

Area Obituaries

Wilbur Pflum

Wilbur Eugene Pflum, 90, a lifelong resident of Tuscola, peacefully passed away on Thursday, December 30, 2021, at the Tuscola Health Care Center.

Visitation will be held from 9-10:30 a.m., Wednesday January 5, at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola.

Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 a.m., Wednesday January 5, at Forty Martyrs Catholic Church, 201 East Van Allen, Tuscola, with Fr. Angel Sierra officiating. Burial will follow at the Tuscola Township Cemetery.

Mr. Pflum will be remembered for his community involvement around Tuscola and Douglas County. He was actively involved with the Republican



Pflum

Party and served as a precinct committeeman for many years; he worked on local issues with the drainage commission, Soil and Water Conservation District

and the Farm Bureau. He was always eager to support and assist the community. Mr. Pflum was a veteran of the United States Air Force and a supporter of the VFW.

Mr. Pflum's passion was farming and caring for the land. He was an active farmer in Tuscola for over 50 years and was a staunch believer in preserving the family farm; the Pflum farm remains active today with the fourth generation. Mr. Pflum enjoyed the outdoors where he would hunt and fish. When farming slowed in the winter, Wilbur and Blanche spent their time in Leesburg, Fla., where Mr. Pflum enjoyed fishing.

Mr. Pflum was preceded in death by his wife Blanche, parents Clarence and Lillian (Mannon), and sister Mary Lou.

He is survived by his children,

John and Kathleen (Caulfield) Pflum of Tuscola, Janet (Pflum) and Michael Nielsen of Champaign; his grandchildren, Stephanie (Pflum) and Samuel Stumpf of Columbia, Michael and Holly (Nichols) Pflum of Tuscola, Matthew and Kirsten (Flodstrom) Pflum of Champaign, Rachel Pflum of Lakewood, Colo., Lauren (Nielsen) and Bryan Sagray of San Antonio, Texas, and Jillian Nielsen of South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; his great-grandchildren, Alaina, Wyatt and Jacob Stumpf, Colette, Mia and Harrison Pflum.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Tuscola FFA Chapter or the Douglas County Museum Association.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.

Bettie Bird

Bettie Lou (Cruzan) Bird, 88, of Tuscola, passed away peacefully at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 23, 2021, at St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur.

Funeral Services were held Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, Tuscola, with the Rev. Terri Haas officiating. Burial was in the Tuscola Township Cemetery. Visitation was held prior to the service at the funeral home.

Mrs. Bird was born on July 13, 1933, in Tuscola, the daughter of Harmon and Annabel Rideout Cruzan. She married Paul Bird on March 19, 1955, in Tuscola. He preceded her in death on January 12, 2012.

Mrs. Bird is survived by her

son, Bruce Bird and wife Karrie of Mt. Zion; daughter, Laura Bird Smith and husband Gordo of Longmeadow, Mass.; four grandchildren, Justin Bird, Elizabeth Bird, McKelvie Smith and Kylee Smith; and her beloved special companion, Dean Crider of St. Joseph.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Bird; her parents; and her sister, Lois Adams.

Mrs. Bird graduated from TCHS in 1951 and from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago in 1954. She worked as a pediatric nurse in Colorado until she and Paul started their family; she then stayed home to raise the children. She returned to work in the early 1980s at First Federal Bank of Tuscola, where she



Bird

worked for 20 years, retiring as Branch Manager in 2001.

Spoiling her grandchildren,

raising African violets, traveling, playing dominoes and cards, socializing at morning coffee gatherings, and taking drives on country roads were some of her favorite pastimes. She was a longtime member and officer of the Margaret Scott African Violet Society, and she was an original member of the Happy Keenager Kitchen Band. She was a member of the Tuscola United Methodist Church.

Memorials are suggested to Dream Catchers of Macon County, c/o Judi Sturgell, 1163 Buckeye Lane, Decatur, IL 62521.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.

