

# Obituaries

## Erma Barnett

Erma Irene (Hoel) Barnett, 100, of Camargo, passed away Monday, February 6, 2023, at Carriage Crossing Senior Living in Arcola.

She was born January 31, 1923, at Chicken Bristle, rural Douglas County, the youngest daughter of Otto and Stella (Eastin) Hoel. She married Velmer "Dude/Bus" Barnett on June 21, 1941; he preceded her in death on May 27, 1984.

Erma enjoyed square dancing and ball-room dancing, listening to church gospel music, attending auctions, antiques, hosting annual garage sales, crocheting, and attending church at the Murdock United Methodist Church.

Preceding her in death



Barnett

were her parents; her husband; one son, Donald Barnett; one grandson, Charles; one great-grandson, Hudson; three brothers; and two sis-

ters.

She is survived by two children, Stanley Barnett and Richard (Debbie) Barnett; a daughter-in-law, Patsy Barnett; three grandchildren, Krissy (Bill) Storer, Kristin (Jeff) Wright, and Tony (Alina) Barnett; four great-grandchildren; three cousins; and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held Friday, February 10, at the Joines Funeral Home, Newman, with Pastor Melanie Hoth and Mr. Ted Shearer officiating; burial followed at the Newman Cemetery. The visitation was held prior to the funeral service at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Murdock United Methodist Church.

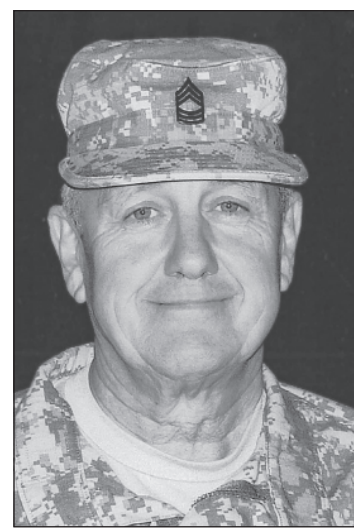
## Gerry Baumann

Gerald Roy "Gerry" Baumann, 76, of Kemp, passed away at 7:24 a.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at his residence surrounded by his family.

Funeral services were held Monday, February 13, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Tuscola, officiated by Ralph Ruggieri. Burial with Military Rites conducted by the Arcola VFW and the Arcola American Legion were in the Arcola Cemetery. Visitation was held Sunday, February 12, at the church. The Edwards Funeral Home assisted with arrangements.

Gerry was born on September 5, 1946, in Evergreen Park. He was a son of Leonard Roy and June Geraldine (Kemp) Baumann. He married Vickie Lee Charlesworth on February 21, 1970, in Mattoon. They then spent the next 50 years growing a large family that was the center of their lives. They were true sweethearts and their marriage was an example to many. Vickie passed away on July 6, 2020.

He is survived by his seven children, Paul Baumann (Angel) of Charleston, Heath Baumann of Kemp, Lee Baumann (Michelle) of Fort Pierce, Fla., Jared Baumann (Erica) of Perry, Kan., Kevin Baumann (Emily) of Charleston, Melanie Cluver (Chad) of Austin, Texas, and Charlene Madson (Aaron) of Missouri City, Texas; 24 grandchildren, Christian, Zachary, Haegan, Austin (Maryjane), Rhett (Courtney), Kolby, Isabelle, Madison, Greyson, June, July, Gunther, Grady and Garth



Baumann

Baumann, Brock, Brayden, Mackenzie, Kaylee, Kenna and Bryce Cluver, Cooper, Graham, Callie and Beckett Madson; three great-grandchildren, Easton, Beau, and Olivia Baumann; three brothers, Ralph Baumann (Patricia) of Waycross, Ga., Chris Baumann (Karen) of Eatonton, Ga., and Curt Baumann (Pam) of Eatonton, Ga.; and one sister, Bonnie Johnson (Howard "Rip") of Dyer, Ind.

Gerry was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; one granddaughter, Elizabeth Baumann; and one sister, Beverly Wendling and her husband Christ.

Gerry was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, attending in Mattoon and later in Tuscola. Gerald held many offices within his church, some of which included, Temple Worker, Service Missionary, member of the Branch Presidency, Elders Quorum President, Sunday School President, Branch Mission Leader, and Young Men's President.

He was in the military

for 24 years serving first in the U.S. Army in Germany during the Vietnam War, then later serving in the Illinois Army National Guard as a Master Sergeant. While in the National Guard, he served in Iceland, Poland, and Bulgaria. He ended his military career as the Detachment Executive Officer (XO) for his Brigade and was the oldest noncommissioned officer in the Afghanistan War.

