

# OBITUARIES

## Gelerd “Dale” Thomas

Gelerd “Dale” Thomas, 82, husband of LaDonna Popplewell Thomas, passed away Saturday, October 29, 2022. He was born in Liberty, KY, on August 25, 1940, to the late Edna Tarter and Willie Thomas. He was self-employed and worked as a custom woodworker for his own company, Thomas Contract Casework. He was also a member of Southland Christian Church.



The only One he loved more than his wife of 62 years, LaDonna, his daughters, Terrie and Tracy, and all of his precious grandchildren, was Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior.

He lived his life so that everyone he encountered would get a glimpse of the God he so passionately loved and served. From his bold t-shirt’s, to the way he did his business, everyone could truly say that Dale Thomas was “different” and definitely in a good way. He made friends everywhere he went and will always be remembered as a man who would make you smile (and maybe even laugh out loud!) before he went on to completely change your day.

He left people “better” than he found them. And that will be one of the things most remembered about him.

While he will be so missed by those here on earth who loved him deeply, we know that he has gone ahead to help prepare our homes in Heaven....and the woodworking upgrades will be glorious!)

As someone he loved dearly recently said “two carpenters....sure will have a lot to talk about...”

To all of his family, friends, and acquaintances he would say this:

“Do not grieve for me because I am finally

Home.....You just make sure You get there!

Jesus and I will be waiting for You.”

Besides his wife, LaDonna, those left to cherish his memory include his daughters, Terrie (Michael) Ach, and Tracy (James) Whitten; grandchildren, Kelsey (Mason) King, Ethan (Lauren) Whitten, Bitty (Travis) Rose, Evanne (Christian) Fielden, Trey Whitten, and Clay (Bri) Ach, and seven great-grandchildren, Camden, Aiden, Ryan, and Hudson Whitten, Elsie and Ezra Rose, and Noah Rose King. He is also survived by his sister, June (Marshall) Wooldridge.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Janouise (Albert) Swanson.

A gathering of family and friends will be held 2PM-4PM, Sunday, December 11, 2022, at Clark Legacy Center, Brannon Crossing, to celebrate the life of Mr. Thomas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Jubilee Jobs of Lexington.

## Bonnie “Sunshine” Selby Kimbler

Bonnie “Sunshine” Selby Kimbler, 98, Russell Springs, passed away Monday, November 14, 2022, at Taylor Regional Hospital, in Campbellsville.

Funeral services were held 1:00 p.m. CST, Thursday, November 17, 2022, at Bernard Funeral Home, with Bro. Craig Huddleston officiating. Interment was in Russell Springs City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mt. Pleasant Church.

## June Jacqueline Popplewell Gaskins

June Jacqueline Popplewell Gaskins, Russell Springs, passed away Thursday, November 17, 2022, at Russell County Hospital.



She was born in Anderson, Indiana, June 20, 1924, daughter of the late Orion Avalee and Josephine Anderson Popplewell. On June 21, 1941, at the age of 17, she married Morris M. Gaskins, the beginning of a fifty-three-year union of marriage and work for the Lord. She was a dutiful and devoted pastor’s wife. During Bro. Morris’ pastoring career, she was active in music, with the children’s choir, Bible Schools and revivals in their tenures at Science Hill First Baptist Church, Clear Fork Baptist Church, in Albany, and Union Baptist Church, of Russell Springs. She was a member of Russell Springs First Baptist Church.

She was an accomplished piano player; she played for the Starlighters Quartet that was featured daily on CBS radio. She shared her talent by teaching piano privately to many students over the years. She was a public-school teacher for some time, and had worked for the telephone company, as well.

She is survived by her daughter, Yvonne (and Donnie) Emerson, Russell Springs; her grandsons, Matt (and Karen) Emerson, Jamestown, Daniel (and Jessica) Emerson, Henderson, and Jeremy (and Kattie) Emerson, Lawrenceburg; her great-grandchildren, Abigail Emerson, Rebekah Emerson, Xander Emerson, Sarah (and Tim) Mack, Rachel (and Nick) Rouse, and Caleb (and Miranda) Bonner and her great-great-grandchildren, Madison Bonner, Chloe Bonner, Ethan Bonner, Emmet Bonner, Emerie Bonner, Layla Isbell, Nik Isbell, and Remy Isbell.

Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Morris Gaskins, who passed away May 6, 1994; her brothers, O.A. Popplewell, Jr. and William S. “Bill” Popplewell and her sister, Retta Grider.

Funeral services were held 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at Russell Springs Christian Church, with Bro. Donnie Emerson officiating. Burial followed in Union Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Matt Emerson, Daniel Emerson, Jeremy Emerson, Chris Stapp, Elliott Bryant, Frank Gaskins, Derek Polston, and Tommy Hill.

Honorary pallbearers were Roy Thomas and Gene Brown.

Donations may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children at [donate.lovetotherescue.org](https://donate.lovetotherescue.org) or to 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

Bernard Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. An online guestbook is available at [www.bernardfuneralhome.com](https://www.bernardfuneralhome.com).

## Mark Anderson

Mark Anderson, 56, Jamestown, passed away Thursday, November 17, 2022, at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. Graveside services were held 11:00 AM, Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Carnes - Ballenger Cemetery, Black Fish Road, Jamestown, KY. Interment was in Carnes - Ballenger Cemetery, Black Fish Road, Jamestown, KY. Wilson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

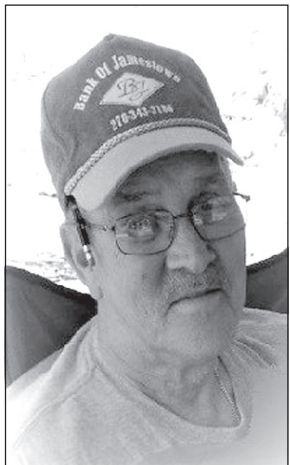
## Debra Lynn “Debbie” Shearer

Debra Lynn “Debbie” Shearer, 63, Russell Springs, passed away Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital, in Somerset.