Denny Obrecht

Denny Burlin Obrecht, 74, of Tuscola, passed away at his home surrounded by family members on Saturday, January 1, 2022.

Funeral Services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, January 7, at the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, 2010 Three Hierarchs Court, Champaign, with the Rev. Father Michael Condos officiating. Burial will follow at the Tuscola Township Cemetery with military graveside rites.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, January 6, at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola. Please follow COVID protocols.

Mr. Obrecht was born on March 31, 1947, in Detroit,

Mich., the son of Burlin C. and Frances V. (Lemny) Obrecht. He married Susan E. Vaughn on April 27, 1974, in Chicago. She survives.

Also surviving are his daughters, Angela (Dan) Bronke of Nashville (Illinois), Crystal (Bryan) Bourcier of Ft. Wayne, Ind., and Bonnie (Edwin) Fernandez of Aurora, Colo.; grandchildren, Josephine, Johnathan and Jacob Bronke, Caillat and Cullen Bourcier, Ellasandra and Ezra Fernandez; brother, Greg (Beverly) Obrecht of Tuscola; aunts, Sandra Gerth of Tuscola, and Mary Goddard of Melbourne, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mr. Obrecht was a devout lifelong member of the Three



Obrecht

Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church in Champaign.

He graduated from Tuscola Community High School in

1965. He earned an associate degree in Dental Technology from SIU-Carbondale in 1973.

Mr. Obrecht owned and operated Obrecht Dental Lab in Tuscola until his retirement in 2008.

He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Obrecht was a member of the Elks Club and Tuscola Moose Lodge.

He loved vintage cars, especially corvettes and was a member of the Coles County Corvette Club. He loved spending time on his boat.

Memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society or Three Hierarchs Church.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.

Joyce Kauffman

Joyce Gayle Kauffman, 64, of Arthur, passed away at 6:21 p.m. on Friday, December 31, 2021, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon.

There was a private family graveside service at Jonathan Creek Cemetery on Tuesday, January 4. The Rev. Tim Henderson officiated. The Edwards Funeral Home assisted with arrangements.

Mrs. Kauffman was born on September 4, 1957, in Tuscola. She was the daughter of Clarence Allen and Edith Caroline (Williams) White. She was a graduate of Villa Grove High School in 1975. Mrs. Kauffman married Elva "Pete" Kauffman on July 1, 1977, in Villa Grove. She was a member of the Jonathan Creek Christian Church in Sullivan. She and her husband Elva spent many years traveling together as part of their transportation business.

Mrs. Kauffman leaves behind her husband, Elva "Pete" Kauffman; siblings, Jesse (Nancy) White of Camargo, Diane (Glen) Workman of Ingham, and Debbie Sharp of Ingham; brothers-in-law, Dale (Louise) Kauffman and Paul (Fern) Kauffman; and sev-



Kauffman

eral nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her in-laws, Levi and Mary Kauffman; brother, Jeffrey Kauffman; nephew, Wendall Kauffman; and her grandparents.

Mrs. Kauffman took pride in collecting genealogy for her family. She was an active member of her church and community.

Mrs. Kauffman was the backbone of her family and will be greatly missed.

Memorials may be made to the Jonathan Creek Church in Mrs. Kauffman's name.

Don Hart

Donald Earl Hart, Sr., 66, of Brazil, Ind., formerly of Tuscola, passed away at 10:40 p.m., Monday, December 27, 2021, at Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind.

Funeral Services were held Monday, January 3, at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, Tuscola, with Dr. Lanny Faulkner officiating. Burial with military graveside rites accorded was in the Tuscola Township Cemetery. Visitation was held Monday at the funeral home.

Mr. Hart was born on November 7, 1955, in Terre Haute, Ind., the son of Earl and Betty Keep Hart. He married Sharon Taylor on September 20, 1975, in Terre Haute. She preceded him in death on May 16, 2019. He married Sharon Zabel Petersen on August 21, 2021, in Brazil, Ind. She survives.

