

Obituaries

Carolyn McCrory

Carolyn Sue (Crabtree) McCrory, 84, of Tuscola, passed away at home the afternoon of September 19, 2023.

Per Carolyn's wishes, private graveside services will be held for immediate family. For those who wished to visit the family and celebrate Carolyn's life, a luncheon was held on Friday, September 22, at United Church of Christ, Tuscola.

Carolyn was born on February 11, 1939, in Robinson, the only child of Charles and Hazel Crabtree.

She graduated from Robinson High School in 1957. She drove a school bus for decades, was a seamstress and upholstery mastermind, and spent many years coaching sports teams when her kids were younger.

After meeting at a movie theatre in December 1956, she married Ralph Leon McCrory on July 14, 1957, in Robinson. He preceded her in death on February 14, 2018. Throughout their 60 years of marriage, they celebrated milestone anniversaries with photos in their wedding attire. Ralph was laid to rest in his wedding



McCrory

suit; Carolyn in her wedding dress.

Carolyn is survived by her children, David (Julie) McCrory of Tuscola, Doug (Cindy) McCrory of Tuscola, and Kathy (Steve) Gentry of Sadorus; grandchildren, Erin, Karen (DJ), Amy (Jason), Carly (Tate), Sarah (Shane), Jackson (Taylor), Halle (Chandler), Melissa (Chris), Brett, and Mindy (Chris); great grandchildren, Stanley, Cameron, Jayden, Carson, Leona, Hazel, Baker, Eleanor, Adalynn, Skylar, Phoebe,

Zoey, Avery, Sierra, and Leigha.

A known storyteller and picture taker, Carolyn photographed and journaled her many life adventures, including winters in Texas, camping with family, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren's extracurriculars, and things she found fascinating, of which there were many. An entire room of photo albums will be cherished by her family for years to come.

Carolyn was a loving wife, superb mother, and extra fun grandma. Her sense of humor and love of games will be passed down for generations to come. She loved her family, bowling, campfires, cowboy movies, country western music, crocheting, and a slew of catchphrases: "welp!", "2-11, 11-2!" – just to name a few.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society and can be sent to Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home at 705 S. Main Street, Tuscola, IL 61953. Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.

Janice Sylvester

Janice Rae Sylvester, 70, of Mattoon, formerly of Arcola, passed away at 1:58 a.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon.

Private family services will be held.

Janice was born on November 16, 1952, in Tuscola. She was a daughter of Howard Russell and Viola (Burch) Harris. She married Virgil Dale Sylvester on June 3, 1970, in Arcola, at the United Methodist Church with the Rev. Wesley Goff presiding.

Janice is survived by her husband Virgil; two sons, Toby Sylvester of Charleston, and Troy Sylvester and his wife Christine of Tuscola; five grandchildren, Tristan Brown of Champaign, Josie Sylvester of Chicago, and Alexandria, Colton, and Jenessa Sylvester, all of Charleston; two great grandchildren, Wesley and Jaelynn Sylvester; one brother, Howard Harris Jr. and his wife Jeanette of Arcola; one sister, Peggy Butler of Hindsboro; her mother-in-law, Helen Sylvester of Arcola; and two



Sylvester

brothers-in-law, Mike Sylvester of Charleston, and Larry Sylvester and his wife Pam of Benton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard, and Viola Harris; two sisters, Vivian Richey and her husband Cody, and Sally Smith and her husband Richard; two nephews, Tony Harris and Virgil Richey; a niece, Sandra Newman; and her father-in-law, Howard "Gene" Sylvester.

Janice had worked at Colle-

giate Cap and Gown, the snack bar at Rockome Gardens, and she managed the Wareco Gas Station, all in Arcola, prior to becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse.

After becoming an LPN, she worked at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center before accepting a position at the Odd Fellow Rebecca Home in Mattoon, where she worked for several years.

Janice enjoyed reading and had an extensive collection of paperback books. She also enjoyed quilting, crocheting, and sewing. She liked to bake cakes, cookies, and delicious treats of all kinds. She took classes to learn how to decorate cakes. She enjoyed making treats for family and friends to enjoy; something special for people she appreciated.

She enjoyed caring for her family. Her grandchildren meant the world to her, and she really enjoyed spending time with them, so much so that she came to be known as the "Gaming Grandma;" she liked that too, especially if it meant spending a little more time with her grandchildren.

Rita Goodman

Rita Jane Goodman, 85, of Arthur, passed away at 10:04 a.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at the Arthur Home.