He was a Boy Scout Scoutmaster in Arcola and Mattoon for over 40 years where he was able to share his love of the outdoors. He enjoyed teaching survival skills and his passion for botany and zoology. He helped instill a love of Boy Scouting in many for generations to come. He drove a school bus for the Tuscola School District for over 25 years and retired from the State of Illinois having worked for the Department of Human Services.

Gerald loved being outdoors, hiking, canoeing, playing disc golf, and traveling with his family. This past summer he traveled with several of his children and grandchildren in Europe where he visited his 37th country. His happy place was his garden where he spent many hours providing food for all of his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Boy Scout Troop 88 of Arcola or Arcola VFW.

## Robert Stewart Sr.

Robert D. Stewart, Sr., 78, of Hugo, passed away at 9:20 a.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at his residence.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 1, at the Edwards Funeral Home in Arcola. Burial with Military Rites conducted by the Arcola VFW and the Arcola American Legion were in the Hugo Cemetery. Visitation was held prior to the service at the funeral home.

Robert was born on December 20, 1944, in Springfield. He was a son of Clifford H. and Mary Mildred (Hummel) Stewart. He married Mary Virginia Pearl Smiley on April 6, 1979, in Arthur.

He is survived by his wife Mary; five children, Robin McConnell and her husband Johnnie of Whiting, Kan., Robert Stewart Jr. and his wife Sherri of Tuscola, Shane Stewart of Tuscola, Paula Stewart and her



Stewart

fiancé Jerry Messer of Green Bay, Wis., and Trina Stewart of Tolono; 14 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren; and a special friend, Bobbie Jo Hatfield of Tuscola.

Robert grew up in Arcola. He attended church at the Arcola United Methodist Church.

He was a Veteran of the

United States Marine Corps.

Robert had worked as a truck driver. He was a good mechanic and spent over 40 years operating Stewart Salvage in Chesterville, and later North of Bourbon. He and Mary owned and operated Tuscola Recycling Center before they sold to Bryant's and retired.

Robert always enjoyed going to ball games to watch his children and later his grandchildren. He liked being outdoors and enjoyed watching birds; he even had 16 of his own, several parakeets, a couple of cockatiels and a conure. His dogs were special to him as well; he had Pomeranians, his "little girls" as he called them, Baby and Molly.

After Robert retired, he enjoyed tinkering in his shop; he rebuilt lawn and garden tractors. He could fix almost anything.

Memorials may be made to Roberts's family.

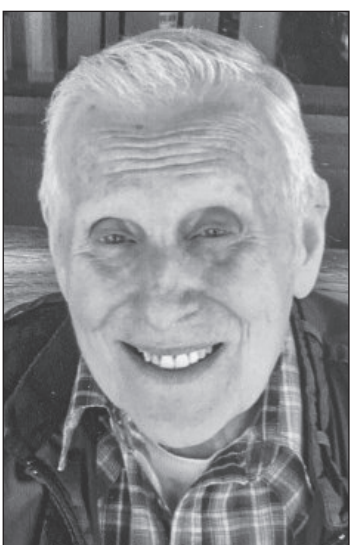
## Mike Booten Jr.

M.M. "Mike" Booten Jr., 92, passed into the glory of our Lord at 3:15 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, at Tuscola Heath Care Center, with his wife by his side.

A funeral service was held Monday, Feb. 13, at the Joines Funeral Home, Villa Grove, with Pastor Woody White officiating. Visitation was held prior to the funeral at the funeral home. Burial was Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Colbert Family Cemetery, rural Herod.

He was born Sept. 24, 1930, in Horseshoe, the youngest child of Milas M. Booten and Norah J. Locklar Booten. He married Marilyn S. "Susie" Berry Naive on Dec. 23, 1987.

Mike was a veteran of the Korean War, as a fireman on the flightline in Tegue, South Korea, and the Fire Department of Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul. He was always a proud veteran who loved discussing Korea and



Booten

W.W. II, where his much loved brother, Raymond "Jack" Booten was killed in the late days of the war.

Mike worked 25 years for Zeigler Coal Co. before retiring in April of 1988. To go to the No. 5 mine, he had drawn the No. 1 and loved to tease his co-workers telling them he was No. 1.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Donne Jo Booten (Terry) Snyder of Hume, and Karen M. Booten (Tom) Barnes of Danville; two stepdaughters, Penny S. Naive (Bud) Evans of Muncie, and Malissa A. Naive (Allen) Kibler of Atwood; and special friend, Tonya Ragan of Villa Grove. Mike was the beloved grandfather of 12 and great-grandfather of 12. Mike is also survived by a niece, Patty (James) Stovall of Eldorado; and a nephew, a Bruce Raymer of Harrisburg; and several great-nieces and -nephews.

Preceding Mike in death were his parents; three sisters, Wilma Helen Booten, Bernice Urton, and Beulah Gay Keough; half brothers Clyde, Raymond "Jack," and Alvin Booten; two stepsons, Jeff and David Naive; and one great-granddaughter, Rosalee Naive.

