

# Area Obituaries

## David Dobson

David R. Dobson, 87, of Tuscola, passed away at 12:34 p.m., Saturday, March 5, 2022, at the Piatt County Nursing Home, Monticello.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, March 11, at the Hillgoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, with the Rev. Les Evans officiating. Burial will follow in the Bement Township Cemetery, Bement. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, March 10, at the funeral home.

Mr. Dobson was born on April 8, 1934, in Decatur, the son of

Winfred and Florence Clodfelter Dobson. He married Carrie L. Ard on November 2, 1952, in Bement. She preceded him in death on March 3, 2018.

Survivors include his sons, Kim (Debbie) Dobson of Monticello and Brian (Lynn) Dobson of Lutz, Fla.; daughters, Jill Dobson of Champaign and Carla (David) Boyer of Hoopston; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and his sister, Becky Lynch of Chatham.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mr. Dobson graduated from Bement High School in 1952. He then graduated from Illinois State University and later

earned his master's degree from the University of Illinois. Mr. Dobson was a school teacher and basketball coach for 19 years in several area schools including Villa Grove, Bement, Arcola, Cerro Gordo, Astoria, Oakwood, Rossville and Shiloh school districts. He then served as a principal at the Shiloh School District for 14 years, retiring in 1992.

Mr. Dobson was a member of the Tuscola First Christian Church and the Tuscola Kiwanis Club. He was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears, U of I Fighting Illini and Marching Illini. He enjoyed playing golf. Memorial donations are



Dobson

suggested to the Tuscola First Christian Church.

## Jack Postlewait

Jack A. Postlewait, 69, of Tuscola, passed away suddenly on Friday morning, March 4, 2022, at the Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Services celebrating his life will be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, at the Hillgoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, with Pastor Roger Wood officiating. Visitation will be held from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Mr. Postlewait was born on December 14, 1952, in Champaign, the son of Alex and



Postlewait

Laura M. Foltz Postlewait. He married Deborah J. Lewis on

June 8, 1970, in Tuscola. She survives.

Also surviving are his sons, Tim (Anna) Postlewait of Tuscola and Mark (Steffanie) Postlewait of Oswego; daughter, Tracy (James) Anderson of Tuscola; grandchildren, Matthew, Scott, Kayla, Colton, Elliot, Evan and Emma; brothers, Danny (Shirley) Postlewait of Tuscola, Richard Postlewait of Charleston, Lee Postlewait of Atwood, Alex (Patty) Postlewait of Riddle, Ore., Tom Postlewait of Martinsville; sisters, Susan Colon and Gail Johnson both of Tuscola and Jeanette (Frank) Utz

of North Zulch, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mr. Postlewait worked as a chemical operator at Cabot Corporation in Tuscola for 35 years, retiring in 2008. He was a member of the Tuscola Moose Lodge. Mr. Postlewait enjoyed singing, gardening, working around the yard, spending time outside with his grand kids, eating good food and he was an avid Chicago Cubs fan.

Memorials are suggested to help pay for funeral expenses.

Online condolences may be shared via hillgossshraderfh.com.

## Gunner Taylor

Gerald "Jerry" "Gunner" Taylor passed away suddenly on March 6, 2022, at age 80. He was born in 1941 in Champaign to Drusilla and Bob Taylor. He lived in Champaign until third grade, when the family moved into his grandparents' home in Tuscola.

Mr. Taylor graduated from Tuscola High School in 1959, then attended Southern Illinois University, graduating in 1963. Following college he served in the Illinois National Guard, then worked at Caterpillar in Decatur for 30 years as a material handler.

In high school, Mr. Taylor was a founding member of the

Wheels Car Club, and was instrumental in re-establishing the club in the 1990s. He also served as a chairman of Ducks Unlimited, and was an active member of the Kaskaskia Country Club, where he loved to golf.

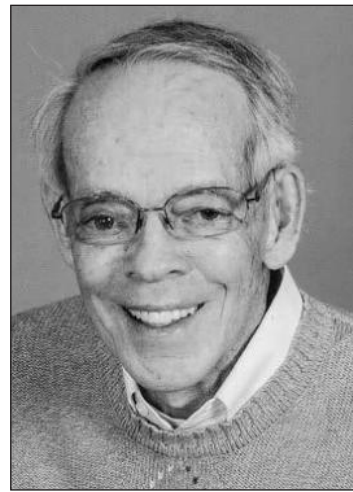
He met his future wife, Shirley, in the Wheels Car Club, and at age 56 ended his bachelor days. Together, Gunner and Shirley spent the next 24 years traveling, going to car cruises, attending concerts and performances, and spoiling their three grandchildren. Last summer they visited their favorite place, Yellowstone National Park, with their grandchildren.

Mr. Taylor is survived by his

wife, Shirley, of Arcola; stepdaughter Jennifer Booker-Smith; son-in-heart Jason Smith; and grandchildren, Calder, Christina and Feifer Smith, all of Bloomington.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, March 10, at the Hillgoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, with the Rev. Brent Budd officiating. Burial will follow in the Mt. Zion Township Cemetery, Mt. Zion. Visitation will be held 1 hour prior to the services at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to the American Cancer Society, the Tuscola Public Library or the



Taylor

Arcola Public Library.

Online condolences may be shared via hillgossshraderfh.com.

