

# Obituaries

## Faye Dunnagan

FAYE DUNNAGAN, 82, of Tuscola, IL passed away at 2:55 P.M. on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at the Edwards Funeral Home, 221 East Main in Arcola, IL. Rev. Kent Conover officiated. Burial was in the Arcola Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the funeral.

Faye was born on May 31, 1937 in Du Quoin, IL. She was a daughter of Samuel and Lula Belle (Lemons) Turner. She married Russell Myron Dunnagan on October 18, 1958 in Murphysboro, IL. He passed away on February 6, 2005.

She is survived by two sons, Mel Steven Dunnagan and his wife Cheryl of Bradley, IL and David Russell Dunnagan and his girlfriend, Sheila Marlett of Villa Grove, IL; six grandchildren, Bridgett McCullough and her husband PJ of Kankakee, IL, Lori Dunnagan, and Brian Dunnagan and his wife Jessica all of Bradley, IL, Michelle Dunnagan and her husband David Griffen of



Hoopston, IL, Chelsea Dunnagan of Savoy and Katelyn Dunnagan of Bloomington, IL; five great-grandchildren, Liam, Owen and Elli McCullough and Jadyne Roebuck and Ezra Sheets as well as one sister, Mamie Mattheisen of Ferndale, WA.

Faye was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Russell, one daughter, Rhonda Dunnagan, seven sisters and two brothers.

Faye did in home health care for several years, helping many people maintain their independence. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends especially her grandchildren.

## Donald Frances Blessman



URBANA — Donald Frances Blessman, 92, of Urbana passed away peacefully at Willowbrook Memory Care of Savoy on Tuesday (July 2, 2019).

He was born on Feb. 17, 1927, in Champaign to Joseph and Frances (Grubb) Blessman. He was wed to the love of his life, Joyce, on Jan. 3, 1987. They enjoyed 32 years of wonderful marriage and were together until Don's passing. Joyce survives.

Also surviving are three nieces, Ann Koontz, Donna (Bill) Ferguson and Mary Lee Richbark; one nephew, Jim (Linda) Richbark; Joyce's sons, Jack Schriefer, Jeff (Paulette) Schriefer and Eric (Tina) Schriefer; Joyce's daughters, Bobbi (Tony) Dodd, Elizabeth (Jeff) Schleefer and Mary Beth (John) Jacobson; and Joyce's 10 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one stepmother, Mary Blessman; one brother, Robert Louis Blessman; one sister, Jeannine Thoburn; Joyce's son, Melvin Schriefer Jr.; and Joyce's great-grandson, Blayne Shelton.

Don was a proud Navy veteran, serving in World War II in the Pacific combat theater on board the USS McCaffery. He remained in the Navy until 1948. Following his service to country, he worked a full and successful 35 year career for Illinois Bell Telephone, retiring in 1983.

In retirement, Don loved to travel and spend time with family and friends. Over the years, he was known as a skilled dancer, an accomplished archer, an expert marksman, an ardent reader of multiple literary genres, a lover of cats, a well-versed military historian and a master craftsman in woodworking. He also enjoyed meeting on "First Fridays" with retired coworkers, the Illinois Bell Telephone Pioneers. He was an avid fan of the University of Illinois women's volleyball team and enjoyed following Joyce's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in their various athletic endeavors.

Don was a life member of both the American Legion, Champaign Post #24 and the Champaign-Urbana Elks Lodge #2497. He was a mem-

ber of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois; the 32nd Degree Masonic Center of Danville; the Western Star Lodge of Champaign, #240; the Moose Fraternity of Tuscola Lodge, #729; the SAR of Springfield; the Prairie Chapter of Mayflower Descendants in Springfield; and the VFW of Villa Grove. In addition to all of this, Don was also a devoted member of the Camargo United Methodist Church.

Don was always generous with a variety of charities, welcoming with a friendly smile, and filled with genuine well wishes for anyone who happened to be in his company. But those who knew him best were well aware of the fact that his sun rose and set with a fully transparent and truly genuine love for his wife, Joyce. He was never shy about reminding those around him that he was indeed a "blessed man" to have her in his life.

Visitation was held from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, July 7, at Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Champaign. 710 N. Neil St. Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, July 8, also at Sunset Funeral Home. Burial will be at Mt. Hope Cemetery, 611 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Champaign.

Memorial contributions may be made in Donald's name to The Humane Society or the Camargo United Methodist Church.

Please join Don's family in sharing photos, videos and memories on his tribute wall at [www.sunsetfuneralhome.com](http://www.sunsetfuneralhome.com).

### The Cler Family

*Would like to thank the community for its participation in celebrating the life of Paul with us.*

*We have been touched by the stories that have been shared, the donations to charities in his name, and the love and support from the community.*

**With Strength & Thanks,  
The Cler's**

## Pet of the Week



Catterbox is a male Domestic Short Hair cat. He is very friendly and likes to be around people. He doesn't like dogs. He and several other cats and a kitten are available for adoption at the Douglas County Animal Shelter. Call 253-4921 for more information or to adopt Chatterbox.



### The Villa Grove Freedom Celebration BIKE PARADE

Would like to thank all of our great Sponsors who donated to the Bike Parade.

