

Obituaries

Paula R. Jennings

Paula Raye Jennings, 72, of Mattoon, IL passed away at 3:55 a.m. on Friday, October 22, 2021 at Illini Heritage Nursing and Rehab.

Private family service will be held at a later date. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Paula was born on September 7, 1949 in Tuscola, IL. She was a daughter of Louie and Velma Pauline (McNary) Hilligoss. She married Bill Ray Jennings on August 22, 1986. He passed away in 2008.

She is survived by one daughter, Christy Franklin and her husband Doug of Tolono, IL, three stepchildren, Troy Jennings and his wife Tami of Mattoon, IL, Tracy Himes and her husband Mel of Mattoon, IL and Tonya Jennings of Mattoon, IL, two grandchildren, Kelsea Allen and her fiancé Daniel Gress of St. Louis, MO and Katelyn Allen of Tolono, IL, six step-grandchildren, Zach Jennings and his wife Bree, Karsha Jennings, Ben Himes, Jordan Himes, Shelby and Dalton and two step-great grandchildren Zander and Zayden Jennings all of Mattoon, IL, and two brothers, Rex Hilligoss and his wife Barbara of Mattoon, IL and John Hilligoss of Decatur, IL.

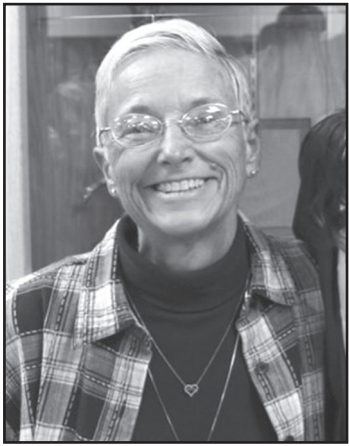
She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Bill Jennings and one sister, Sandra Davis.

Paula was a 1967 graduate of Mattoon High School and later graduated with her associates degree from Lake Land College.

Paula worked as a bank teller at Arcola First National Bank, First Mid Bank in Mattoon, she also later worked as a secretary for The Upchurch Group in Mattoon and later as a claims representative for Blue Cross Blue Shield

Paula was an avid bowler at the Embassy Lanes and enjoyed knitting and crocheting.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Ave, Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.



Robert L. Wakefield

Robert L. Wakefield, 91, of Homer passed away at 9:24 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, at Tuscola Health Care Center, Tuscola.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 15, at Kirby Funeral Home, 708 S. Main St., Homer, with the Rev. C.W. Greer officiating. Burial took place in G.A.R. Cemetery, Homer. There was a visitation one hour prior to the funeral at the funeral home.

Bob was born Aug. 30, 1930, in Homer, the son of William Irvin and Bessie Peters Wakefield. He married Eileen Umbarger on Dec. 9, 1950, in Homer. She preceded him in death on Oct. 12, 2015.

Survivors include sons, Steven (Trudy) Wakefield of Williamsville, Larry (Mernice) Wakefield of St. Joseph and Dan (Debbie) Wakefield of Tuscola; daughter, Carol Wakefield of Mahomet; sister, Arlene Wakefield of Champaign; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by four brothers, Don, Dale, Ralph and Jim Wakefield; and two sisters, Marie McCoy and LaVerne Cook.

Bob was a member of Homer United Methodist Church and was on the Village of Homer Board from 1979 to 1987. He played trumpet in a big-band called "The Has Beens Orchestra," and he loved big-band music. Bob also loved ballroom dancing with his wife. He enjoyed going to Homer Lake to watch for deer and other wildlife. He also liked playing golf and traveling with his wife to different areas of the country. Bob was a farmer in the Homer area for many years, retiring in 1992.

Memorials can be made to Homer Fire and Rescue or Homer United Methodist Church.



William E. Bolger

William E. Bolger, 85, of Philo passed away at 8:15 a.m. Thursday (Oct. 14, 2021) at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, at St. Thomas Catholic Church, Philo, with the Rev. Keith Walder officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Philo. Visitation was from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at the church with the rosary at 4:30 p.m. Freese Funeral Home, Sidney, is assisting with arrangements.

Bill was born Nov. 4, 1935, in Los Angeles, a son to Henry and Bonnie McGee Bolger. He married Edith Clennon on Nov. 13, 1954, in Philo; she survives.

Also surviving are six children, Susan Yeazel of Philo, Chuck (Diane) Bolger of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Cathy (Mike) Weatherford of Villa Grove, John Bolger of Fairview, Cease (Darren) Cady of Danville, Iowa, and Jim (Michelle) Bolger of Philo; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Robert Bolger.

Bill was employed at Western Electric for 25 years. He also owned and operated a barber shop in Philo. He was past fire chief of the Philo Fire Department and was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church, Philo. He was an actor in plays and commercials. He enjoyed the Chicago Cubs, golfing and gardening.

