

Obituaries

Gene A. Greek

Gene A. Greek, 83, of Atwood, IL, passed away at 8:25 a.m., Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, IL.

Gene was born on September 12, 1937 in Princeton, IN, to Eugene and Delama (Geiser) Greek.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Arlie Carolyn (Malone) Greek, daughters: Rebecca A. Lucas of Tuscola and Margaret E. Greek of Champaign, brother: Robert D. Greek of Evansville, IN, grandsons: William (Kelley) Lucas of Mt. Zion and Shane Lucas of Atwood.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister: Pamela S. King, brothers: Eugene Greek, Jr., Gary Mack Greek and son-in-law: Curt Lucas.

Gene graduated from Edwards County Senior High School, Albion, IL in 1955 and from Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL in 1959. He was formerly employed at Polymer Services Laboratories in Tuscola and Decatur Memorial Hospital, Decatur, IL. He retired as Assistant to the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois.

Gene enjoyed teaching his Sunday school class at First Baptist Church of Atwood, golfing and having morning coffee with his buddies at Harris Electric.

A private family service was held on Monday, January 4, 2021. Due to the current situation, a celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Carle Hospice, First Baptist Church of Atwood or United Church of Atwood.

Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements. Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com



David G. Lohr

David G. Lohr, 82, of Tuscola, passed away at 7:36 p.m. Saturday, January 2, 2021, at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana.

Services will be announced at a later date. Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home in Tuscola has been entrusted with arrangements.

Mr. Lohr was born May 20, 1938, in Alton, the son of Lester and Emma Mowery Lohr. He married Barbara E. Rowe on April 21, 1962, in Alton. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Christine (Richard) VanDyke of Indianapolis, Ind., and Cynthia Lohr of Tuscola; grandchildren, Virginia and Wyatt VanDyke; brother, Ken Lohr (partner, Mary Sue) of Mahtomedi, Minn.; sister-in-law, Lilas Lohr, Booneville, Ind.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Victor Lohr.

Mr. Lohr had been a gas line repairman for CILCO in Tuscola. In his typical modesty, he described his work as "digging holes and filling them."

His passion was baseball, and for more than 40 years, Mr. Lohr was the face of Tuscom Little League in Tuscola. He coached baseball and served as district administrator for Little League throughout east central Illinois. He also was instrumental in promoting softball and recruiting girls for Little League baseball. He served as the "player agent" providing a voice for the school-age players.

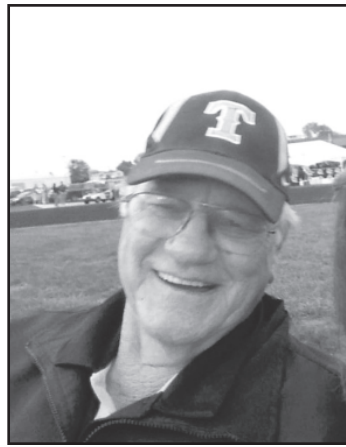
Known affectionately as "the old man" by his players, due to his white hair, he was the consummate coach paying particular attention to players who lacked skills and strong, male role models. His players recall that "dadgummit" was the coarsest epithet he ever used.

While in the hospital, Mr. Lohr would ask every nurse and doctor if they had kids who played baseball and reveled in telling stories about Little League. He even met his wife through baseball. He was playing in a church league when Barb noticed him on the field and somehow stole his wallet as a means to meet him. She then stole his heart as they were married after a brief courtship.

Mr. Lohr was also a member of the "chain gang" working football games for the Tuscola Warriors for many years.

Memorials are suggested to Tuscom Little League or the Tuscola POW-WOWS.

Mr. Lohr was a member of the Tuscola First Christian Church.



Fred C. Ross

Fred Carroll Ross of Monticello, formerly of Tuscola, died on Wednesday, December 30, 2020

Fred was born May 21, 1940, the son of Virgil and Mary Larmore Ross. He married Gaila Grubb on July 21, 1963. She survives.

Preceding him in death were his parents, and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Floyd and Mildred Grubb.

Fred is survived by his daughters Katrina (Deon) Chester of Tuscola; Susanna (Michael) Williams of Carmel, IN; and son Jeremy (Sarah) Ross of Monticello. Also surviving are grandchildren Olivia and Donovan Chester; Lillian and Alexis Williams; Mary Grace, William and Rachel Ross, his sister Carolyn (David) Pruett of Tuscola and brother-in-law Tom (Pam) Grubb of Wesley Chapel, FL

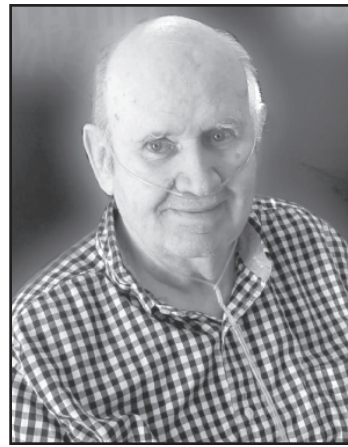
Fred graduated from Tuscola Community High School in 1958. He joined the United States Navy in 1960 and was an active reservist until 1966. He worked on his family farm before starting a long career with Cabot Corporation. The farm remained a priority to Fred. He recently renovated an original 1880 's farmhouse on the property for his family's use. His children and grandchildren remember stories about Fred's favorite Brown Swiss cow and other pets and livestock.

