

Obituaries Continued

Joseph G. Gulick

This week, the world lost a farmer, avionics engineer, Deadhead, minister, private pilot, programmer, Buffalo wings connoisseur, drummer, husband, father, uncle, brother, son, golfer, leader, occasional nerd and friend to all he met.

Joseph Gregory "Greg" Gulick died Tuesday (Feb. 16, 2021) of COVID-19. He was born March 22, 1964, in Danville, the third and youngest child of Karen (Mitchell) and Joseph Lee Gulick.

Greg's father died when Greg was just 9, and after his mother remarried Alfred Hettinger (now deceased), the family moved to a farm in Villa Grove. Greg's sisters, Denise Rieser (Gil) of Rivervale, N.J., and Michelle Osborne of Villa Grove, describe their brother as a happy-go-lucky child who had a little ornery streak. In high school, he played football and was a drummer in the school band. He enjoyed helping his stepfather with the farming operation and even considered becoming a farmer himself, but after his first year of college, he decided to transfer from the University of Illinois to Saint Louis University's Parks College to become an avionics engineer.

After graduating and earning his private pilot's license, he got a job at Sikorsky Helicopter in their Bridgeport, Conn., office. His sisters remember him telling them that he had met a cute girl at work and that he planned to ask her out on a date. Patricia "Tish" Francis said yes. Three months, one Grateful Dead concert and one evening of learning the proper way to eat Buffalo wings later, she said yes to a bigger question, and Greg and Tish were married July 28, 1989, in Shelton, Conn., near Tish's hometown. Their first son, Joseph, was born July 23, 1991.

A few years later, Greg and Tish were called to the ministry and joined The Way International. After completing their ministry training, they worked in Michigan sharing the word of God for several years, where their second son, James "Jake," was born May 30, 2000. During their time in the ministry, Greg also taught himself computer programming and accepted a position as a part-time software engineer for the Sabre corporation. Greg and Tish's third son, Matthew, was born April 4, 2003. With the family complete, they decided to move closer to Greg's family in Villa Grove.

The University of Illinois offered him a job as a senior project manager in the Decision Support unit, and he began his UI career in October 2003. He was promoted six times, eventually serving as the deputy chief information officer (CIO) in Technology Services and since June 2019 as interim CIO. He nurtured his entire staff, taking time to stop randomly into their offices and talk about their hobbies, families and, of course, Illini sports. Provost Andreas Cangellaris said, "It was the quiet and constant kindness Greg showed to every person in every circumstance on every occasion that earned him such enormous respect and trust."

Greg's colleagues say Greg had a thoughtful approach to problem solving — always listening quietly as others debated and tried solution after solution that did not hold up under scrutiny. Then, he would ask a few insightful questions that opened an unexplored path and helped everyone see a better approach to their shared goal. UI Chancellor Robert Jones said of him, "Greg was not the kind of person who needed to hear himself talk, but when he spoke, you listened, because you knew he was going to say something quite profound."

Greg also connected with people across campus to build strong relationships with the people Tech Services supports, and he led several major efforts, including creating the innovation group, implementing unified communications, expanding campus networks and launching the security initiative.

One of Greg's favorite ways to relax was golfing — whether traveling with Tish and other couples or just playing at the local nine-hole course in Villa Grove. Greg played for fun but was sometimes competitive and always found the sport healing. He scored a hole-in-one on two separate occasions, and he and his buddies enjoyed making small wagers when they golfed together. A few of them may or may not still be unsettled.

Greg was at the helm of Tech Services in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the university to move all classes online during the seven-day spring break. He and his team worked around the clock to meet that challenge. Throughout the pandemic, he served on the universitywide COVID-19 Steering Committee and led the Tech Services team as they built the complex systems and applications to support the university's novel saliva testing program and entire SHIELD ecosystem.

Despite the tremendous responsibility and workload, Greg approached his job with confidence, compassion and a laser focus on doing everything possible to help students, faculty, staff and the greater community stay safe during the pandemic. He was accessible, friendly and unflappable, always staying calm under pressure and making the demands of his leadership role look easy.

Greg continued to work even after contracting COVID-19, attending meetings remotely and offering his staff and other colleagues wisdom, moral support or just a funny comment to make them laugh. This may have been the hardest year in memory for nearly every person on the planet. But for Greg, this was the best and most rewarding year of his life. He took endless joy in helping keep his community safe in the face of a global pandemic and in the simple and unwavering faith that he was exactly where God needed him.