Visitation was held Thursday, September 21, at the Vine Street Christian Church, Arthur. Funeral services were held Friday, September 22, at the church. Burial was in the Arthur Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home assisted with arrangements.

Rita was born on March 26, 1938, on the family farm in rural Windsor. She was the daughter of Clinton Everett and Catherine Rita (Kearney) Wall. She married Charles Marshall Goodman on June 11, 1961, in Windsor. He passed away on December 29, 2016.

She is survived by two sons, Michael S. Goodman and his wife Stacy of Arthur, and James E. Goodman and his wife Mindy of Normal; four grandchildren, Nathan Goodman of Peoria, Karly Goodman and her fiancé Anthony Lunsford of Armington, Michaela Goodman and Clint Goodman, both of Normal; and two sisters, Mary Ann Lowry of Springfield, Ohio, and Nancy Oxley and her husband John of Madison, Wis.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one sister, Patricia Purcell; and her husband, Charles Purcell; and a brother-in-law, Gordon Lowry.

Rita's passion for education was evident from an early age. After graduating from Windsor High School in 1956, she furthered her knowledge by earning both a Bachelor's and



Goodman

Master's degree in Education from Eastern Illinois University. Rita's pursuit of knowledge and commitment to excellence laid a solid foundation for her future career.

Throughout her professional life, Rita made a profound impact on countless students' lives as an educator. She began her journey by working as a clerk in the maternity ward in the Mattoon Hospital while attending college. Following this role, she taught at Robinson for one year before finding her true calling as a 5th-grade teacher in the Arthur school district. Rita dedicated an impressive 36 years to shaping young minds and fostering a love for learning within her students.

Beyond teaching traditional subjects, Rita played an active role beyond the classroom walls. She kept scorebooks for basketball and track and field events while also lending her voice as an announcer during

track meets. Her commitment to supporting extracurricular activities highlighted her dedication to holistic education.

Even after retirement from teaching, Rita remained actively engaged within the community. She joined Rockome Gardens restaurant as both a hostess and cashier, where she continued to brighten people's days with her warm smile and friendly nature.

In addition to being a passionate educator and dedicated worker, Rita possessed numerous hobbies and interests that brought joy to her life. She had a talent for crocheting, creating beautiful Afghans that she lovingly sent to Honduras for newborn babies. Rita also enjoyed needlepoint embroidery, which allowed her to express her creativity and attention to detail. Rita was an active member of the Vine Street Christian Church in Arthur, where she served in the Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF). She held many offices within the Arthur American Legion Auxiliary as well as participating in The Arthur Business and Profession Women's Club, PSI IOTA XI teacher's sorority, and the Douglas County Retired Teachers Association.

Another source of joy for Rita was being an "Old School Gamer," playing card games, and board games – with Canasta being a particular favorite. However, above all else, Rita cherished the time she spent with her grandchildren and attending the events they were involved in.

Memorials were made to Vine Street Christian Church or The Arthur Home.

John Redden

John W. Redden, 92, passed away on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home in Mattoon.

John was born to William and Sarah (Brown) Redden on April 3, 1931, in Arcola. He married Anna Mary Patton on August 10, 1952, in Garrett.

He is survived by four children, Susan Harvey, Rob (Esther) Redden, Joe (Janet) Redden, and Jake (Lisa) Redden; seven grandchildren; six great grandchildren; one brother, Richard Redden; one sister-in-law, Mary Redden; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna Redden; his parents, William and Sarah Redden; three brothers; two sisters; and a son-in-law, Wayne Harvey.

John was in the last class to graduate from Atwood High School in 1949 before it consol-

idated with Arthur. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force and then went to work for USI in Tuscola for 35 years. He also had his own backhoe business in Villa Grove for 25 years and would install septic tanks, tile, or anything else that someone needed done.

John was a 74-year Mason and was a member of the Arthur Masonic Lodge. He was also a member of the Operating Engineers 841 in Arcola and at the Camargo United Methodist Church.

A funeral service was held Monday, September 25, at the Camargo United Methodist Church with Pastor Lenny Summar officiating. Burial followed at the Broadus Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Camargo United Methodist Church or the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Harmony House Activity Fund.

Roger Reed

Roger L. Reed, 82, of Neoga, passed away on Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

Per his request, no services will be held. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, Edith and Charles Reed; and his first wife, Sheila.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Brenda; and two children.

