

Obituaries

Gordon F. Adams

Gordon F. "Gordo" Adams, 82, of Tuscola, passed away on Thursday morning, April 22, 2021 at his residence.

Visitation was held from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, April 30, 2021 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, IL.

Memorial Services was held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 1, 2021 at the funeral home. Burial with military graveside rites accorded was held at the Tuscola Township Cemetery.

Gordon was born on March 28, 1939 in Charleston, IL, the son of Henry M. and Elizabeth Lewis Adams. He married the love of his life: Phyllis A. Turner on June 18, 1959 in Tuscola. She survives.

Also surviving are his son: Eric Adams and Emily Gurley of Baltimore, MD and daughter: Kristina (Shandon) Smith of Tuscola, IL, four grandchildren: Odin Adams, Lillian Adams, Brix Smith and Vivienne Smith, sisters: Mary Burress of Tuscola, IL and Lois Reeves of Charleston, IL

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother: Woodrow Adams, sisters: Nancy Fritz, Fannie Mae Abney and Delora Woodfall.

Gordon served his country in the US Air Force during the Vietnam era's Cuban Missile Crisis.

He began his career as a carpenter for Lake Construction, where he learned his trade from two of the best men he ever knew. Following that he and his brothers-in-law formed Adams & Turner Brothers Construction, which later became Adams Construction. His motto was "Difficult done immediately, impossible may take a little bit longer". He was a lifetime member of the Tuscola Moose Lodge, past member of the Mattoon Eagles Lodge and the American Legion. Gordon enjoyed his profession, playing cards, car shows and traveling.

Memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society or a Veteran's Organization of the Donor's Choice.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com



Betty L. Leonard

Betty Lorene (Rahn) Leonard, 88, of Tuscola, passed away Saturday, April 17, 2021 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana of natural causes, after a short illness.

Betty was born June 17, 1932 in rural Tuscola, a daughter of Fred J. and Ethel Riley Rahn.

Betty was a lifelong member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, where she was baptized and confirmed. She graduated from Atwood High School in 1950. On September 2, 1950, Betty was united in marriage to George Leonard in Tuscola. They enjoyed many years together, especially traveling throughout the United States and spending time with friends, until his death on October 30, 1997.

Betty is survived by her daughter; Linda Brewer of Tuscola, grandchildren: Matt Brewer, Katie (Mike) Ruggles and Sam (Kelsey) Leonard all of Tuscola, Jack Leonard and Marlene Leonard both of Chicago, six great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; stepbrother: Jim Harbaugh and cousin: Joyce Alexander.

Betty's mother died when Betty was only two years old, so she then went to live with an aunt and uncle, Clara and Otto Henningsen.

She was preceded in death by her son: Steve Leonard, son-in-law: Doug Brewer and cousin: Bob Henningsen with whom she was raised.

Betty was active in her church, singing in the choir and was a member of the Ladies Aid and L.W.M.L. She was a longtime member of the Tuscola Women's Club, Tuscola Kiwanis Club where she received the Walter Zeller Fellowship and had played and sang with the Keenager's Kitchen Band for many years.

Betty always enjoyed spending time with friends and seldom missed their morning coffee gatherings until the pandemic put an abrupt halt to this.

Memorials are suggested to the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Funeral Services were held at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 600 East Northline Road, Tuscola, IL with Rev. Jason Braaten officiating. Burial followed in the Tuscola Township Cemetery.

Visitation was held from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, April 23, 2021 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, IL and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com



Deborah K. Rahn

Deborah Kaye (Myers) Rahn of Camargo, IL passed away early Monday morning, April 19, 2021 after a long battle with cancer.

A Memorial Service was held at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, IL.

Visitation was held from 2 to 4 p.m., on Saturday at the funeral home.

She was born to Lee and Judy Myers on March 29, 1960 in Mt. Vernon, Ill. She married Leroy Rahn on Nov. 25, 1995. Besides her parents and husband she is survived by her son William Rahn (Kayleigh Rahn), sister Cindy Myers (Pam Gureski), and grandchildren Nora Kaye and Liam Roy Rahn.