Memorials may be made to St. Thomas Church or school. Condolences may be made at freeseafh.com.



Betty I. Heacock

Betty I. Heacock, 91, of Decatur, IL, passed away at 3:10 p.m., Thursday, October 7, 2021 at her residence.

Funeral Services were held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 16, 2021 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, IL with Rev. Kenneth Roedder officiating. Burial was in the Tuscola Township Cemetery, Tuscola, IL

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

Betty was born on February 5, 1930 in Decatur, IL, the daughter of Lawrence and Dorine Toliver Barnes. She married W. Montelle "Monte" Heacock, Jr. On March 13, 1949 in Tuscola. He preceded her in death on December 26, 2012.

Survivors include her son: Rick Heacock of Decatur, daughters: Connie Adkins and Lora Johnson both of Decatur, Pamela (Larry) Swiney of Jackson, TN, seven grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren and her brother: Bill (Jeanne) Barnes of Decatur.

She was preceded in death by her parents and daughter: Deborah Luttrell.

Betty retired from Greenberg's Shoe Store where she worked for over 30 years. She was an avid NBA Basketball fan, especially rooting for the Chicago Bulls.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com



Debbie Tiffan

Debbie Tiffan, 67 of Arthur, IL passed away at 3:51 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at her residence.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at the United Church of Atwood, 210 North Main St., Atwood, IL. Rev. Mike Drake officiated. Burial was in the Arthur Cemetery. Visitation was held from 5:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2021 at the United Church of Atwood. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Debbie was born on March 2, 1954 in Whidbey Island, WA. She was a daughter of Charles William and Joyce E. (Tohill) Miller. She married David C. Tiffan on February 12, 2010 in Las Vegas, NV.

She is survived by her husband Dave of Arthur, IL, two children, Michael "Mikie" Stirrett and his wife Megan of Atwood, IL and Jamie Monts and her husband Andy of Arthur, IL, two step children, Lori Policht and her husband Steve "Wheezer" of Antioch, IL and Travis Tiffan and his wife Hayley of Atwood, IL, her mother, Joyce Stephenson of Arthur, IL, nine grandchildren, Maddix, Mace and Maelee Stirrett, Sophie and Chloe Monts, Gwendolyn and Claire Policht and Layne and Holdyn Tiffan, and seven siblings, Jim Miller and his wife Theresa of Arthur, IL, Sheila Keith of Cape Coral, FL, Lynee Delmar and her husband Jack of Bloomington, IL, Scott Gordon and his wife Angie of Tuscola, IL, Kathy Yancy and her husband Charles of Lovington, IL, Kim Stephenson of Tuscola, IL, and Terri Pygott and her husband Harold of Atwood, IL and one sister-in-law, Mary Stephenson of Decatur, IL.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charles William Miller, and stepfather, Billy K. Stephenson and one brother, Mike Stephenson.

Debbie attended the United Church of Atwood. She was a member of the Arthur Women's Club, Atwood Lions Club and had served as an EMT in Atwood.

Debbie graduated from Atwood High School in 1972. She attended beauty school and operated a beauty shop from her home for many years as well as operated a craft store in Atwood called Country Ruffle all the while attending the duties of being a farmer's wife. Debbie retired from Ameren Illinois after 20 years of service.

Debbie enjoyed crafting, creating, shopping, working in her flowers, caring for others, going to races, but most of all spending time with her family.

Memorials may be made to the United Church of Atwood.



Kyli Ann Bontrager

Kyli Ann Bontrager, infant daughter of Clinton Lamar and Mindy Ann (Shetler) Bontrager was stillborn at 4:29 a.m. on Friday, October 22, 2021 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at the North Vine Mennonite Church in Arthur, IL. Rev. Brian Petersheim officiated. Burial was in the Sunnyside Mennonite Church Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Kyli is survived by her parents, Clint and Mindy (Shetler) Bontrager of Arthur, IL, paternal grandparents, Lamar and Barbara Bontrager of Sullivan, IL, maternal grandparents, Lonnie and Margaret Shetler of Arthur, IL, paternal great-grandparents, Ervin and Mary Bontrager and Ada Miller, maternal great-grandmother, Barbara Shetler, and three aunts, two uncles and two cousins.

She was preceded in death by her paternal great-grandfather, Harvey Miller, and maternal great-grandparents, Jake Shetler and Jeff and Rebecca Miller.

Kyli's parents are members of the Vineyard Church in Sullivan, IL.

Menno D. Miller

Menno D. Miller, age 83, years, 3 months, and 16 days passed away on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at his residence.