*Thank you to:*

**Villa Grove News;  
Villa Grove State Bank,  
The Hillard Agency of Villa Grove and  
Monicals Pizza of Villa Grove**

We could not have done it without your contributions! We would also like to thank all of the families who took the time to decorate their bikes, trikes, wagons, scooters etc. to parade around the park!

*Thank you,  
Jamie Morse  
&  
Elizabeth  
Hamilton  
VG  
Bike Parade*



### Villa Grove BINGO

Every Friday Night  
VFW post 2876

Bingo Lic# B1934  
Pull Tab Lic# P-48

6:30 pm- Early Bird  
7:00 pm- Regular Bingo



This Weeks Jackpots:  
Egg in a Basket Raffle \$2000  
Blackout Jackpot \$1000

## Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

Another Freedom Celebration is in the books, and kudos need to be sent to all who were involved in the day's festivities. If you didn't find something of interest, you must not have been trying, because there was a little bit of everything going on. Hopefully we'll continue to see this celebration continue to evolve and grow.

New this year was a home run derby, which was a fun addition and gave some of the local sluggers a chance to channel their inner Javy Baez' or Marcell Ozunas.

This event always transports me to the bygone days of yore, when EVERYONE was at Henson Park for the entire day. Every player in town got a chance to strut their stuff in front of a packed house, and a lifetime of memories were made on that sand diamond that Mr. Frank Thomas and his pals had worked to perfection.

The crisp white chalk lines still stand out in stark contrast to the sandy colored infield dirt and deep green grass of the outfield in my mind's eye. So does the sight of parents and other adults lining the fences.

Over the right field fence, the beauty of Tri-City country club's golf course shines brightly as the members navigate the first fairway.

If you were to look beyond center field, you can see the pavilion, where, if memory serves me, local service organization like the Rotary Club, Lions or Jaycees would be manning the cooking apparatus and preparing a delicious litany of tasty foods.

If I squint, I can see Shorty Martin holding court in the horseshoe pits that bear his name to this day.

There were no playground pieces over the left field fence, but the grassy area would have a plethora of teams warming up for their chance to show off their skills on the big diamond. This would also be the spot to throw out blankets or lawn chairs and watch the fireworks that ended the day's activities.

If you weren't playing on the diamond or watching your buddies, chances are you were hanging out on the playground equipment just outside the left field foul line. There was a ton of action on

those sand covered grounds, from the world's tallest (to an 8 year old) metal slide to the swings, it was the place to be with your friends.

The opportunity to play in front of a packed house of your extended family and your peers was a high pressure experience to my recollection.

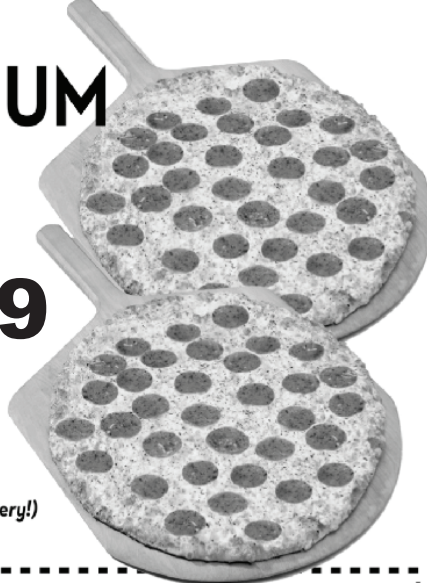
On a couple of occasions, I got lucky enough to hit a ball that rolled to the fence and I was able to make my way around the bases, and to this day I'm not sure if I was happier to score or because I knew that the Blue Castle awarded homers with ice cream treats!

Baseball & burgers. Fun & fireworks. These are my memories of Independence Day as a child. I'm sure that everyone has their own version of these events from their past that we dredge up on occasion. My hope is that the kids who were at the park this year can someday look back as fondly. Everything changes, to be certain, but shared experiences tie us all together.

## MONICAL'S PIZZA RESTAURANT

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**Make It A Pleaser w/ Salad & Soda**

**For Just \$6.50 More!**

\*Extra Toppings, Extra Cheese or Premium Blend Cheeses  
Available For An Additional Charge

Offer available at Villa Grove Monical's Pizza location only. No substitutions. Not valid with any other offer. Valid for Dine-In, Carry-out or Delivery.  
Delivery charge applies. Limited delivery area & hours. Other restrictions may apply.

## Menus

Villa Grove Peace Meal July 15 - July 19

**Monday:** Fish Sandwich, Mac & Cheese, Broccoli, Fruit Juice, Bun, Pears

**Tuesday:** Beef & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Cin. Carrots, Wheat Bread, Watermelon

**Wednesday:** Turkey Salad w/ Grapes, Cucumber Salad, Fruit Cocktail, Roll, Apple Oat Bar

**Thursday:** Taco Salad w/ Meat & Toppings, Pineapple, Taco Chips, Cake

**Friday:** Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Brussels Sprouts, TX Toast, Mix Melons

**For Reservations Call at 832-9445**

Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations. Ask the Site Supervisor for information. Sometimes we need to substitute our menus. We still guarantee a nutritious meal. The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregate and home delivered meal. No older person shall be denied a meal because of their inability to contribute towards the cost of the meal. We accept Illinois Link Card.



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