

# Obituaries

## Carolyn A. Ficklin

SAVOY — Carolyn A. Ficklin, 76, of Savoy passed away at home Tuesday (Sept. 8, 2020). Visitation was from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, at Renner-Wikoff Chapel, Urbana. Due to COVID-19, all guests were required to wear a mask. Thank you.

Carolyn was born June 19, 1944, in Champaign to parents Roscoe and Ruby Havice.

She graduated from Central High School in Champaign. Carolyn married Gordon Ficklin on Dec. 8, 1963. During her career, Carolyn worked as a receptionist at The Illini and as a bank teller. She was a member of the local bowling league and was dedicated to attending every game her son played in for over 15 years. Carolyn was an avid reader and loved watching cooking shows. She was a dog lover and throughout the years cared for her dogs, Dynamite, Tojo, Prince, Spanky, Rascal and Bo.



Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, husband and daughter, Christina McGregor.

Survivors include her son, G.R. Ficklin of Tolono, and grandchildren, Josie King and Jordan Ward.

In lieu of flowers please make memorial donations to the family. Online condolences may be offered at renner-wikoffchapel.com.

## Julian Stipp

SIDNEY — Julian Stipp, 77, of Sidney died at 5:25 p.m. Friday (Sept. 11, 2020) at Springfield Memorial Medical

Center, Springfield. Funeral arrangements were incomplete at Freese Funeral Home, 202 W. Main St., Sidney.

## Pastor Stahl's Weekly Message of Faith

Hello, everyone!  
As I write this, the sun is shining through our dining room window, the birds are singing. It reminds me of a sunny September morning back in 2001, on September 11. All of the events of that day were totally unexpected. Out of a clear blue sky, our world changed forever. I got to the church office that morning, and all was dark. Quite unexpected. I checked our answering machine, and found out our secretary had to take her dog to the vet, so she would be running late. Our Senior Pastor was at a clergy breakfast, so he would be in later. Our other secretary came in a few minutes later, apologizing for her running late, "but I was watching TV about that plane that crashed in New York." That was the first I'd heard about it. I moved the TV into the Library, and we all gathered there to watch the news reports. It was an extended version of NBC's Today Show. All morning long, the news just seemed to be worse: Two airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York, another plane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington D.C., another was headed for the United States Capitol. In the first response in the War on Terror, the passengers from

United Flight 93 took over the airplane, forcing the terrorist pilot to crash the plane in an empty field in Pennsylvania, rather than flying into the Capitol building.

We had a Memorial Service that night at church, and we were all numb and confused about what had happened. We didn't know what was next. What a horrible day, and we slept a bit more scared than the night before.

We continue to pray for all the families who lost loved ones that day. We remember Todd Beamer, one of the Flight 93 passengers, who prayed over the phone with United Airlines representative Lisa Jefferson, reciting together The Lord's Prayer, then shouting his famous words, "LET'S ROLL!" They were scared, yet they were courageous in the face of death. They placed their faith in the Rock of Ages.

Our Lord was broken for us, so that we could be made whole. He Died, so that we could live. We pray for all those families affected by that day, we thank their loved ones for their courage, we pray for our Nation and it's leaders. We pray that God Will Continue to Bless our nation. May God Bless America.

God Bless all of you!  
Pastor Jeff Stahl



2- John NIV  
1 The elder, To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—  
2 because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:  
3 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.  
4 It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.  
5 And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.  
6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.  
7 I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as

coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.  
8 Watch out that you do not lose what we[a] have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.  
9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.  
10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them.  
11 Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.  
12 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. 13 The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

## John Amos Johnson

IVESDALE — John Amos Johnson, a fisherman, builder who raced a '57 Chevy, was scouted by the St. Louis Cardinals, recorded an album while still in high school, and was a cherished husband, father and grandfather, died Tuesday at home surrounded by loved ones.

He was 72.