She graduated from Mt. Vernon Township High School in 1978 and from Eastern Illinois University in 1982. She later obtained her masters from the University of Illinois. At the time of her passing she was working as the Bursar for the University of Illinois System. Deb's greatest joys were her faith, her family, and being GiGi to Nora Kaye and Liam.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and WBGL Radio.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com



John Cunningham

John Cunningham, age 67, passed away at home in Alpine Twp. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 surrounded by his family, after a long battle with Multiple Myeloma. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. John N. and Betty Jane Cunningham. He is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Jacqueline (Regan) Cunningham; sons, Jack Cunningham, Samuel Cunningham, Luke Cunningham; siblings Jo Ellen (Joe) Monahan, Dr. William (Norine) Cunningham, Michael (Deanna) Cunningham, Susan (Phil) Slagle, Theresa (Wendell) Meyer, Jeff (Cathy) Cunningham, Dr. Dan (Soraída) Cunningham; 20 nieces and nephews; and 17 great-nieces and nephews. John grew up in Tuscola, Illinois where he fell in love with hunting, fishing, and the outdoors. After college, John began working in the outdoor industry as a sales representative where he travelled the Midwest. He lived in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Michigan. Eventually, John settled into what would be a 30-year career with JH Nicholson, Inc. in Rockford, MI, where he was a sales representative for Browning, Winchester, and many other hunting and fishing companies. John earned countless awards over the course of his career. In 1995 John and Jacqueline were married and they found their dream home in Alpine Township, just outside of Grand Rapids. John turned his property into a gentleman's farm, where he would garden and raise goats, chickens, donkeys, a horse, and many dogs in between. His property sported ample land for John and his kids to hunt in the fall, sled and snowmobile in the winter, maple syrup and look for morel mushrooms in the spring and have pool parties and campfires in the summer. He took great pride in the fact that his property, eventually coined "Camp Cunningham," became a vacation get-away for all of his family and friends. John considered his greatest accomplishment to be his three sons. He loved attending their football games, baseball tournaments, and musical events. John will be remembered by all that knew him for his humor, his strong work ethic, and his selflessness. John was a member at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Conklin. The family will receive friends at family at Beuschel Funeral Home, 5018 Alpine Avenue, Comstock Park, on Thursday, April 29, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Friday, April 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m., at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 18784 8th Avenue, Conklin, with visitation at 10:30 a.m., with co-celebrants Rev. Father Tim Monahan, Father Gabriel, and Rev. Father Andrew Ayers. Interment will be in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.



William E. Gabbard

The beloved and treasured patriarch, William (Bill) Eugene Gabbard, 79, of Villa Grove, IL, born on March 12, 1942, was stolen to heaven on April 20, 2021. Seventy-nine years wasn't quite enough according to him as there are items that remain on his never-ending To Do list.

His heavenly family welcomed him with the biggest hugs, a cold cocktail, a joke or two, and a spot at the euchre table. Included in that heavenly family are the love of his life, Joyce Lynette, deeply missed sons Trevin Eugene and William Tron, mother Emogene, father Ben, stepmother Coralie "Cork", and brothers Dick and Tom.

Bill leaves behind a long legacy and his son Michael Troy (Renee) Gabbard, grandchildren Breanna Gensler, Brady Gabbard, Chloe Gabbard, great grandchildren Haydyn Gabbard, Hudson Gensler, Campbell Gensler, brother Bob Gabbard, sister Linda Gabbard, and lots of nieces and nephews.

A self-made businessman and entrepreneur, he built the successful food distribution business MSI Foods in Danville, IL. He also brokered many business deals throughout his life that afforded him the ability to give freely with all his heart to those around him.

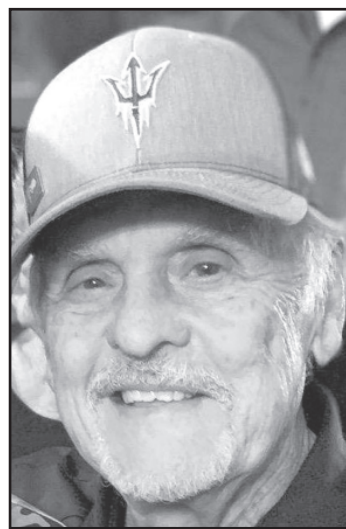
Bill was an avid fisherman, hunter, golfer, singer, dancer, storyteller, joke teller, beer drinker, and area jitterbug champion. He loved his family, working in the yard, tending his plants, thinking about work, going to work, doing work, and thinking up more work even in his last days.

Tributes and descriptions of Bill include funny, witty, wise, kind, giving, full of love and grace, never knew a stranger, cup half full, great man, and Villa Grove icon.

Even though it's his heart that failed him, it's his heart that made him the legend he was. Bill would tell you, "The bottom line is... it is what it is."

Per his wishes, Bill was accorded cremation rites. A graveside service was held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 1, 2021 at the Villa Grove Cemetery with Pastor Jerry Conner officiating. An open house visitation was held after the service at TriCity Country Club in Villa Grove until 4 p.m. Joines Funeral Home (Villa Grove) assisted the family with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, Bill would appreciate any support and donations for Villa Grove Schools and Athletics.



Lake Land College names Outstanding Honor Students

Lake Land College named PTK Treasurer Rachel Buening, Effingham, and PTK Secretary Macy Vogt, Teutopolis, as 2020-2021 Outstanding Honors Students. Both recipients were honored at the virtual Student Recognition Banquet April 28.

