

# Obituaries

## Carolyn A. MacDonald

Carolyn Ann MacDonald, age 87, peacefully passed away at home on Sunday, May 9, 2021 (Mother's Day) surrounded by her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. A. Bruce MacDonald, her parents, Dr. Charles J. and Nelle Alice Newport Cunningham and her siblings, John N. Cunningham (Betty Jane), Charles E. Cunningham (Dorothy), Paul J. Cunningham (Shirley) and James R. Cunningham (MaryFran).

She is survived by her children, daughters, Mary Ellen (Jon Tuthill), Maria Elysa (Richard Birnbaum) and Joseph Bruce (Jayne). She was a loving Nana to eight grandchildren, Justin Birnbaum, Ethan Birnbaum, Evangelia Birnbaum, Eliana Birnbaum, Benjamin Tuthill, Trey MacDonald, Chase MacDonald and Alexa MacDonald.

Carolyn grew up in Villa Grove, Illinois where she excelled in her studies and loved drama, even forming a drama club in her neighborhood as a young girl. This ignited a lifelong passion for the arts including music, theatre and movies. She also helped her father in his osteopathic practice, looking after the books. She spent one year at Illinois Wesleyan and then transferred and received a B.A. at Millikin University where she was a proud member of Alpha Chi Omega. Carolyn began working as an airline stewardess for Delta Airlines. She lived a glamorous life traveling and meeting people like Jimmy Stewart, Bob Hope, Carl Sandburg and Ernest Hemingway.

She married Dr. A. Bruce MacDonald at Forty Martyrs Catholic Church in Tuscola on November 28, 1959 and enjoyed 38 years of marriage, living in the Chicago area, East Lansing, MI, Waltham and Amherst, MA, before Bruce's passing in 1997.

She taught history, English and special education for many years to children from preschool to high school, beloved by many students. Carolyn became a pro-life leader in the Boston area, organizing many political events, marches, working in pregnancy crisis centers and with Massachusetts Citizens for Life. Fighting for the unborn and exploited women was the cause of her life. She co-founded the Friends of St. Jude's school in Waltham, MA which created a social network for parents and helped fundraise for the school.

Dedication to her family was most important to her, she never missed athletic events, plays, graduations, grandchildren's births and Sacraments. Her limitless energy and vivacious spirit led her family on many adventures to Disney World, FL, Mt. Washington, NH and of course, her hometown in Illinois. She was so devoted to her grandchildren, traveling to all their events and showering them with love and fun. She was bold, courageous, loving, fiercely patriotic and extremely generous. She never knew a stranger and showed kindness to all, especially those in her community. Throughout her life she was always a servant to God, evangelizing the Catholic faith and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, reciting the Rosary daily. She was a member at Forty Martyrs in Tuscola.

The family received friends at Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 S. Main St. Tuscola, on Monday, May 17, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday May 18, 2021 at 11:00 a.m., at Forty Martyrs Catholic Church, 201 E. Van Allen St. Tuscola with co-celebrants Rev. Father Tim Monahan, Father Kyle Lucas and Rev. Father Angel Sierra.

A Luncheon was held afterwards at the Forty Martyrs Parish Hall and all were welcome.

Donations can be made in lieu of flowers to Good Counsel Homes & Hope for Babies & Mothers, <https://www.goodcounselhomes.org/how-to-help/donate> and Wounded Warrior Project, <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

## Jeffry T. Raaymakers

Jeffry Thomas Raaymakers, longtime resident of Champaign-Urbana, IL passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and friends in Ellenton, FL on May 6th, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. Jeff was a devoted father, brother, son, grandfather and friend. He served with distinction as a fireman and paramedic in Illinois before following his passion for woodworking and becoming a master carpenter. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, boating and scuba diving with his family and friends. Jeff was a masterful golfer who never shot a bogey and as a master angler holds "unrecorded" state records for the largest crappie and largemouth bass ever caught in Illinois and Iowa. A father of three and grandfather of four Jeff was a caring and devoted parent and grandparent. He taught his kids and grandkids many lessons on life and growing up to be caring and compassionate women and men. Later in life Jeff met Margi Baldwin and their exploits are the stuff of legend, from kayaking misadventures to discovering a passion for art. Jeff truly made the most of his time on this earth and left an impression on everyone he met. Today the world is a little less knowledgeable, a little less creative and a lot less compassionate but we rest assured that he is with his daughter Ena again in heaven and that she's probably still refusing to eat her green beans. Good luck, old habits die hard. We love you more than you'll ever know, rest easy Dad.

Jeff was preceded in death by his father Arnold "Arnie" (Sue) Raaymakers, daughter Ena (Steven) Ballinger and Father in law Carl "Duder" (Sandy) Duderstadt.

