzzles, tending to her flower and vegetable gardens, knitting and crocheting. She was talented and loved to design and sew, even making her daughters' bridesmaids' and flower girls' dresses. Mary was a creative cook, and was known for her delicious coconut cream pies and cinnamon rolls.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Tuscola Public Library or to the donor's choice. Online condolences to the family may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.



Phillip Deaver Jr.

Philip Fintan Deaver Jr., author and educator, died April 29, 2018, after a long illness. Until his retirement in 2016, he had been Professor of English at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla.

Survivors include children Michael (Nicole) and Laura (Brian Waterfield) of Orlando and Daniel of Brooklyn, N.Y.; granddaughters Sofia, Maya, and Emory; sister Maureen (John Purcell) of Indianapolis; paternal uncle Father Stephen Deaver of Scottsbluff, Neb.; several nieces and nephews and one great niece; and, at last count, over 40 first cousins from all over the U.S. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Philip and Althea Samples Deaver.

Phil was born in Chicago on the first anniversary of VJ Day, Aug. 14, 1946. In January 1947, the family relocated downstate to Tuscola, where his father opened a medical practice. Growing up in Tuscola, Phil was known to many as Danny, after Rudyard Kipling's poem, "Danny Deever"—a nickname given up by most when Phil's father died.

After graduating from Tuscola schools, Phil earned a bachelor's degree in English from St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Ind. Following military service in Germany, Phil received his masters degree and a Mott Fellowship at Ball State University and his doctorate from the University of Virginia.

During several years in administration at Murray State University, Phil became increasingly involved in writing groups, began publishing short fiction, and set his hopes on one day teaching creative writing at the college level. After moving to Orlando and during several years in management consulting, he embedded himself in the local writing scene and published Silent Retreats (University of Georgia Press 1988), a collection of short stories.

Phil's critical recognition included the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction, fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, inclusion in Prize Stories: the O. Henry Awards, and Special Mention in Pushcart Prize XX. His short fiction appeared in many literary journals, including Florida Review, Kenyon Review, New England Review, and Missouri Review. His work appeared in Best American Short Stories, Best American Catholic Short Stories, and Bottom of the Ninth: Great Contemporary Baseball Short Stories, where his story "Infield" drew on memories of playing baseball as a youth. A lifelong fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, Phil edited a collection of nonfiction essays on baseball titled Scoring from Second: Writers on Baseball (University of Nebraska Press 2007), which includes a photograph of Phil and his dad, in step, leaving Busch Stadium in the early 1960s.

Phil also published a collection of his poetry in How Men Pray (Anhinga Press 2005) and his novel Forty Martyrs (Burrow Press 2016).

One of his greatest professional joys was having Garrison Keillor, on four occasions, read his poetry on National Public Radio's "Writer's Almanac." And one of his great surprises came when his poem "Worriers' Guild" appeared in the bird flu edition of a magazine published by the Centers for Disease Control.

Phil completed his education career as a professor at Rollins College, where he taught, wrote, and hosted celebrated writers at Rollins' annual Winter With the Writers program. Phil also offered writing workshops throughout the country and taught fiction at Spalding University's masters of fine arts program.

With his own love of baseball, Phil started as a Midwestern Baseball Dad to his own children, but after the family moved to Orlando, that role soon morphed into a longer and prouder career as Florida Soccer Dad to Michael, Daniel, and Laura. He took great pride in seeing them compile a total of three undergraduate and two graduate degrees from Rollins College. And he found great joy in the arrival of granddaughters Sofia, Maya, and Emory.

In fulfilling his dreams of teaching and writing, Phil inspired countless students, whether in classrooms or cafes, with his advice, great humor and generosity. And he will be remembered with great affection by the family and friends he leaves behind.

Phil's life will be celebrated in his hometown of Tuscola, on Saturday, May 19, with a visitation at 10 a.m. and service at 11 a.m. at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, followed by a luncheon at Flesor's Candy Kitchen. A memorial service was also held at Rollins College on May 8. He will be buried in a private service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be directed to the Urban Think Foundation (urbantinkfoundation.org) and its Deaver Memorial Fund, which will provide supplemental support for deserving creative writers, particularly those with ties to Central Florida or Central Illinois.



Wilfrieda Gillins

Wilfrieda Florence Gillins, 93, of Tuscola, passed away at 6:35 p.m. Sunday, May 13, 2018 at the Tuscola Health Care Center, Tuscola.

Wilfrieda was born February 14, 1925, the daughter of Herman N. and Loretta K. Laley Decker. She grew up on a farm south of Philo and then met Kenneth "Red" L. Gillins whom she married on March 5, 1949. He preceded her in death on Nov. 21, 2005.