Fred was a member of the Tuscola United Methodist Church where he sang many tenor solos in the choir and led a men's Bible study. He was an avid fan of the Cubs, Bears, and Fighting Illini. Fred enjoyed cars and motorcycles, and he especially enjoyed restoring a 1964 Pontiac GTO with son Jeremy.

Fred's family will host a private gathering at a future date. They wish to thank the staffs at The Waterford at Bridle Brook in Mahomet, Kirby Medical Center in Monticello, and the Piatt County Nursing in Monticello for their dedicated and loving care.

Memorial contributions can be made to Tuscola United Methodist Church, 901 North Prairie Street, Tuscola, IL 61953; Kirby Medical Center, 1000 Medical Drive, Monticello, IL 61856; or Piatt County Nursing Home, 1111 North State Street, Monticello, IL 61856.

Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com



Melinda M. Retter

Melinda M. Retter, 42, of Camargo passed away at 11:02 a.m. on Saturday, December 26, 2020 at her home.

Melinda was born on March 20, 1978 to Fred and Doris (Stoltz) Retter in Camargo, IL.

She is survived by her parents, Fred and Doris Retter of Camargo; one brother, Fred Retter of Grayslake, IL; and one niece and nephew, Julia and Isaac Retter. Other surviving relatives are her aunts and uncles and several cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Fred and Helen Retter and Mervin and Edith Stoltz all from Gibson City; and a sister-in-law, Donna Retter.

Melinda was a life member of the Villa Grove VFW Auxiliary and a member of the Camargo United Methodist Church. She overcame many challenges during her lifetime, including having been born on one of the worst snowstorms in Illinois history. She was small in stature, but big-hearted and touched many lives. She was a hard worker and didn't hesitate to help when needed. She graduated from Villa Grove High School and took a couple of Parkland College courses. After she graduated, she helped her parents at their place of business until it closed. She loved her cats and talked about them to anyone who asked. She loved to drive, a challenge that she overcame, and was very careful while driving. She was most recently employed by the City of Villa Grove as a janitor for the Senior Citizen building. She was employed for several years as a janitor for the Villa Grove VFW.

A graveside service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 2, 2021 at the Centennial Cemetery in Villa Grove, IL with Pastor Bruce Weiman officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Villa Grove VFW Auxiliary Post 2876 or to the Douglas County Humane Society.

Robert L. Rose Jr

Robert Leon Rose Jr., age 62, of Oakland, IL passed away on Wednesday, December 23, 2020.

Robert was born September 22, 1958 in Charleston, IL to Robert Leon Rose Sr. and Dana Marie (Applegate) Rose.

He was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his mother; two sons: David Rose of Oakland, IL and Josiah Alan Rose of Arcola, IL; one brother: James E. Rose of Oakland, IL; two sisters: Carol Ann (Dick) Nixon of Oakland, IL; and Lisa Darlene Buckmaster of Oakland, IL; and two grandchildren: Gavin A. Rose and Collyn M. Rose.

Cremation rites were accorded, and no public services will be held.

Online condolences may be left at www.krabelfuneralhome.com.



Jack B. Barnes

Jack Bennie Barnes, 82 of Arcola, IL passed away at 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, 2020 in Effingham, IL.

Private funeral services were held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at the Edwards Funeral Home. Burial with military rights conducted by the Arcola Honor Guard was in the Arcola Cemetery.

Jack was born on May 15, 1938 in Arcola, IL. He was a son of Benjamin Samuel and Mildred (Stump) Barnes. He married Patricia Howard on March 29, 1973 in Nashville, TN. She passed away on August 22, 2017.