He is survived by his daughter Mallory (AJ) Rodman, son Chad (Sarah) Raaymakers, granddaughter Nora Rodman, Grandsons George, Theo and Finn Raaymakers, mother Sue Raaymakers, sisters Ann (Rob) Nichols, Jean (Chuck) Michaud, Kathy Raaymakers, Katie (Andy) Winsor, brothers Steve (Peggy) Raaymakers, Joe (Sarah) Raaymakers and his longtime partner Margi Baldwin.

A memorial service will be held at Church of The Isles on June 6 at 5:00 p.m. The church is located at 200 24th Ave N, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to be made in Jeff's honor to the Paul B Sharar Foundation: Ena Raaymakers Ballinger Memorial Scholarship (<https://www.eicc.edu/alumni-and-giving/sharar-foundation/>) or the Tidewell Hospice in Sarasota (<https://tidewellfoundation.org/giving-opportunities/memorial-tribute-gifts/>).



## Barbara A. Wills

Barbara Ann VanGundy Wills, 87, of Tuscola, IL, passed away on Monday morning, May 10, 2021 at her residence.

Funeral Services were held at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 15, 2021 at the Tuscola United Methodist Church, 901 North Prairie Street, Tuscola, IL with Rev. Terri Haas officiating. Burial followed in the Tuscola Township Cemetery.

Visitation was held from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, May 14, 2021 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, IL

Barbara was born on May 28, 1933 in Macon, IL the daughter of Clarence W. and Alma Marie Dannemueller VanGundy, Sr. She married Phillip Joseph "Joe" Wills on July 10, 1953 in Arcola, IL. He survives.

Also surviving is her daughter: Jerie Wills of Camargo, IL, son: Phil A. (Connie) Wills of Dawsonville, GA, grandchildren: Ginger (Johnny) Dugan and Phillip (Haley) Wills, 5 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother: C.W. "JR" VanGundy, Jr. And sister: Rodie Clara King.

Barbara graduated from Arcola High School in 1951. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University in physical education. She formerly was a PE teacher at Tuscola Community High School. She obtained her real estate license and owned and operated Wills Real Estate in Tuscola. After retiring from Real Estate, Barbara worked for many years at the Tuscola Public Library.

She was a member of the Tuscola United Methodist Church and former member of the Tuscola Kiwanis Club. Barbara enjoyed golfing, tennis and playing Bridge.

Memorials are suggested to the Tuscola United Methodist Church, Tuscola Public Library or Tuscola Kiwanis Club.

Online condolences may be shared via [hilligossshraderfh.com](http://hilligossshraderfh.com)

## William D. Garrett

William David "Dave" Garrett, 64, of Tuscola, IL, passed away at 5:13 p.m., Sunday, May 9, 2021 at the Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, IL

Funeral Services were held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, IL with Rev. Joseph Carter officiating. Burial followed in the Tuscola Township Cemetery.

Visitation was held one hour prior to the services at the funeral home.

Dave was born on July 2, 1956 in Tuscola, the son of Russell L. and Betty Jane Hatchel Garrett.

Survivors include his fiancé: Erica Lynn Cox "Buttercup", brothers: Russell Dale Garrett (Toemika Sue) of Atwood, and John Logan Garrett of Tuscola, sisters: Nancy Joan Decker of Sadorus and Debbie Lynn Walters of Booneville, MO.

He was preceded in death by his Granny Thelma, parents, and brother: Robert A. "Boob" Garrett.

Dave was a proud graduate of Tuscola High School class of 1974. He was a jack of all trades and if you needed to know anything about Harley's or parts he was your "go to guy". He loved hard and played hard. Dave was a loving partner in crime to his "Buttercup". His hobbies include throwing horseshoes (and usually bringing home the 1st place trophy), road trips, concerts, fishing, and playing bags with people he shared priceless friendships with. He was an Illini, NASCAR, Earnhardt, Cardinals & Da Bears- Walter Payton fan.

He enjoyed Hog Roast Parties with Missy in Bondville & sharing stories with Kelly, Karla, & Aaron. He loved his family so much and cherished His time with his children: David Allen (Rafael), Rachel Marie (Nick), Kerri Christine & Chasity Lynn, grandchildren: Levi (21), Averi (16), River James (2), Grayson David (3), Kody, Kameryn, Kaleb and great-grandchild: Noah Jay (2) and several nieces and nephews!

He will be missed by so many, and those who know, will know who's truly missed.

Online condolences may be shared via [hilligossshraderfh.com](http://hilligossshraderfh.com)

## Jessie Griffith

Jessie (Anderson) Griffith, 99, of Urbana passed away on Wednesday (May 12, 2021).

