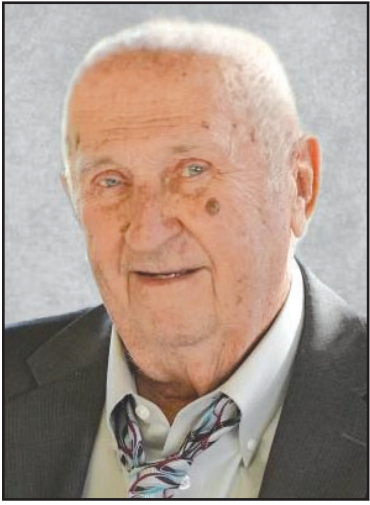


OBITUARIES



RONALD E. JUNKER

Ronald E. Junker, 90, of rural Varna, IL, died on February 23, 2026, at Carle Health Proctor in Peoria, IL. He was born on October 3, 1935, on the farm in Roberts Township to the late Ernest and Edna (Petrich) Junker. Ron married Janice (Wright) Junker on October 1, 1960, in Wenona, IL. She survives.

Also surviving are his children, Keri (Mike) Wall of Freeport, IL, Craig (Christine) Junker of Rockford, IL, Krista (Bill) Herring of Metamora, IL; brother, Darrel Junker of Toluca, IL; grandchildren, Brenden (Erin) Wall of Madison, WI, Kailyn (Connor) Belawich of Naperville, IL; and great grandchildren Kit and Delilah. He is also survived by his Norwegian son (exchange student) Bjorn (Lise) Ronneberg of Hof, Norway. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kimberly Junker; sister, Marilyn Palm and nephew, Kevin Sandall.

Ron was a generational farmer throughout his life. When he was younger, he also worked for Production Credit as a farm loan officer and at Farm Business Farm Management as a financial manager. Ron served his country in the Air Force, was a member of St Paul's Lutheran Church and the Farm Bureau. He was also a member of the Mid County school board in the 1980s and on the Farmer's Co-Op board at the Varna Elevator.

Ron graduated from the University of Illinois. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He adored his great grandchildren, Kit and Delilah. They could always make him light up and bring a smile to his face. He dedicated his life to his passion for farming, his family and faith. His life was spent cultivating the crops and livestock on the family farm, which he cherished deeply. He was known for his hard work ethic, care and compassion for others, nicknames for everyone, and lived his 90 years to the fullest. He was a true steward of the soil. He greatly appreciated his farm hands- Dale Chambers, Curtis Junker and Jim Sunken.

Every farmer puts his land to rest for the winter. On springs

horizon it is brought back to life. God has put this farmer to rest, and with a spring in his step. He walks the horizon to a new life.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2026, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Varna. A funeral service will be held for Ron at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 7th, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church with Mark Gruden officiating. There will be additional visitation on Saturday, prior to the service, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Burial will be at St Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Varna with military rites.

Memorials can be made to St Jude, St Paul's Lutheran Church, Varna Ambulance, or KARES Foundation.

Online condolences may be left at lenzmemorialhome.com



GARY DEAN BEALL

Gary Dean Beall, 79, of Lacon, IL, passed away on February 23, 2026, at Lacon Rehab and Nursing in Lacon.

He was born on March 21, 1946, in Peoria, IL, to the late Robert and Helen (Fox) Beall. He married Mary Ellen Mooberry on January 20, 1968, in Lacon.

Gary is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen Beall of Henry; Daughters Kristie (Robert) Luning of Wenona & Nicole (Scott) Hildebrand of Rosamond; and sister Ruth Hollis of Toulon. His grandchildren include Connor Hildebrand of Germany, Cameron Hildebrand of Rosamond, Erik Luning of Wenona and Kayla Luning of Wenona.

Gary graduated from Sparland High School in 1964 and went on to serve in the U.S. Army. On his return he went to work for Caterpillar Inc., and after a few years, determined factory life was not for him. Gary then went into the carpentry business, working for Francis Robison and Sons, eventually forming Robison and Beall Construction. Known for his craftsmanship and dedication, Gary built several homes, remodeled, and repaired many houses and businesses throughout the Lacon area. Eventually, he found the time to build his own home and helped his daughters remodel theirs.