## Ralph Brooks

Ralph K. Brooks, 89, of rural Tuscola passed away at 9:10 a.m. on Monday, March 7, 2022, at the Arthur Home.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 10, at the Edwards Funeral Home, 221 East Main St., Arcola. The Rev. Mike Knepper will officiate. Burial with Military Rites conducted by the Tuscola VFW will be in the Cartwright Cemetery in rural Tuscola. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the funeral, on Thursday at the funeral home.

Mr. Brooks was born July 20, 1932, in Veteran, Wyo., the son of Owen Ellsworth and Ada Myrtle (Thomas) Brooks. He married Roseann Benefiel on July 23, 1953, in Newton. She passed October 4, 2020.

He is survived by children, Karen Brooks (Kenny) Benner of Tuscola, Jeff (Geri) Brooks of Lincoln, Sheryl Morris of Tuscola; Jim (LaDonna) Brooks of Richmond Heights, Mo.; grandchildren, Amelia Benner (Jerry Nowicki) of Springfield, Lily Benner (Marcel Tran) of Plano, Texas, Elizabeth (Justin) Bruns of Port Byron, John (Deana)

Brooks of Lincoln, Kelli (Taylor) Hilgendorf of Jacksonville, Mo., Nathan Bartley of Tuscola, Kyle (Caitlin) Morris of Homer, Abby Brooks of St. Louis Park, Minn., Luke (Chandler) Brooks of Tulsa, Okla.; great grandchildren, Anna Marie Brooks and Tobias Dean Brooks of Lincoln, Ty Brooks Hilgendorf and Ada Jay Hilgendorf of Jacksonville, Mo., Eleanor Rose Nowicki of Springfield; sister, Kathryn White of Nashville, Tenn.; brother, Bob Brooks and sister-in-law, Janet Brooks, both of Newton.

He was preceded in death by an infant grandson, Andrew Robert Benner; sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Glen Gorman; brother, Maurice Brooks; and sister-in-law, Anita Brooks.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a farmer and electrician. He played Santa Claus for many years at Cartwright United Methodist Church Christmas programs and is currently a member of the First Christian Church, Tuscola.

He made many sacrifices for his family to feel safe and

loved; instilled financial responsibility and a good work ethic to his children and grandchildren and was always there when needed.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memorial and Honor Program, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>

Written in honor of his 80th birthday by his granddaughter, Amelia Benner: When I think of Granddad I imagine him sitting on the top of the step ladder out in the machine shed, handing down his wisdom like Moses from the mountaintop. Scattered around him on the concrete floor are odds and ends from the innards of some piece of machinery, and the knees of his age-paled blue jeans and the tips of his fingers are dark with grease. He sits leaning slightly forward, his hands folded, his feet planted.

And then he looks up and sucks in a long breath that whistles between his teeth. "Hey," he says. "He-e-e-y, listen." And then he tells you a story.



Brooks

His stories are about things that happened long ago: in Wyoming, in Korea, in Jasper County and Atwood and Hillsboro. Some of them have a moral, a lesson to be learned, while others are just observations on the peculiarities of life.

I think maybe this is the most important thing he's taught me: how to tell a story, how to look into the past and impose some kind of meaning on it, how to craft a narrative out of the details of everyday life. That, and if someone offers you a banana from their lunch box, take it.

## Tuscola Review

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## Dianne Murphy

Dianne Lynn (Conlin) Murphy, 67, of Arcola, passed away peacefully on March 1, 2022, surrounded by her family at her daughter's residence in Gallatin, Tenn. She fought a courageous battle with lung cancer for the past four years. Mrs. Murphy was born on September 4, 1954, to Laurence and Lucille Conlin of Arcola. On May 9, 1992, she married Billy Joe Murphy in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Arcola, where she has been a lifelong member.

Mrs. Murphy graduated from Arcola High School in 1972. After her time at Parkland College and Eastern Illinois University, she held many bookkeeping positions. Some of her best memories were spent with coworkers at John Deere, Blaw Knox, and the Douglas County Courthouse.

In May of 2020, Mrs. Murphy began her favorite job yet, being a grandma. She loved being a grandma more than anything in the world. Her "Addison Days," as she called them, brought so much joy and excitement to her life. She often said being a grandma was her reason to keep fighting the good fight.

Mrs. Murphy had a passion for family and volunteer work. She was in attendance for as many of her nieces' and nephews' games as she could be, and often had them over for sleepovers and fun adventures. She loved her nieces, nephews, and greats as her own, and it was evident. Mrs. Murphy served on the Arcola Recreation board for over 20 years and has been a member of the Arcola Lion's Club for 11 years. She believed that community was centered around volunteer work. Mrs. Murphy enjoyed organizing and running several



Murphy

youth sports, delivering hospital equipment and meals, and helping in anyway she could to better her community.

Mrs. Murphy is survived by her loving husband of nearly 30 years, Billy Joe Murphy; their daughter and son-in-law, Lauren Estelle and Jon James Jenkins; and her treasured granddaughter, Addison Claire, all of Gallatin, Tenn.; siblings, Larry (Pam) Conlin of Neoga, Karen Faler of Arcola, Mike (Shawn) Conlin of Moweaqua; and brother-in-law, Scott Lathrop of Bloomington. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Janet Lathrop; and brother-in-law, Mark Faler.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 11, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 205 South Pine St., Arcola. Father John Titus will officiate. Burial will be in the Arcola Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 3-6 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at the Edwards Funeral Home, 221 East Main St., Arcola.

Memorials may be made to the Arcola Lion's Club or the American Cancer Society in an effort to fight the never-ending battle against cancer.



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