There was a graveside service at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, at Grandview Memorial Gardens, Champaign. The Rev. Michael Elmore officiated.

Mrs. Griffith was born March 3, 1922, in Fairmount, the daughter of William Arthur and Mallie (Thompson) Anderson. She married Edward I. Griffith on Oct. 22, 1945, in Champaign. He passed away April 1, 2005.

Survivors include one sister-in-law, Sandy Anderson of St Joseph; one brother-in-law, Carrel Gosnell of Villa Grove; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers, Orvel, Ralph, William and Paul; and two sisters, Novelle and Barbara.

Mrs. Griffith graduated from Longview High School in 1941. After graduation she worked at the Grill Café for four years as a waitress. While working, she attended the Champaign Commercial College. She worked at Mel Roots Restaurant for 10 years as manager and waitress then worked at the State Universities Retirement System for 25 years and retired in 1987. Jessie loved waitress work and meeting people. She loved good gospel music and singing with family and friends. She loved going to many gospel meetings and conventions.

Memorial contributions may be made to Living Hope Foursquare Church, 2101 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802, or donor's choice.



## Dustin T. Gregory

Dustin T. Gregory, 36, of Lovington, IL, passed away at 4:00 a.m., Friday, May 14, 2021 in White County, IL due to a sudden tragic accident.

Visitation was held from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, May 21, 2021 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 66 East US Highway 36, Atwood, IL.

Memorial Services were held following the visitation at the funeral home.

Dustin was born on January 15, 1985 in Urbana, IL the son of Robert E. and Lorie A. Conour Gregory.

Survivors include his three children: Dustee Rose, Remington and Kenlee Mae Gregory, mother: Lorie (Rick) Miller, sisters: Shannon Gregory, Angel (Glen) Gingerich and Mariyah Miller, brother: Devon Miller grandmother: Betty Perkins, several nieces and nephews, along with great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father: Robert Eugene Gregory and grandmother: Joyce Gregory.

Dustin loved his family, the outdoors, fishing and taking in every wild animal that he could. He was a very loving, caring, kind and hardworking person. Dustin loved working in the highest trees, that was his greatest passion.

His death will leave a hole in everyone's heart that knew him and he will be deeply missed.

Memorials are suggested to the Gregory Family.

Online condolences may be shared via [hilligossshraderfh.com](http://hilligossshraderfh.com)



## Ill. Dep. of Public Health recognizes Physicians during EMS Week

### Ron W. Lee, M.D. Pediatric Care Awards

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program honored three physicians this week for their contributions to pediatric emergency and critical care medicine. The Ron W. Lee, M.D. - Excellence in Pediatric Care Awards are given annually by IDPH and EMSC to recognize those dedicated to pediatric emergency care, critical care and childhood injury prevention initiatives. Individuals or organizations can be nominated in one of three award categories - Lifetime Achievement, Clinical Excellence, and Community Service.

#### Recipients include:

- *Clinical excellence* - Paul Severin, MD, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago

- *Lifetime achievement* - Mary Clyde Pierce, MD, Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Pediatric Child Abuse, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Chicago

- *Lifetime achievement* - Girish Deshpande, MD, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, Children's Hospital of Illinois at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria

The Ron W. Lee, M.D. Excellence in Pediatric Care awards are presented each May. Dr. Lee was the medical director for the Division of Emergency Medical Services and Highway Safety at IDPH, as well as the director of emergency medicine at Loyola University Medical Center and was instrumental in establishing and fostering the EMSC program in Illinois. He passed away in 1998.

Illinois EMSC is a statewide program within IDPH that has a collaborative partnership with Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. It was established in 1994 to ensure the emergency medical care needs of children are adequately addressed.

## Douglas County Ag in the Classroom holds lesson on floriculture

Douglas County Ag in the Classroom finished the school year with a fun lesson on floriculture - flower farming! Floriculture includes bedding plants, house plants, and cut flowers. Bedding plants are those used for landscaping, gardens, and containers. The most popular bedding plants are geraniums, impatiens, and petunias. 46 percent of Americans purchase plants.

Floriculture is a segment of farming producing over \$4 billion of product per year. Leading states in floriculture production are California, Florida, Michigan, and New Jersey.

Some plants are grown outside in fields, but many

are grown in greenhouses. Greenhouse management includes monitoring temperature, humidity, fertilization, and disease in this controlled environment. Many greenhouses use computers and technology to grow beautiful plants.

Students made flower pictures and labeled the parts of the flowers. Older students did an activity of selective breeding to create new varieties of flowers and made a model of those flowers.

Douglas County Ag in the Classroom is supported by Douglas County Farm Bureau, Douglas County Ag Center, and Illinois Ag in the Classroom



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