She is survived by three sisters: Grace Bowen of Savoy, Verina Wilhelm and Clarice Schweighart Painter both of Tuscola; three brothers: Alvin Decker of Philo, Maurice Decker of Champaign and Gerald Decker of St. Paul, Minnesota; 29 nieces and nephews; and countless extended family.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and sister, Genevieve Clark.

Upon graduating from high school, Wilfrieda attended beauty school then worked at a salon in Villa Grove. She and Ken moved to Richton Park where she was a devoted housewife. In the Mid 1990's, Ken and Wilfrieda retired to St. Petersburg, Fla. Wilfrieda, known to many as "Billie" or "Willie", was a talented artist/painter. Many of her paintings were seascapes or farms. Though she did not have children of her own, she "mothered" many. She touched the lives of countless individuals and shared her wisdom with those she met along her life journey.

Wilfrieda was a devout Catholic. She will be cremated with her ashes buried next to her husband in the Villa Grove Cemetery. A memorial service is planned for later this summer. Online condolences may be shared with the family via hilligossshraderfh.com. Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, is assisting the family with arrangements.

CLELANDS

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vision a facility where education, including Christian education, is an essential component of

the school where the children we teach will reach their full potential and be prepared for a lifelong academic success."

Promise Christian Academy has plans to continue using the Abeka Christian education curriculum, although big

changes will be coming to the building and extra curricular offerings.

Over the summer, a construction crew will overhaul the second floor of the building to make room for an additional classroom, a music and art

room, another playroom, a cafeteria, and a library.

"Right now we have a lot of books, but they are kept in our hallway," she said. "We don't really have a space for the kids to go and pick out a book. We have a reading corner, but I'd like to have a library where they can learn to check out a book or are able to select a book that is at their reading level."

Safety upgrades are on the docket as well.

"Next year everything will be more structured," Cleland said. "Once you hit kindergarten here there will start being class periods. There will be time for each of the lessons to create a school atmosphere. There will be more of a set schedule for reading, math, and science. I think that will be better for the kids, because they will know what comes

next. They know they will have a set time to complete their worksheet and that will lead to fitting in art and library time."

For now the extra classroom will serve as extra space for the current curriculum, but in the future the addition will serve as home base for additional grade levels.

In the immediate future the school is hosting a garage sale from 3-7 p.m. May 31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 1, and 8 a.m. to noon June 2 to fund new playground equipment.

"Right now all we have are pieces that were donated or purchased along the way; it's smaller stuff, so we would like to have bigger pieces for the older kids."

Also, an open house and ribbon cutting is planned for Saturday, May 19.

The school schedule will

continue to mirror Tuscola public schools, and the after-school program will continue until 5:30 p.m. each school day.

The summer program will run June 4 through Aug. 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for ages 3-10.

"The summer program will focus on Community Helpers," Cleland said. "Each week a community helper will volunteer to talk about what they do for our community. We'll focus on that type of community helper all week, and Fridays will be movie days with popcorn. Most of the summer is outside playtime with a craft."

To sign up, stop by Promise Christian Academy, located at 306 E. Southline Road, or call the school at 253-4400.

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 <p>8 ct. IGA Jumbo Biscuits</p> <p>2/\$3</p>	 <p>7-8 oz. IGA Chunk or Shredded Cheese</p> <p>2/\$3</p>	 <p>180 CALORIES</p> <p>NATURALLY & ARTIFICIALLY FLAVORED</p> <p>KEEP REFRIGERATED</p> <p>buttermilk JUMBO biscuits</p>

The Mark of Something Special

Douglas Co. mobile mammography

Sarah Bush Lincoln's Mobile Mammography Services will be hitting the road at area county health departments, banks and other locations in June.

The Mobile Mammography van helps provide mammograms to women who may not otherwise have access to, or be able to afford these life-saving preventive screens. Women who qualify will receive their mammogram free.

The mobile mammography van is available to all women regardless of their financial status. Women with insurance that covers their yearly mammogram are also welcome.

Staffed by technologists from the Sarah Bush Lincoln Mammography Department, the mobile mammography van provides digital mammography technology, the same quality services found at the Health Center. All staff

members are certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technology and are further certified in mammography.

The van will be at SBL Arthur Clinic on Tuesday, June 19; SBL Tuscola Clinic on Wednesday, June 20 and SBL Arcola Clinic on Monday, June 25.

To make an appointment for a mammogram on the mobile van at a location near you, call 1-800-639-5929.

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TUSCOLA

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