Greg will be remembered as a leader who changed the university for the better, as a son and brother who was the darling of his family, as a husband who loved his wife with his whole heart and as a father who loved each of his sons completely and uniquely, never comparing them to each other and never pushing them to be anything more than who God created them to be.

To prevent COVID-19, the celebration of Greg's impactful life will happen virtually. Colleagues, friends and family are invited to join the livestream and share their thoughts and memories. Details will be shared directly by the family later.

Memorial contributions may be made to Tri-City Country Club, 129 S. Henson Road, Villa Grove, or the University of Illinois at giving.illinois.edu. Choose "Illinois Commitment Scholarship Fund" and note "In honor of Greg Gulick" as the tribute information.



Bradley B. Howell

Bradley B. (Brad) Howell, 61 of Arthur, IL passed away at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021 in the comfort of his home, after a relatively short battle with liver cancer.

Private family services will be held. Burial will be in the Dodge Grove Cemetery in Mattoon, IL. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. The graveside service will be streamed on a live zoom meeting. The link for that zoom is, <https://bit.ly/3bFfbuB> Meeting ID: 895 9754 0194 Passcode: 094292

Brad was born on March 16, 1959 in Vandalia, IL, to William Howell and Delores Shafer Torbeck. He was raised in the Humboldt and Mattoon area. He married Lori Graber on May 17, 2009 in Arcola, IL.

He is survived by his wife, Lori of Arthur, IL and one brother, William Dean Howell and his wife Gwen of Mattoon, IL.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Delores Torbeck, who passed away on April 30, 2020.

Brad dearly loved his community and was always eager to share his Christian faith.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to DMH Hospice, Decatur Hospital, or Meals on Wheels in Arthur, IL.



Ronald D. Conour

Ronald D. Conour, 75 of Decatur, IL, passed away at 10:20 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur, IL.

Funeral Services were held at 1 p.m. Friday, March 12, 2021 at the Hillgoss Shrader Funeral Home, 66 East US Highway 36, Atwood, IL with Rev. Mitch Flesch officiating. Burial was in the Hammond Cemetery with military rites accorded.

Visitation was held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Friday, March 12, 2021 at the funeral home.

Ronald was born on September 22, 1945 in Hammond, IL, the son of Marshall L. and Thelma A. Kestner Conour. He married Renee Nelson on October 14, 1995 in Decatur, IL. She survives.

Also surviving are his sons: Jeffrey Conour and Jeremy (Jackie) Conour both of Mt. Zion, daughters: Marcy (Jeff) Barber of Decatur and Jill Bergin of Mt. Zion, grandchildren: Austin, Brooke and Gaige Conour, Brynna Bergin, Sam Barber, Aeden Miller, Oliver VanderBorgh and Margeaux Gaddis, brother: Richard (Kathy) Conour of Atwood, sisters: Sue (Cecil) Moss of Red Boiling Springs, TN, Cheryl (Craig) Chapman of Atwood and Sharon Eckart of Hammond, lots of nieces and nephews and the family dog: Callie.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers: Billy Joe, Mike and Tommy Conour, sisters: Delia Cherry, Lois Sablotny, Creta Danielson and Ann Avery.

Ron retired from King Lar Company in Decatur, where he worked as a sheet metal worker for 35 years. He was a member of Sheet Metal Workers Union #218, Springfield, IL and the Calvary Baptist Church in Decatur. He enjoyed fishing and gardening.

Memorials are suggested to Calvary Baptist Church, 1833 South Country Club Road, Decatur, IL 62521

Online condolences may be shared via www.hillgossshraderfh.com



Roger W. Bonham

Roger W. Bonham, 69 of Atwood, IL passed away at 10:01 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at Mason Point in Sullivan, IL.

Private services were held on Friday, March 19, 2021 at Penn Station in Arthur, IL. Rev. John Stewart will officiate. Burial will be in the Arthur Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Roger was born on October 6, 1951 in Annapolis, IL. He was a son of Berl and March (Tracy) Bonham. He married Kathy Copenbarger on April 8, 1972 in rural Mt. Auburn, IL. She passed away on September 6, 2015. He later married Susan (Benner) Collins on May 5, 2018 in Atwood, IL.