Funeral services and burial will

Gary loved to bowl and could be found at Lacon Lanes in the Thursday night businessman's league for over 20 years. When the grandchildren came along, he enjoyed doing things with them, including building contraptions, doing science projects, and assembling many toys (he often thought this was harder than building houses). On occasion, his creativeness came out and he made his own Christmas decorations including the candle with the natural gas flame winning 3rd place in the town decorating contest.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a memorial service will be held at Lenz Memorial Home in Lacon on March 8, 2026, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., where all who knew him are welcome to gather, share stories, and memories. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Alzheimer's Association in Gary's honor. Online condolences can be left at lenzmemorialhome.com



CATHRYN "KITTY" KEILER

Cathryn "Kitty" Keiler, age 97, longtime resident of West Chicago, passed away on February 6, 2026.

She was born in Toluca, IL, on August 1st, 1928 to Anthony and Angelina Rolinski. Prior to her retirement, she worked for Dr. Gilbert at his West Chicago office for most of her career. Kitty was also a waitress at Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, IL.

Her husband passed away earlier in 2015.

Kitty has four siblings, (deceased brothers) Chuck, Anthony and infant John. Surviving are twins Geraldine (Tom) Cleary and Gerald "Gerry" (Raylene) Rolinski.

Kitty had three children, Nancy (deceased), Tom of Omaha, NE and Bill (Sheryl) of Maple Park, IL, and grandson Ryan (Lisa) of West Chicago, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services and burial will

JIMMIE DEAN STOTLER

Jimmie Dean Stotler, age 80, of Sparland, passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at Methodist Hospital.

Jimmie was born on March 11, 1945 in Lacon, IL to Eugene and Eva (Thielbar) Stotler. He married Yvonne Tuttle on March 1, 1969 in Lacon.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Yvonne; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother.

Jimmie served in the U.S. Army before becoming a local farmer and Mr. Fix-it when it came to the equipment on the farm, for almost 60 years. He was patient and kind. Jimmie and Yvonne loved spending time together. They would go on trips and enjoyed riding the motorcycle and the snow mobile in the winter. Jimmie was also a member of the LaPrairie United Presbyterian Church in Sparland.

Cremation rites will be accorded and there will be no services at this time. Arrangements are under the care of Weber-Hurd Funeral Home in Chillicothe.

ROSINA "ZINNIE" JUNE VOLKER

Rosina "Zinnie" June Volker, 88, of Toluca passed away on February 23, 2026, at The Sheridan at Tyler Creek Care Center in Elgin.

Zinnie's Memorial will be held on Saturday March 21, 2026, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Calvert & Johnson Memorial Home in Toluca with words of remembrance by Tim Barber at 4:00 p.m.

Rosina was born in Pattonsburg on June 21, 1937, daughter to Nathan and Velma (Barrett) Porch. She married Harry J. "Blue" Volker on December 27, 1975 in Pattonsburg. He preceded her in death in August 2004.

Surviving are her children, Dennis (Paula) Judd of Toluca,

Lesla (Mark) Jesse of Toluca, Jeffrey Judd of Minonk, Joshua (Peggy) Volker of Wauconda, Jerricca Volker of Mesa, AZ; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great grandchildren; 2 siblings, Dale (Dianne) Porch of Peoria and LaDonna Porch of Muscatine, IA.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nathan Porch & Velma (Barrett) Porch; daughter, Joan (Al) Merdian; 3 brothers, Nathan "Frosty" Porch, Melvin Porch and Stacy Porch; and 1 sister, Twilla Andrew.

Rosina retired from Caterpillar with 25 years of service.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made to The Respiratory Health Association or AFA (Alzheimer's Foundation of America) in her honor, continuing a legacy of generosity and compassion.

Online memories and condolences may be sent to her family at www.calvertmemorial.com.

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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Wenona American Legion

Paint Party Fundraiser!

FRIDAY
 MARCH 13TH
 6:00 PM

\$50

Register at
<https://beth-hanlon.square.site>
 To use PayPal, Venmo, cash or
 check message Beth
 309*258*4525

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\$50 Registration Fee. \$25 of that \$50 will go to Wenona Legion Auxiliary. Deadline to sign up is Monday, March 9 by reaching out to beth Hanlon at (309) 258-4525

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Local decisions.
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Paint Classes

Paint Classes are the perfect place to learn new techniques, express yourself, and connect with other creative minds.

Betty Heinold, a local artist, will be leading classes.

AGE: 8 yrs. and up

WHEN: Tues. March 10th 3:45-5:45pm
Tues. April 14th 3:45-5:45pm
(planning to have more in the summer)

WHERE: Lacon Area Community Center
405 N. Washington St. Lacon

COST: \$5 Donation

REGISTER: Online at laconacc.com

20 SPOTS PER CLASS
 RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

Partially sponsored by the Lacon Area Community Center Org., Jean & John Wabel, LACC membership donations.