

OBITUARIES



NANCY SILVESTRI ARNDT

Nancy Silvestri Arndt, 95, of Toluca, IL passed away peacefully at home on May 22, 2026, surrounded by her family. Cremation rites have been accorded. Her memorial Mass was held on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Ann's Church in Toluca, The Franciscan Friars officiated. Visitation was from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the church. Inurnment was in St. Ann's Cemetery in Toluca at a later date.

Nancy was born to the late Eva (Grotti) and John Borese at St. Mary's Hospital in Streator, IL on August 9, 1930. Nancy was a devoted daughter who loved and supported her parents throughout her life.

A life-long Toluca resident, she attended St. Ann's Parochial School and graduated from Toluca High School, where she was a cheerleader. For her whole life Nancy was an active and contributing member of the Toluca community and a devoted member of St. Ann's Church.

Upon graduation from high school, Nancy worked at Foster's Drug Store, where she met her husband, Manfredo "Fritz" Silvestri. Every day after work Fritz would stop by and order an ice cream cone. On Valentine's Day 1950 Fritz proposed and they were married in St. Ann's Church on November 25, 1950. Nancy and Fritz had four daughters.

After nineteen years of marriage, Fritz passed away too soon, leaving Nancy with a young family to raise and the need to find a job. Nancy went back to Foster's Drug Store for a short time and then moved to an administrative position in Dr. Robert Farner's office. She worked there for twenty-five years until she retired.

On July 23, 1982, Nancy married Donald "Dutch" Arndt and added five children to the family. Nancy and Dutch enjoyed many wonderful years together before he passed in 1998. They enjoyed Cubs baseball, dancing, bowling and traveling to spend time with their children and grandchildren.

Surviving are children Janet Silvestri, Joanne Silvestri, Lori Silvestri, Barbara Silvestri, Mike Arndt (Jo), Geoff Arndt, Nancy Umphress (Don) and Ken Arndt (Cynthia); grandchildren Mike (Kim), Brian, Jeremy (Kaci) Arndt, Teresa French, Rebecca (Sabrina) Rowell, David Arndt, Eva (Mike) Cummings, Jessica (Kurtis) Shimek, Nicki (Gary) Arndt, Ed (Christie) and Kate Stromberg and many loving great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son-in-law Ed Stromberg; stepson Greg Arndt; brother Art Borese; niece Jennifer Hill; nephew Richard Bartolomea; brothers-in-law Anthony Silvestri and Jim Bartolomea; sisters-in-law Elizabeth Bartolomea and Jean Borese; infant sisters Lucille and Barbara Borese.

Nancy was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother, loyal friend and devout Catholic. She was a person of deep faith which served her well throughout her life. She was an avid Chicago Cubs fan, attending many games at Wrigley Field. If there was a Cubs game on you can be sure that Nancy would be watching. In addition to her love of baseball, Nancy enjoyed so many things and had so many interests;

theater, movies, books, music, Wordle, bridge, sports, puzzles, scratchies, lottery, Jeopardy, nature, plants, humming birds, Facebook, her iPhone and an occasional Manhattan with friends.

She loved to travel, especially to visit her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Nancy remained curious about everything, allowing her to grow and learn something new every day. Nancy was much loved by all who knew her. She will be greatly missed and forever remembered. Toluca will not be the same without her.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Ann's Building Fund, 207 W. 3rd St., Wenona, IL 61377, Eastern Marshall County EMS, 210 N. Chestnut St, Wenona, IL 61377 or Toluca-Rutland Fire Protection District, 322 West Railroad Ave., Toluca, IL 61369.

Calvert and Johnson Memorial Home in Toluca is in charge of arrangements



PATSY IRENE SMITH

Patsy Irene Smith, 83, of Lacon, IL, died on June 2, 2026 at Lacon Rehab and Nursing. Born in Sparland, IL to the late Merle and Iris (Swanson) Taylor, she married Dennis Manning on July 26, 1961. They had three children. Dennis

died on March 5, 1991. She later married Merywon "Smitty" Smith on October 26, 1996. Smitty passed on July 20, 2014.

Patsy is survived by her son Mark (Nikki) Manning of Lacon; stepchildren Jeff (Casey) Smith of Bartonville, Jill Walraven of Peoria; brothers Ronald (Mary Lou) Taylor of Tennessee, Gary (Terry) Taylor of Peoria; sister Cheryl (John) Budd of Lacon; grandchildren Nathan & Marissa Manning, Peyton & Hannah Manning, Brandon Storm, Matthew Hallmark; step grandchildren Chad Reiter, Dana Ray, Dalton Smith; 6 great grandchildren; 6 step great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sons Kevin & Doug Manning; stillborn twin boys; brothers Charles & Allen Lee Taylor; and grandchild Kinnley Hallmark.

Patsy and her mother, Iris, ran an in-home beauty salon for many years. She then worked as a medical receptionist and retired in the early 2000s. After retiring she focused on community work serving on the board at the Lacon Community Center and enjoyed volunteering for Center events. She and Smitty enjoyed traveling and spent a lot of time fishing on Lake Michigan. Patsy also enjoyed sewing & embroidery, cooking, baking and gardening. She most enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren who greatly admired her. The house she and Dennis built became a home for all of her family. Many holidays and family get-togethers were spent there, filling the home with laughter and love. Patsy enjoyed taking care of all those around her, especially her mother in her final years. Her family will always remember her by her strength, compassion and unwavering love.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a memorial service for Patsy will be held at Calvary Bible Church north of Lacon on Wednesday June 17th at 3:00 p.m. with visitation being held one hour prior to service. Burial will immediately follow in the Lacon Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the Calvary Bible Church or St. Jude. Online condolences can be left at lenzmemorialhome.com.



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LHJ Christmas Fund Is Recipient Of FNB's "Demin For Dollars"



The staff at The First National Bank of Lacon is trading dollars for denim with a quarterly fund raiser drawing for local charities. All of the staff members have made donations toward a fund, and the bank will then contribute matching funds for the privilege to wear denim instead of the professional dress code. This quarter the organization drawn to benefit

from this fund raiser is the Lacon Home Journal Christmas Fund and it was donated in the name of Erin Olson. All employees think that it is really great to be able to help out our local organizations and are looking forward to next quarters drawing.

Pictured above is Erin Olson and Bill Sondag, Publisher of the Lacon Home Journal.

Join us!

summer art classes

at

Lacon Area Community Center

405 N. Washington St. in Lacon

June 19	2:00pm Fun painting class! Ages: 8-18yrs	
July 17	2:00pm Fun painting class! Ages: 8-18yrs	

Register online at: laconacc.com or use QR code.

Betty Heinold, a local artist, will be leading classes.
Partially sponsored by the Lacon Area Community Center Org., Jean & John Wabel, LACC membership donations.

\$5 Donation if able

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