He is survived by his wife, Susan of Atwood, IL; two sons, Patrick James Bonham and his wife Donna of Atwood, IL and Jonathan Wayne Bonham of Champaign, IL; four grandchildren, Christopher, Cherish, Chantell, and Cameron; several great-grandchildren; two stepchildren, Trina Rogers and her husband Will of Temple, TX and Travis Helmka of Bryan, TX; one step-granddaughter, Sarah; two sisters, Betty Powell of Palestine, IL and LaDonna Stant of Annapolis, IL; and a sister-in-law, Mary Jo Bonham of Palestine, IL.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife; one brother, Larry Bonham; one sister, Janet Bonham; and two brothers-in-law, LeRoy Powell and RoyDon Stant.

Roger met and married Kathy while attending EIU. They were members of the 1972 Eastern Illinois University Warbler (yearbook) staff.

Roger taught English and French at Mahomet in the 1970s.

Roger and Kathy owned and operated the Cerro Gordo News from 1981 to 1986 when they sold the newspaper to the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette. Roger and Kathy stayed on and managed the business through 1991 when the News-Gazette sold the paper, he then began working as the Editor of the Arthur Graphic Clarion until 2019.

Roger was a member of the Arthur Rotary Club. He enjoyed taking photos and writing his article in the Arthur Graphic Clarion "The Bonham Line". He enjoyed music at Penn Station on Wednesday evenings. He was a big fan of NASCAR, Houston Astros, University of Illinois Basketball, and Sci-Fi. Roger liked all kinds of music, but his favorite was listening to the crackle of classic vinyl.

Memorials may be made to the family.



Horizon Health helps save patients money on prescription drugs

Living with diabetes has a cost.

For Richard Britton, of Clinton, Indiana, the cost was nearly \$14,000 a year for the life-saving insulin he needs.

But thanks to a money-saving prescription drug program available through Horizon Health, Britton no longer pays for his insulin. And that's important. At age

Despite having Medicare coverage and a supplement, the cost of insulin for Gerald Monk, of Marshall, was more than \$16,000 a year. It is now free through the NPC program.

Like Britton, Dr. Rico's office managed the process for Monk, who requires insulin for Type 2 diabetes.

"They've been good



Submitted Photo

Horizon Health can help patients save money on prescription medicines. Savings are possible through a partnership with Nationwide Prescription Connection, a service that is paid for by Horizon Health and free to patients. Pictured is Kristina Gabbard, family nurse practitioner, with a patient at the Chrisman Clinic.

74, he needs several insulin shots a day for Type 1 diabetes, which he has managed since he was five years old.

"The insulin was a huge expense for me," said Britton. "I had to watch where my money went and make sure I had enough to get insulin."

Britton's savings were possible through Horizon Health's partnership with Nationwide Prescription Connection (NPC). The service is paid for by Horizon Health and free to patients. NPC connects patients with money-saving programs that help them get the prescription medicines they need, but cannot afford.

"I had medical coverage but was still paying out-of-pocket," Britton explained. "The insurance copay is what nailed me."

Britton has participated in the service for the past year. He learned about it from Dr. Edward Rico, endocrinologist, whose office handled all the paperwork needed for Britton to realize the savings. All providers at Horizon Health can refer patients to the service.

"People should definitely discuss it with their physician," Britton said. "You have to ask and make sure you are pursuing all the different avenues that are available to assist you."

about getting my medicine," said Monk, age 71. "They have helped me considerably."

NPC identifies drug-specific programs to help patients save money on a variety of high-cost medications, including inhalers and blood thinners. This eliminates the burden of patients having to find those programs themselves, which can be time consuming and confusing. What's more, a medication may qualify for multiple discount programs, with each having its own eligibility requirements and application process.

Britton and Monk have experienced the best program benefits possible in receiving their prescriptions at no cost. While NPC can never guarantee free prescriptions, it can significantly reduce costs.

"This program saves our patients tens of thousands of dollars a year in prescription drug costs," said Martin Adams, Horizon Health vice president of finance and chief financial officer. "The amount a person saves depends on their unique situation. There is a process to qualify for the service, which is based on income, insurance coverage, and other factors."

To learn more about the discounted drug program at Horizon Health, talk to your healthcare provider.



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