

Obituaries

Frances Franklin

Frances Elaine Franklin, 95, of Champaign, passed away at 10:03 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at Carriage Crossing Senior Living in Champaign.

Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at Walnut Grove Christian Church, 12930 E CR 1700 N, in Arcola. Pastor Aaron Boothe will officiate. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Frances was born on July 26, 1927, in Ellis, a daughter of Harry Hendrick and Sarah Ellen “Sadie” (Jones) Rice. She married Irven Franklin on February 14, 1945. He passed away on December 3, 2000.

She is survived by four grandchildren, Joel Helmick



Franklin

and his wife Cindy of Tolono, Kevin Helmick and his wife Amanda of rural Tuscola, Bryndon Helmick and his wife

Melissa of Paducah, Ky., and Marci Blocher of Urbana; 12 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; two daughters, Kathy Peavler and Nancy Helmick; a grandson, Michael Helmick; three brothers, Bud Rice, Earl Rice, and Arthur Rice; and two sisters, Leona Miller, and Lena Rice.

Frances had worked at Carle Hospital in Urbana and later served as a volunteer for Carle Hospital.

She had attended the Urbana Assembly of God and the Curtis Road Church of God.

Frances enjoyed caring for and being around her family. She was a kind and generous person.

Jerry Wilson

Jerry D. Wilson, 77, of Villa Grove passed away on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at Carle Hospital in Urbana.

Jerry was born on December 5, 1945, in Villa Grove to Jessie and Mattie (Davis) Wilson. He married Lois M. Wengler on August 5, 1983 in Tuscola.

He is survived by six children, Kyle (Cindi Comerford) Quinn, Windy Fultz, Gerald “JP” (Traice) Quinn, James Arbuckle, Jason (Michelle) Wilson, and Ericka (Micheal Akers) Wilson; 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; two siblings, Marlene Phillips and Ronald (Fran) Wilson; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death

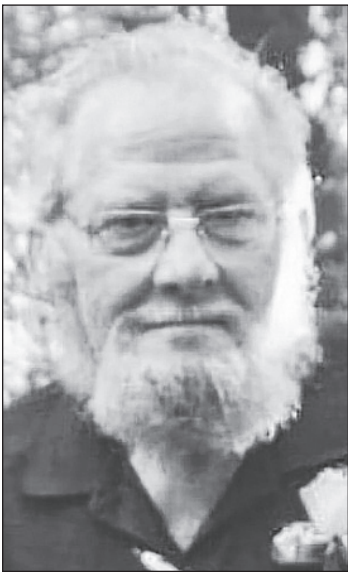
by his parents; wife; one grandson; one great-grandchild; and three siblings.

While attending Villa Grove High School, Jerry started working as a meat cutter in Villa Grove. He also worked as a meat cutter at the U of I, for the EMT service in Villa Grove, owned and operated the Pub & Grub in Villa Grove with his wife Lois, proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, and at Cabot for 35 years before his retirement.

He enjoyed woodworking and being outdoors either fishing or hunting.

A celebration of Jerry’s life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to an



Wilson

organization of the donor’s choice.

Jeff Dague

Jeffrey Allin “Jeff” Dague, 39, of Champaign, formerly of Arcola, passed away on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at his residence.

A Celebration of Life service was held Saturday, May 6, at the Edwards Funeral Home, Arcola. Eric Friedman officiated. Visitation was held prior to the service at the funeral home.

Jeff was born on August 17, 1983, in Tuscola, to Darryl Dague and Jodie (Van Gundy) Hinkle.

Jeff graduated from Arcola High School in 2002 and later attended Parkland College in Champaign.

He is survived by his son, Bradyn Dague of Champaign; his father, Darryl Dague of



Dague

Tuscola; his mother, Jodie Hinkle and her husband Terry of St. Joseph; his sister, Melissa Tepovich and her husband

Doug of Mahomet; a niece and nephew and several cousins, aunts, and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Joseph Keith Dague and Cathy Schackel; and maternal grandparents, CW “Jr.” Van Gundy and Betty Van Gundy.

Jeff loved his family, especially his son, Bradyn, and was so proud of the young man he had become.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, a benefit fund has been established for Bradyn at the Philo Exchange Bank in St. Joseph. Checks can be made out to: Bradyn J. Dague Benefit Fund and can be mailed to, Philo Exchange Bank, 802 East Warren St., PO Box 590, St. Joseph, IL 61873.

Jean Lynch

Jean (Donnals) Lynch, 89, of Jacksonville, N.C., passed away at 2:01 p.m. Thursday, April 27, 2023, at her home with her family by her side. Born Irma Jean in Tuscola, on August 10, 1933, but known as Jean by all who loved her, is the daughter of the late Elmer and Rose (Bennett) Donnals. She is preceded in death by her six brothers, Harold, Herman, Homer, Scott, Kenneth, Eugene; and five sisters, Elma Denham, Faye Lewis, Rosemary Harden, Irene Horsman, Dorothy Deckard.

Surviving her are her children, Diana Dickson, Donald

Thode, Cheryl Boland, Charles “Vic” Thode, Denise Ralph, Dawn Matthias, and her fiancée, Curtis Sharp. She also is survived by 18 grandchildren; 31 great grandchildren; and six great great grandchildren. Jean loved listening to country bands, dancing and traveling.

Graveside services were held on May 1 at Onslow Memorial Park in Jacksonville, coordinated by Jones Funeral Home of Jacksonville. “Your memory is our keepsake with which we’ll never part. God has you in his keeping and we have you in our heart.”



Lynch

Wilford Stark

Wilford Charles Stark, 93, of Arcola, passed away surrounded by family at 12 noon on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at Carriage Crossing in Arcola.