Funeral services were held 2:00 p.m. CST, Friday, November 18, 2022, at Bernard Funeral Home, with Bro. Larry Johnson and Bro. Caleb Shirley officiating. Burial will be in Bullitt Lick Cemetery, in Shepherdsville, at a later date.

## Ollace “Honey” Russell

Ollace ‘Honey’ Russell, 84, Jamestown, passed away Sunday, November 13, 2022, at his home.



He was born on January 25, 1938, and raised in Russell Springs, son of the late Walter A. and Rena West Russell. He was a retired truck driver with Ryder Trucking Company. He attended Bethel United Baptist Church. He enjoyed woodworking and was a car enthusiast.

He is survived by his sons, Doug (and Janet) Russell, Loganville, Georgia, and Alan Russell, Carrabelle, Florida; brother, Vernon (and Margaret) Russell, Jamestown; sisters, Brenda (and Delvin) Wilson and Melissa (and Dennville) Passmore, both of Russell Springs; grandchildren, Blake Russell and Bailey Russell, both of Loganville, and an “adopted son,” Jeff Reeves, Loganville.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, James Russell, Douglas Russell, Wallace “Jam-Up” Russell, Earl Wayne Russell and Jimmy Dean Russell, and sisters, Betty Buckler, Linda Brummett, Sandra Polston and Paula Crawhorn.

A Celebration of the Life was held 2:00 p.m. CST, Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Bernard Funeral Home, with Bro. Delvin Wilson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bethel United Baptist Church, 1041 Decatur Road, Dunnville, KY 42528.

## Financial Focus

### HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE YOUR FINANCIAL FITNESS?

It’s always smart to stay physically fit, at every point in your life. But financial fitness is important, too. Are you doing everything you can to boost your financial well-being?

The topic of financial health is certainly on the minds of many people. In fact, 70% of Americans say the COVID-19 pandemic has caused them to pay more attention to their long-term finances, according to a recent Edward Jones/Age Wave survey titled Four Pillars of the New Retirement: What a Difference a Year Makes.

While interest in financial health is widespread, some groups are feeling more positive about their future than others. Baby Boomers came through the pandemic in generally good financial shape, while Gen Z and Millennials felt the greatest negative financial impact, according to the Four Pillars study. And women’s confidence in their retirement savings remains low, as the pandemic widened the economic gender gap, particularly for women of color. So, your outlook may depend somewhat on your demographics.

But regardless of your age or gender, you can still take some steps to improve your financial health, including these:

Conduct an investment “check-up.” Getting a regular check-up is a key part of maintaining good physical health. And the same principle applies to your investments – you need to periodically assess their “vital signs.” Is your portfolio still appropriate for your risk tolerance and time horizon? Is it providing you with the growth potential you’ll need to help you achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement? Is it diversified enough, or do you own too many of the same investments? Even though diversification can’t guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help reduce the impact of financial market volatility on your portfolio.

Take preventive measures. Throughout your life, you probably take medicines as needed, and possibly vitamins and other supplements, in an effort to treat existing illnesses or prevent future ones. You also can, and should, take preventive measures to boost your financial health. For example, do you have sufficient life and disability insurance? If your family situation has changed through divorce, remarriage or the births of new children, have you updated the beneficiary designations on your insurance policies? And have you taken steps to protect your financial independence – and possibly avoid burdening your family – by addressing the potentially huge costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay?

Avoid unhealthy moves. Smoking, a sedentary lifestyle and excessive stress are all considered unhealthy for our bodies. But some activities are unhealthy for our financial fitness, too. You may be tempted to tap into your IRA or 401(k) to pay for a short-term need, such as a down payment on a new car, but if it isn’t absolutely essential that you get this car, or if you possibly can obtain other sources of funding, you may want to avoid touching your retirement accounts. For one thing, withdrawals may incur taxes and penalties, but, just as important, these accounts are intended to provide you with some of the income you’ll need when you’re retired – so the more you deplete them now, the more financial strain you may face during retirement.

Staying physically fit requires determination and work – and the same is true for maintaining financial fitness. But the effort you put into staying financially healthy can help you keep moving toward your financial goals.

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## Hidden Treasures with Love GOD’S ELITE

Pat Summitt led Tennessee’s girls to 8 NCAA titles, finishing second 5 times. When asked her recipe for success, she replied, “You don’t take a mule to the Kentucky Derby.”

Jesus said, Mat 7:21 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

We obtain divine favor with God by obeying the call to repent into righteousness.

Gen 6:8 “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”

Noah was one of the few elite heroes of faith, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. See Hebrews 11:7.

1Peter 4:18 “And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

Lu 13:3 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Elite athletes condition their body to compete at a higher level than others. So also do God’s elite earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints! See Jude 13. There will be no mules in heaven! Pat Summitt’s hard work placed her second behind John Wooden in NCAA Championships. After Patricia Summitt’s death, Tennessee’s Arena was named Summitt after the head coach.

The elite of God has their name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, the elite of all times!

Gen 7:5 “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;”

A church doing all the Lord’s commandments is a portrait of God’s Elite! Righteousness is the wedding garment. The world is a dressing room to prepare to meet God with grace. The Bible is a mirror reflection of how we must conduct ourself as we follow in the footsteps of our God, Jesus Christ.

Col 3:12 “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;”

Our finish will be where the rubber “must” meet the road. A prostitute named Mary Magdalene, answered the call of repentance and was highly recruited by God, making her one of, God’s Elite.

God’s Elite by Mike Willen With Love!