Funeral services were held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at the Mervin Herschberger residence, 17841 N. CR 280 E., Arcola, IL. Bishop Ervin Miller officiated. Burial was in the Yoder Cemetery in rural Arthur, IL. Visitation was held anytime after 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 22, 2021 at the Mervin Herschberger residence. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

He was born on July 4, 1938 to Dan A. and Lena (Schrock) Miller. He married Lorene Plank on November 15, 1962. They lived in Holy Matrimony for 58 years and 11 months.

Leaves to mourn his departure his wife, Lorene, one daughter-in-law, Clara Miller of Sullivan, IL, three sons, Eldon, married Rosanna (Kauffman) of Arcola, IL, Mervin married Wilma (Brenneman) of Lovington, IL and Steven of Arcola, IL, six daughters, Sharon of Arcola, IL, Shirley married Levi Kaufman of Humboldt, IL, Treva married Joseph Schrock of Arthur, IL, Edith, Barbara and Marnita Miller all of Arcola, IL, 36 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, four brothers, Elmer, Willis married Katie Schrock, Omer married Nancy Yoder and Merle married Jane Reece, one sister-in-law, Mary Miller, one sister, Verna married Daniel Schlabach.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Howard Miller, one daughter-in-law, Louise Miller, two grandchildren, Regina Miller and Matthew Miller, his parents, Dan and Lena Miller, two brothers, Amzy and Ervin and his wife Susan, one sister, Anna and one -sister-in-law, Katie Miller.

Menno was a member of the Old Order Amish Church.

Michael D. Watters

Michael Dale Watters, 72, of Tuscola, IL, born April 16, 1949 went home on October 21, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.

He worked at Cabot for 28 years.

Michael leaves a wife: Teresa Watters and daughter: Jennifer Watters, two granddaughters: Kristin Dickens and MaKayla Kingrey, three sisters: Diana Walters, Debbie Moody and Patricia Romine, brother: John David Watters.

He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. Michael enjoyed riding motorcycles.

He was preceded in death by his daughter: Jessica, mother: Ruth Pyle and father: John Watters.

No services will be held. Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com



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PO BOX 170
TUSCOLA, IL 61953

Lorena K. Hochstetler

Lorena Kay (Jess) Hochstetler, age 68 years, 8 months, 13 days, of Arcola, IL passed away at 1:49 a.m. Saturday, October 23, 2021 at her residence.

Funeral services were held at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at the Elmer Miller residence 163 North CR 425 East, Arcola, IL. Bishop Ervin Eugene Miller officiated. Burial was in the Yoder Cemetery in rural Arthur, IL. Visitation was held any time after 6:00 p.m. Sunday at the Elmer Miller residence. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Lorena was born February 10, 1953 the daughter of Lester and Katie (Herschberger) Jess. She married Menno Lavern Hochstetler December 19, 1972. They lived in Holy Matrimony for 48 years, 10 months and four days.

Leaves to mourn her departure: her husband LaVern Hochstetler of Arcola, IL; three sons, Nelson and his wife Miriam (Miller) of Arthur, IL, Larry and his wife Rosemary (Helmuth) of Arthur, IL and Kevin and his wife Treva (Beachy) of Tuscola, IL; four daughters, Rosella and her husband Raymond Schrock of Arcola, IL, Dena and her husband Cephas Yoder of Ava, IL, Mary Anna and her husband Ernest Kauffman of Humboldt, IL, Ruby Fern and her husband Nathan Miller of Arcola, IL; her mother Katie (Herschberger) Jess Miller of Arthur, IL; 35 grandchildren; three sisters, Viola Plank of Arthur, IL, Elsie and her husband Ira Gingerich of Arthur, IL, and Ella and her husband Ervin Miller of McBain, MI, four brothers Elva Jess of McHenry, IL, Chris Jess of Arthur, IL, Reuben and his wife Loretta (Wagler) of Arcola, IL, and Glen Jess and his wife Irma (Yoder) of Arthur, IL; one stepbrother, Noah Miller and his wife Edna Mae of Arthur, IL; one stepsister, Lorene and her husband Omer Chupp of Arthur, IL.

Lorena was preceded in death by her father Lester Jess, stepfather, Ammon Miller, two daughters Leona Kay and El-nora as well as one son Vernon, two grandchildren, one brother-in-law, Willis Plank and one stepbrother, Willis Miller.

Lorena was a homemaker and a member of the Old Order Amish Church.

Steven H. Conner

Steven H. Conner, 62, of North Fort Myers, FL, passed away on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at his residence.

Burial was held at the Tuscola Township Cemetery, Tuscola, IL

Steve was born on September 15, 1958 in East St. Louis, IL.

He formerly worked as a retail clerk at a hardware store.

Survivors include his step-mother: Carolyn Janiece Stultz Conner of North Fort Myers, FL and many cousins.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents: Carl F. and Alice M. Conder Conner and twin brother: Michael who passed away on June 7, 2003.

Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, Tuscola, IL assisted the family with the arrangements.

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