Memorial donations may be made to the Douglas County Animal Shelter.

## Sharon Bennett

Sharon Arlene Bennett, 83, of Arcola, passed away peacefully surrounded by her daughters at 2:05 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, in the Harmony Center at the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home in Mattoon.

Private graveside services will be held in the Arcola Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Sharon was born on December 31, 1939, in Tuscola. She was the daughter of Lawrence Clifford and Phyllis Evelyn (Welch) Bennett.

She is survived by two daughters, Kris McMichaels and her husband Gib of Charleston, and Kay Harley of Sullivan; four grandchildren,



Bennett

Brandt Rodgers and his wife Dana of Sullivan, Jason Rodgers of Decatur, Wade Stark and his wife Breanna of Mattoon, and Malia Kollmann

and her husband Alex of Urbana; eight great-grandchildren, Macie Rodgers, Peyton Newberry, Makayla Hays and Charlie Rodgers, Alexis, Laurel and Jameson Stark and Adam Kollmann; and one more great granddaughter on the way.

She was preceded in death by her parents and an infant brother, Danny Bennett.

Sharon was a member of the Order of Eastern Star. She was very family-oriented; she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Sharon had worked at Champaign Asphalt and retired after many years of service. She enjoyed spending winters in Bushnell, Fla.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## Jerry D. Newlin

Jerry D. Newlin, 82, of Tuscola, formerly of Atwood, died at 2:45 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, at Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 66 E. U.S. Highway 36, Atwood. The Rev. Joseph Carter will officiate. Burial will be in Mackville Cemetery, Atwood, with military graveside rites. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 17, at the funeral home.

Jerry, an Air Force veteran, was born October 23, 1940, in Jacksonville, Texas, to Berlyn and Alice Leggitt Newlin. He graduated from Noble High School in 1958, and Eastern Illinois University in 1967. He joined the Air Force on July 15, 1958, and served as an electrical



Newlin

repairman on airplanes until he was discharged on June 1, 1962. He married Wanda J. Lutz on October 6, 1962, in Passport. She passed away August 24, 2008.

Jerry taught Industrial Arts for 27 years in the At-

wood-Hammond and Bement school districts. He was a member of the Church of the Nazarene, Tuscola. He enjoyed crossword puzzles, classical music, watching old Westerns on TV and watching the St. Louis Cardinals.

Jerry is survived by his daughter, Jill Heathcott and her husband, Brent, of Bluffton, S.C., and their five children, Laurna, Madison, Garrett, Gabriella and Elliana.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; and son, Brent E. Newlin.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Church of the Nazarene, 1001 Egyptian Trail, Tuscola, IL 61953.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.

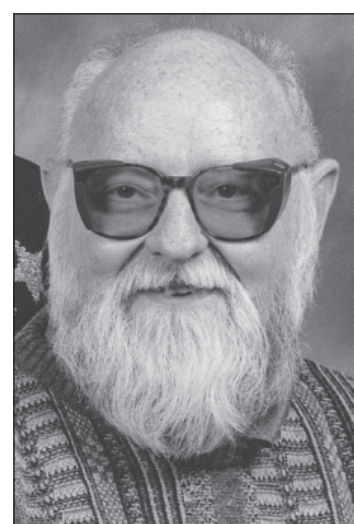
## Bob Yeakley

Robert K. "Bob" Yeakley, 81, of Hammond, passed away at 2:53 a.m., Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at the Sullivan Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Sullivan, with his wife by his side.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, February 11, at the St. James Catholic Church, Decatur. Burial followed in the Hammond Cemetery, Hammond.

Visitation was held Friday, February 10, at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, Atwood, and prior to the mass at the church.

Bob was born on April 6, 1941, in Taylorville, the son of Dwight K. and Isabelle Durbin Yeakley. He married Peggy Ann Owens on February 16, 1963, in Decatur. They would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. She survives.



Yeakley

Also surviving are his sons, Ken (Gayle) Yeakley of Hammond and Steve (Heidi) Yeakley of Atwood; grandchildren, Jordan (Tyler) O'Hara, Colton Yeakley and Ryan Yeakley; great-granddaughter, Alyson O'Hara; and a niece and two nephews.

He was preceded in death

by his parents; two brothers, Max and Larry Yeakley; and sister, Maxine Pharis.

Bob and his wife owned and operated Yeakley's Market in Hammond for 45 years before their retirement. He was a member of the St. James Catholic Church and was a former volunteer fireman for the Hammond Fire Protection District.

The family would like to send a special "Thank You" to HSHS Hospice and to the staff of Sullivan Health Care for the love and support given to Bob during his stay there.

Memorials are suggested to the Hammond Fire Protection District or Sullivan Health Care Activity Fund.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.