Also surviving are his children, LaDonna (Geoff) Saul of Cloverdale, Ind., Travis (Merry) Skinner of Fernandina Beach, Fla., and Krista (Albert) Brown of Tuscola; daughter-in-law, Katy Patient of Atwood; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren; step-children, Kris Blakey of Horse Cave, Ky,



Hart

Jennifer Logsdon (Brad Russell) of Glasgow, Ky., Brandon Blakey of Glasgow, Ky., Macayla (Jacob) Ford of Jacksonville, N.C., Trenton Ballard (Makayla Miller) of Charlotte, N.C.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, DJ Hart; grandsons, Christopher Scott and Jeffrey Saul, Jr.; sisters, Linda Cooksey and Ruth Lowe.

Mr. Hart worked as a truck driver for Liquid Transport before his retirement. He was a U.S. Army Veteran. He enjoyed camping, boating, hunting and fishing.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.

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Paul Coslet

Paul Wayne Coslet, 90, of Tuscola passed away on December 29, 2021, at the Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana.

Mr. Coslet was born on November 18, 1931, in Hindsboro to Isaac and Nora (West) Coslet. He married Shelby Coslet on February 19, 1955, in Oakland.

He is survived by three children, Gary Coslet, Gail (Kyle) Hoke, and Glenda (Dave Rosenbaum) Coslet; two grandchildren, Ashley (John) Allbritton and Tyler (Kara) Hoke; three great-grandchildren, Greyson, Camdyn, and Sawyer; one sister, Marcella (Warren) Vandeventer; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Isaac and Nora Coslet; his wife, Shelby Coslet; and four sisters and four brothers.

Mr. Coslet graduated from Brocton High School in 1949 and would later serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1952 to 1953. Once out of the Army, he went to work for USI for almost 40 years. Mr. Coslet enjoyed watching all sports but had a special love for watching the St. Louis Cardinals. As his grand-



Coslet

children got older and began playing sports themselves, he loved to be there to watch and cheer them on. In Mr. Coslet's later life he took up golf and was very proud of the hole-in-one that he made on a par 3.

A funeral service was held Monday, January 3, at the Joines Funeral Home (Villa Grove) with Ted Shearer officiating. Burial followed at the Camargo Cemetery. A visitation was held prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Rural Grace Food Pantry (P.O. Box 20 Murdock, IL 61941) or to the St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Joyce Miller Hancock

Joyce Miller Hancock, 87, of Arcola, passed away at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 25, 2021, at Carriage Crossing in Arcola.

Funeral services were held Thursday, December 30, 2021, at the Edwards Funeral Home, Arcola. Pastor Brent Budd officiated. Burial was in the Arcola Cemetery. Visitation was Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at the funeral home.

Mrs. Miller Hancock was born on April 11, 1934, in Arcola. She was a daughter of Perry Ward and Florence (Garber) Ghere. She married Donald G. Miller in Tuscola on June 15, 1954; he passed away on October 7, 1997. She later married Byford P. Hancock on October 1, 2000; he passed away on October 7, 2015.

She is survived by one son, Daryl Miller and his wife Diana of Arcola; one daughter, Pam Harter and her husband Todd of Napa, Calif.; four grandchildren, Trish Miller of Claremont, Calif., Joshua and Jeromy Knaus of Effingham, and Jordan Miller of Arcola; five great-grandchildren; and one brother-in-law, Robert Van Cleave of Tuscola.



Miller Hancock

She was preceded in death by her parents; two husbands; six siblings, Harold Ghere, Bob Ghere, Carl Ghere, Evelyn Swisher, Margaret Van Cleave, and Sadie Ethel Goulden.

Mrs. Miller Hancock was a member of the First Christian Church of Arcola and the Arcola Lions Club.

Mrs. Miller Hancock was an Avon lady for many years. She enjoyed delivering meals on wheels and loved playing cards with her family and friends.

Memorials may be made to the Arcola First Christian Church or the Arcola Lions Club.