Roger worked for many years as a truck driver, roofer, construction worker and finished his career at Blaw Knox.

Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, Tuscola, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com.

Dick Crouse

Richard Dale "Dick" Crouse, 86, of Villa Grove, passed away at 3:44 p.m. on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at Pleasant Meadows Senior Living in Chrisman.

Dick was born on October 15, 1936, in Homer. He was the son of Jim and Gladys (Hilborn) Crouse. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Deliece (Woodall) Crouse. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Crouse. Surviving are his children, Mark (Gail) Crouse of Mechanicsville, Va., Laura (Don) Rudder of Villa Grove, Joe (Kristy) Bird of Villa Grove, Juli (Josh) Smith of Sioux City, Iowa; grandchildren, Brandon (Jenna) Rudder, Samantha (Tim) Penenburgh, Rachel Rudder, Shelby (Alex) Glende, Michael Bird, Alyson (Paul) Davidson, Tyler Bird, Kelbi Smith, and Kaden Smith; great grandchildren, Sawyer Matzke, Holly Rudder, Rowan Rudder, Bryce Rudder, Addysen Rudder, Emersyn Rudder, Jaxson Davidson, Liam Davidson, and Callie Davidson. Dick is also survived by his siblings, Barb (Bill) Morse of Sidney, Sue French of Charleston, and Ron (Liz)



Crouse

Crouse of Auburn, Ky. There are also numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Alene (Bill) Virks, Margie (Cliff) Wilsey, Betty (Dennis) Stewart, Bill Crouse, and Bob (Sherr) Crouse.

Dick and his brother Bob started Crouse Brothers Excavating in Villa Grove. They were soon joined by their brother, Ron. Dick spent many years as the Camargo Township Road Commissioner and later as a Trustee. He was a long-time member of the Vil-

la Grove United Methodist Church where he served in various capacities. Dick spent many hours working in his shop, completing woodworking projects with his daughter Laura, tinkering with his Mustang, reading Civil War books, and fishing.

The family would like to thank the wonderful nurses and staff from both Pleasant Meadows and Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospice for caring for Dick for the past several months. Memorials may be made to Pleasant Meadows Senior Living or Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospice.

Visitation was held on Thursday, September 14, at Villa Grove United Methodist Church. The funeral was Friday, September 15, at Villa Grove United Methodist Church.

Danny Bodoh

Daniel L. Bodoh, 59, of Tuscola, passed away on Saturday afternoon, September 23, 2023.

Arrangements are pending at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, Tuscola.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

There is nothing wrong with a bit of self-indulgence, Aries. But you do not want to go overboard with your treats and other must-haves. Moderation is key in everything.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

You have a no-nonsense bearing that immediately has people drawing close to you and trusting you, Taurus. Put that out in full force as you try to win favor on the job this week.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, don't let your quest for excitement pull you in too many different directions right now. You need to stick to one plan for a certain amount of time and see things through.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Everyone wants a piece of you right now, Cancer. It is equally flattering and exhausting. You'll have to be choosy regarding where and with whom to dedicate your time.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Listen to the messages swirling around in your head right now, Leo. Your intuition has been on target so there is no reason to doubt yourself now. Keep moving forward.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, is a particular relationship getting too intense for you? It might be the time to ease up a bit and take a step back. Distance could provide the clarity you need.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you do not need to struggle if you simply call in a few favors. Reach out to your network of people and figure out how you can make things work.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, do not chase people down, simply wait for them to come to you with your natural magnetism. You don't want to exert energy this week unnecessarily.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, rather than showing people all of your cards, hold some information close to the vest and maintain a bit of mystery. Others likely will be intrigued.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you may find that things are very profitable for you this week. If you are an entrepreneur, business will be solid. If you perhaps sell on the side, money will flow.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, for quite some time you have been focusing on everyone but yourself. You have to change your ways if you can get the rest and healing that you need right now.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

There is no doubt that you've earned a few commendations, Pisces. But this week you need to accept congratulations without being boastful. Exhibit both humility and pride.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 24

Ben Platt, Actor (30)

SEPTEMBER 25

Mark Hamill, Actor (72)

SEPTEMBER 26

Serena Williams, Athlete (42)

SEPTEMBER 27

Jenna Ortega, Actress (21)

SEPTEMBER 28

Hilary Duff, Actress (36)

SEPTEMBER 29

Kevin Durant, Athlete (35)

SEPTEMBER 30

Ezra Miller, Actor (31)