As well as being active in Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society (PTK), both students were Presidential Scholars and achieved full status honors via the Honors Program courses. PTK, the Honors Program and Presidential Scholars are the three components included in the Lake Land College Honors Experience.

Buening is majoring in elementary education and will be transferring to Eastern Illinois University in the fall. She said her goal as an educator is to make a difference in all of her students' lives.

"I was lucky enough to have so many teachers that were very influential and kind to me," Buening said. "I would love to do the very same for other students in the future as all we need sometimes in life is for someone to have a little faith in us."

Buening's hard work and dedication also caught the attention of her instructors.

"Rachel has an inquisitive nature and a drive to jump into topics and critically think," Psychology Instructor Lara Bacino-Althaus said. "She had excellent questions and comments in class."

Sociology Instructor Katie Parrish echoed Bacino-Althaus' sentiments, saying Buening was an excellent student who participated well in the class.

"She never hesitated to reach out to me anytime she had a question or wanted additional help," Parrish said. "Additionally, she went above and beyond for the honors project about the Underground Railroad Museum."

Buening likewise spoke highly of the honors faculty members, saying the best part of the honors courses was the faculty who taught them.

"The faculty members were all very dedicated to their work and had coursework and setups that were engaging and concise," Buening said. "I truly feel that the faculty in the honors program are what makes it so amazing!"

Because of her participation in the honors program, Buening said she was able to test and strengthen her skills by collaborating with other honors students.

"I really enjoyed the extra challenge and discussion that was incorporated

into the honors program as it pushed me to work even harder in my honors classes," Buening said. "I definitely feel that participating in the honors program helped me to become a better student by giving me the opportunity to collaborate with other students and have more one-on-one communications with my professors."

Vogt will also be transferring to Eastern Illinois University in the fall to major in exercise science. She said she plans to continue her education after earning a bachelor's degree, and she hopes to use creative and effective treatment plans in her career to help her future patients gain full recovery, independence and strength to perform everyday activities.

Vogt offered her gratitude to several honors faculty members, complimenting instructors' passion and effort for the students.

"The honors faculty at LLC are key to making the program so special," Vogt said. "The instructors are passionate about what they teach, and they make an effort to ensure that students understand the material. I had the pleasure of learning from Lara Bacino-Althaus, Ed Thomas, Katie Lotz and Katie Parrish. My advisor Krista Burrell has always provided advice and opportunities that allowed me to grow as a person."

Instructors reciprocated Vogt's sentiments, many complimenting her excellence and effort.

"Macy excelled in my classes and has shown that she puts forth a great effort in her academic and course work," Parrish said.

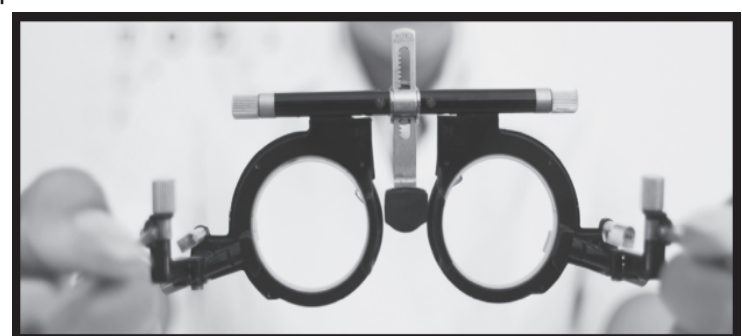
Economics Instructor Katie Lotz praised Vogt's dedication and progress in her classwork and development.

"Macy was such a dedicated student and I saw tremendous growth in her throughout the time she was in my class," Lotz said. "I cannot say enough nice things about her. She was fantastic."

Communication Studies Instructor Ed Thomas also complimented Vogt's merit in class.

"Macy is an exceptional student," Thomas said. "She was always professional and completed the coursework with excellence."

The Honors Experience at Lake Land College has been so influential in my community college experience," Vogt said. "The best connections I've made with other students and faculty have been a direct result of getting involved in the honors program."



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Douglas County Museum Mural final Ta-Dah!

Date updated: Come help us celebrate the Douglas County Museum mural with food, music, and more! Our finale work day for the museum mural is set for May 8. (We had to use our rain date!) We ask you to join us for a fun spring event while we complete the final touch ups on the mural from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be music by JMT Trio, food from Slow Spark BBQ, food from Bub's Donuts and some antique cars in our museum parking lot

from the owner of Ta'Carbon & more for you to see.

JMT Trio will play from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. BBQ & Donuts will be open at 11:00 a.m.

We will also be presenting a plaque for the mural. The event will go as long as needed for us to complete the work! The museum exhibits will also be open and we have free admission as always!

We are so happy the response to the mural has been so positive and look forward to celebrating with you!