Born in Philo to Virgil and Lillie Johnson on Aug. 10, 1948, he was the fifth of six children. Johnson grew up working at his father's shop, Johnson Welding and Repair, learning mechanics and metal work alongside his brothers. Gifted in mathematics, Johnson was designing and fabricating parts and projects from an early age. He won first prize in the seventh-grade science fair for building a Van Der Graaff Generator – a small proton accelerator – from parts he found around his family shop.

"You could scare yourself with this thing. You start getting closer and you start getting a real lightning bolt to your finger and it will give you a pretty good jolt all the way to your shoulder," he said recently when asked about the prize-winning device.

He attended Unity High School, graduating in 1966, lettering in football, baseball, drama and band. He played trumpet on a recording of the song "Bugler's Holiday" with two other bandmates as part of a state competition, while still in school.

A tremendous all-around athlete, and lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan, Johnson was scouted by the ballclub for his pitching and seemed destined for a career as a professional athlete until he had to undergo knee surgery due to complications.

Johnson worked several jobs throughout his life. He was a welder, designing and installing the duct systems used by McCormick & Company to move cryogenically-frozen spices at factories in Baltimore and Chattanooga, Tenn. He worked with some of the best industrial engineers in the country on jobs for the company, but they inevitably fell back on Johnson's mathematical gifts and the lessons he learned in his father's shop in Philo.

While highly sought after by McCormick & Company for projects around the world, he wanted to remain close to his family and friends. In the 1980s he began working for his brother Kenny Johnson at Johnson Rentals. There, alongside a regular crew of workers who became good friends, he was a contractor helping design and build several apartment buildings which shaped the skyline of the campus of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Later, Johnson was a property manager for those buildings as well as others, responsible for repair and upkeep for hundreds of rental units across the city.

When he wasn't answering late-night calls for broken pipes and garbage disposals, Johnson



spent much of his free time helping his friends, his kids and his neighbors fix their cars and homes.

Johnson's home shop and his telephone were rarely free from someone else's problems. Whether it was a child — or later grandchild — in need of advice, or a friend with a broken car, Johnson treated each with the same patience and a smile on his face. After he heard them out, he would list two or three solutions and, more often than not, offer to help.

But whether helping others for work or in his personal life, he was never far from his beloved wife, Penny Johnson. The two were schoolyard friends who began dating later in life and blended their families into a warm household filled with kids, grandkids, trips across the country to visit their extended family and attend NASCAR races.

As their family grew through marriages and grandchildren, a home on Lake of Egypt became his favorite destination. With a two-bedroom house, a camper outside and a pontoon boat on the water, the secluded nook turned into a vacation spot for loved ones to congregate for birthdays and celebrations of all kinds.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Howard of Champaign, Don of Philo; and sister, Bonnie of Urbana; and his first wife, Kay. He is survived by his wife, Penny Johnson; daughters, Shannon (Matt), Shelby (Randy), Christi (Mark), and Tricia; and sons, O'Ryan (Tiffany), and Travis (Beth); as well as grandchildren, Cameron (Ariel), Connor (Kaitlyn), Colin, Brittany (Spencer), Chelsea (Shaun), Caitlynn, Cheyanne (Peter), Ciara (Joey), Stephanie, Courtney, Riley, Cole, Tova, Colton (Alexis), and Jada; great-grandchildren, Aubrey, Adalynn, Dylan, Tobias, Colby, Dravin, Aundrea, Tatum, and Marlee; and brothers, Kenny (Betty), and Roy (Trudy).

John was loved by all that knew him and never met a stranger. His lifelong advice to all was to, "pay attention" and "watch out for the crazies."

He would tell you that if you do nothing else in life, "wet a line and proceed to party."

Visitation were from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, at Freese Funeral Home, Sidney. Graveside services were held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, at Locust Grove Cemetery, Philo, with Rev. Glenn Corbley officiating.

Condolences may be given at Freeseff.com.