Visitation was held Saturday, May 6, at the Edwards Funeral Home, Arcola. Funeral services were held Sunday, May 7, at the funeral home. Pastor Brent Budd officiated. Burial with Military Rites conducted by the Arcola Honor Guard was in the Arcola Cemetery.

Wilford was born on September 25, 1929, in Newton, the son of Charles Daniel and Agnes D. (Tate) Stark. He married Virginia Ann “Ginnie” Wheat on September 18, 1952, in Newton.

Wilford is survived by his wife of 70½ years, Ginnie; three children, Beverly Jo Roberts and her husband Joseph of Atoka, Tenn., Kenneth Charles Stark of Mattoon, and Gary Alan Stark and his wife Theresa of Neoga; eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, and one on the way, Stacy Jo Roberts and her husband James Stubbs of Memphis, Tenn., Joseph Michael Roberts and his wife Brandi and their children, Ethan, Ryder and Stone, all of Mansfield, Tenn., David Charles Roberts and his wife Melissa and their children, Mikala and Isabella, all of Evergreen, Colo., Wade Matthew Stark and his wife Breanna and their children, Alexis, Laurel and Jameson, all of Mattoon, Malia Marie Kollmann and her husband Alex and their child Adam with another on the way, all of Tuscola, Bradley Wayne Rollings and his wife Steph-

anie and their children Tyler, Auston and his wife Viktoria, and Ashtin Rollings, all of Plainfield, Ind., Travis Cody Stark and his wife Vilma and their children, Hailey and Codie, all of Collinsville, and Amanda Jo Mars and her husband Jon and their daughter Kyndall, all of Neoga. He is also survived by a brother-in-law, David James and his wife Betty of Champaign.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Daniel and Agnes Stark; five sisters, Juanita Fiscus and her husband Harley, Aleta James, Pauline Parker and her husband Roe, Joan Pryor and her husband Jack, and Patty Newlin and her husband Don.

Wilford was a 1948 graduate of Newton High School. He was a Korean Air Force Veteran.

Wilford went to work at USI in Tuscola in 1954. He and Ginnie raised their family in Arcola. He retired from USI as a maintenance mechanic in 1990 after 36 years of service.

Wilford was a member of the Mattoon VFW and the Mattoon American Legion.

He was a faithful member of the Arcola First Christian Church where he served as a deacon and helped with maintenance around the church and with anything else that needed to be done.

Wilford has always been a big Arcola Purple Rider fan, following his own children and from there he was hooked. He also liked Illini athletics and the Chicago Bears.

After Wilford retired, he and Ginnie really enjoyed keeping up with their grandchildren, going to games, con-



Stark

certs and any events they were involved in.

They also did a lot of traveling, most of the time pulling a camper, but they were able to visit all 50 states in the United States of America. They enjoyed spending winters in Arizona, Texas, and Florida.

Wilford also enjoyed woodworking. He used his craft to bless family and friends. He mastered his lathe and made a lot of bowls; he also made cradles, toy boxes, rocking horses, plant stands, shelves; you name it, and he could make it. He also cut patterns out of wood so Ginnie could paint on them. He took up wood carving, this he did when they were traveling. Chickens and turtles are among some of the things he carved.

Wilford was a blessed man and so were all that knew him.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Arcola First Christian Church, St. Jude Children’s research Hospital or donor’s choice.

Rosemary Kneller

Rosemary Kneller, 81, of Sullivan, formerly of Shelbyville, passed away at 2:29 p.m. Monday, May 1, 2023, in Decatur Memorial Hospital, Decatur.

Funeral services were held Saturday, May 6, in Howe and Yockey Funeral Home, Shelbyville. Visitation was Saturday in the funeral home. Memorials may be given to Make-A-Wish Foundation or the National Kidney Foundation.

Rosemary was born on February 14, 1942, in Shelbyville, the daughter of Everett Elmer and Neva Velma Barker Stirrett. She graduated from Shelbyville High School in the Class of 1960 and earned her Associates Degree from Lake Land College, Mattoon.

She married Richard D. Kneller on March 12, 1961. They were married for

57 years at the time of his passing on April 17, 2018. Rosemary was a beautician and owned and operated the Style Shoppe in Shelbyville for many years. She loved spending time with her grandkids and was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. Rosemary also enjoyed playing dominos and cards with her neighbors.

She is survived by her children, Sarah Kuhns (Paul) of Sullivan, Lori Sellers (James) of Coldwater, Miss., and Richard D. Kneller, Jr. (Amy) of Marstons Mills, Mass.; brother, Jim Stirrett (Marilyn) of Nashville, Tenn.; brother-in-law, Roy Hubner of Decatur; sister-in-law, Betty Stirrett of Sullivan; grandchildren, Zacc Brachbill, Trey Kneller, Megan Chupp (Dan), Colie Kuhns, Tory Good (Trevor), Samantha Hummel (Stephen), Erin Furr (Dallas Saunders); and great grandchildren, Whitley, Cooper, Hattie and Henly.



Kneller

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard; brothers, Tom Stirrett, Roger Stirrett (Yvonne) and Charles Stirrett; and sister, Marlene Hubner.

Send condolences at www.howeandyockey.com.

Law Office of Koscic & Stout, P.C. PERMANENTLY CLOSING

Law Office of Koscic & Stout, P.C. at 130 N. Locust St. in Arcola is set to permanently close May 12, 2023, in anticipation of Attorney Rob Koscic being appointed State’s Attorney of Douglas County.

Any clients wishing to pick up documents or transfer files may contact the office at 217/268-3609 or email at office@kosciclegal.com. The office will remain open for a limited time after May 12 for the purpose of facilitating the transfer of files.

It has been an honor serving the community through Law Office of Koscic & Stout, P.C. and I now plan to continue serving the community as State’s Attorney.