He is survived by four children, Cheryl Marti and her husband Craig of Fairview, TN, Bennie Barnes, Philip Barnes both of Arcola, IL and Bill Barnes and his wife Tammi of Caseyville, IL; three grandchildren, Misty Shirar and her husband Chad of Fort Wayne, IN, Taysha Barnes and her

husband Matt Lammers of Nashville, IL and Kayli Barnes of Arcola, IL and six great-grandchildren, Caleb, Canaan, Kinsley, Carter, Cason and Cavin Shirar all of Fort Wayne, IN; two step-children, Andee Haney and his wife Pam of Mattoon, IL, and Melissa Snodgrass and her husband Kevin of Mt. Zion, IL; one step-granddaughter, Sarah Snodgrass and her husband Markus Dorsey of Champaign, IL; one step-great-grandson, Zachary Brooks of Mattoon, IL and one sister, Patricia Fortney of Arcola, IL.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, his beloved cat, Bob

Jack was a 1956 graduate of Arcola High School. He served his country in the US Army Reserves.

Jack grew up and lived most of his life on a Centennial Farm. He farmed in the Arcola area for 60 years.

Jack was a farmer thru and thru, and he genuinely cared for other people.

He always looked forward to the Arcola Volunteer Fireman's Stag each year and was a regular attendee for 60+ years. Memorials may be made to the Arcola Public Library.



Riots in Congress raise state security concerns

By Sarah Mansur
Capitol News Illinois

Just two days after hundreds of rioters broke through police barricades and vandalized the halls of Congress, Illinois lawmakers will return to the state's seat of government for a lame duck session.

The security presence at the Capitol, where the state Senate will convene, and the Bank of Springfield Center, where the House of Representatives will meet, has come under renewed focus.

In a statement Wednesday evening calling for President Donald Trump's impeachment, Gov. JB Pritzker said he asked the Illinois State Police and other law enforcement to "redeploy to heighten their presence at government buildings and the Capitol in Springfield" amid protests Wednesday.

Pritzker's spokesperson did not respond to a question Thursday about whether the governor plans to deploy the Illinois National Guard at the Statehouse or other government offices for the legislative session.

The governor's statement Wednesday came as a much smaller group of demonstrators gathered outside the Illinois Capitol to protest

the election certification of President-elect Joe Biden.

There were no arrests or incidents reported at the Illinois protest, according to Henry Haupt, a spokesperson for the Illinois Secretary of State, who estimated it was attended by 40 to 50 people.

The Secretary of State Capitol Police force is assigned to the nine buildings comprising the State Capitol Complex. Security at the Bank of Springfield Center falls under the purview of the Illinois State Police, said Haupt.

Steve Brown, spokesperson for House Speaker Michael Madigan, declined to comment on security procedures at the Bank of Springfield or discussions among House leadership for additional security.

"I think there is adequate security, as there was in May (during the last legislative session)," Brown said on Thursday. "If you remember, visualizing the scene, (security) was pretty comprehensive from what could be seen, and there were additional layers, not necessarily visible to the general public."

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CAUCUS

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The Illinois Constitution's Bill of Rights contains 24 sections and additional guaranteed constitutional rights that are not present in the U.S. Constitution. The Act would open Illinois officers to more civil suits than officers of other states and would strip Illinois officers of qualified immunity in federal courts if a constitutional right they violated under federal law is also a protected right under the Illinois Constitution.

Collective bargaining
HB163 would institute changes to the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act regarding the collective bargaining powers of unions, specifically unions for law enforcement.

Under the new changes, employers, which would refer to municipal governments at the county or city level, would not be required to negotiate with unions regarding the discipline or discharge of law enforcement. Existing contracts between law enforcement unions and cities that include provisions regarding discipline and termination will have those sections voided when those contracts are extended or renegotiated.

No agreement that applies to police officers, including the Illinois State Police, can include a provision unrelated to wages or benefits.

Pretrial Detention
HB 163 will eliminate cash bail as a requirement for pretrial release. These sections of the bill draw from legislation previ-

ously introduced by Chicago Democrats Sen. Robert Peters and Rep. Justin Slaughter called the Pretrial Fairness Act.

The section of HB163 known as the "Quasi-criminal and Misdemeanor Pretrial Release Act" would eliminate cash bail requirements for people charged with criminal offenses and misdemeanors and replace it with a uniform set of pretrial release conditions established by the Illinois Supreme Court.

All mentions of cash bail will be struck from Illinois statutes and replaced with pretrial release conditions. Proponents of eliminating cash bail have long argued it targets poor residents, especially those that are Black or Latino, and that the act of cash bail has contributed to the mass incarceration of these

groups for otherwise minor crimes.

Other Additions
Outside of what has already been mentioned, the bill includes changes to how the census is conducted in Illinois regarding prisoner populations, state recordkeeping laws, sentencing guidelines and more.

Several unfunded mandates that require dozens of hours of additional training for officers and mandatory body cameras for all departments are also included in the legislation.

The General Assembly has six days to debate and vote on HB163 during the lame duck session from Jan. 8-13 before the 102nd General Assembly with new leadership and new legislators is inaugurated.



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