## The Sidney Scoop

by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812



Look for your correspondent's Monday, September 8 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Zoning Hearing Meeting and Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Meeting Coverage published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

"Winston's Old Bank" will soon be opening for business in downtown Sidney! Watch for an upcoming visit from your correspondent with the owner in the Southern Champaign County Today Paper to find out what the new business has to offer as that day gets closer.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 will hold their next monthly meeting at the Post Home in the Sidney Community Building located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney on Monday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m. Prospective new members are always welcome and encouraged to attend and all monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held at the Post Home.

Ready to decorate for the fall season and Halloween? Your columnist reached out to Negangard's Pumpkin Patch in Sidney to find out when they will be opening for the season and found that they will open on Saturday, September 26!

Their hours for the season

are seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. until dark from September 26 through Halloween or until they run out of all of their pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, squash, bales of straw, and corn shuck bundles. Negangard's Pumpkin Patch is located at 1883 County Road 700 North in the Sidney Township between Sidney and Philo and folks can call Mitch Negangard at (217) 722-7866 for more information.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sidney Community Building located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney. All monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held in the Sidney Community Building meeting room.

Have a great week!  
If you or your organization have news items you want published drop a line to Ann Rhoton at P. O. Box 491, Sidney, IL 61877 or call (217) 688-2812; don't hesitate to leave a message if there's no answer.

News items must be turned in by 10:00 a.m. each Friday to be published in the following week's paper. Items submitted after the deadline will be published in the following week's column.

## PEACE MEAL MENU

Sidney/Homer Peace Meal menu for Thursday, September 17 through Wednesday, September 23.

Thursday, 9/17/20 – Riblet served on a bun, seasoned black-eyed peas, vegetable pasta salad, warm fruit cobbler, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 9/18/20 – Beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, one slice of whole grain wheat bread served with butter or margarine, sweet cinnamon carrots, melon salad, and a half pint of milk.

Monday, 9/21/20 – Stuffed chicken breast with brown rice, one slice of whole grain wheat bread served with butter or margarine, stir fry vegetables, Lyonnaise carrots, pears, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 9/22/20 – Brat served on a bun, potato salad, Italian green beans, scalloped pineapple, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 9/23/20 – Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, Texas toast, mixed vegetables, fresh grapes, and a half pint of milk.

The Sidney Peace Meal home delivered meals program continues Monday through Friday for seniors who qualify. Individuals who wish to attend a Peace Meal Congregate Meal Site are invited to attend the Peace Meal Congregate Meal Site

in Homer. CONGREGATE MEALS ARE PICK-UP TO CARRY OUT ONLY AT THE PRESENT TIME.

Homer Peace Meal is served around 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday in the Homer Village Hall located at 500 East Second Street in Homer. Home delivered meals are available Monday through Friday for seniors who qualify.

To reserve your spot call Peace Meal at 1-800-543-1770 by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meal you wish to attend. Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations. Ask the site supervisor for more information. Peace Meal sometimes needs to substitute on menus, but still guarantees a nutritious meal.

The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregare and home delivered meal, however, no older person will be denied a meal because of their inability to contribute to the cost of the meal. The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program does accept the Illinois Link Card for payment.

The Sidney/Homer Peace Meal menu is submitted for the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program by Ann Rhoton

**BACK OPEN!**  
Limited to 54 players / seats  
Come early - sign in and purchase cards to receive a number to play!

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

**Villa Grove BINGO** Every Friday Night VFW post 2876

**Jackpots:**  
Egg in a Basket Raffle Chance **up to \$2000**  
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**DEADLINES**  
Classified  
Friday @ 2pm  
News-  
Friday @ 2pm  
Ads- Friday @ 2pm

Why preplanning a funeral is so important

**Pathway**  
from Pekin Life Insurance Company

When the reality of the loss of a loved one invades our lives, we need time to adjust. If funeral arrangements are being considered for the first time under the pressures of bereavement, many wishes of the deceased and survivors may be overlooked.

Let us explain the details of Pathway, a Prearranged funeral plan from Pekin Life Insurance Company. You'll understand why preplanning a funeral is so important.

**Freese Funeral Home**  
Sidney, 688-2014 • St. Joseph, 469-2331  
Tolono, 486-7555

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