

OBITUARIES



SHARON (SHARI) SUE (NENNE) MERRITT

Sharon (Shari) Sue (Nenne) Merritt was born in Streator, IL, on July 23, 1944, and raised in the country outside of Toluca, Illinois. She married Charles David Merritt on May 20, 1967. They lived in Peoria, Illinois, for over 55 years. She attended Toluca Grade School and High School, graduating in 1962.

As a past member of St. John's Lutheran Church, she attended many mother-daughter banquets and, as a child, participated in the annual pageant. She is a past member of First English Church in Peoria, Illinois. Shari worked at Unit Step Company for over ten years before becoming an Assistant Manager at AG Edwards. She was active in the Peoria Jayceettes and served as President in 1977-78.

Shari was known for her sharp mind, particularly with math, problem-solving, and puzzles. She was an artist skilled in painting and fabric arts, creating everything from murals to Christmas stockings and elegant crafts. She was quiet, inquisitive, unassuming, and, as everyone says, "so sweet." Her greatest love was her family – her ten brothers and sisters and her immediate family. She enjoyed every moment she spent with everyone she loved.

She is preceded in death by parents Frederick and Irma (Dahlbach) Nenne; sisters Donna (Nenne) Nicol, Joyce (Nenne) Bakel; brothers Richard and Terry Nenne; brothers-in-law John (Jack) Bakel and Gary Nicol; nephew Scott Toliver; and niece Noelle Daghe.

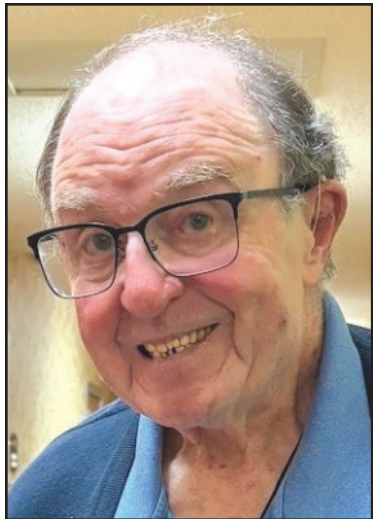
Surviving immediate family: husband Charles David Merritt, son Jeffery David, and Kerrie (Krol) Merritt and children Jaden and Jax Merritt. Daughter Kristen (Merritt) and Matt Hodel and children Noah and Anya Hodel

Surviving siblings: Beth Nenne; Jan (Nenne) and Joe Daghe; Jackie (Nenne) and Ron Morgan; Denise (Nenne) and Jim Pescitelli; Eugene and Sharon Nenne; Christy Nenne; and Larry and Dorthy Nenne.

Visitation will be Saturday June 27, 2026, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Toluca. Memorial services will follow at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Richard

Joyce will officiate. Inurnment will follow at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Toluca. Calvert-Johnson & Froelich Memorial Home in Toluca, is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made to: www.calvertmemorial.com.



JOHN PETER CRUMRINE

John Peter Crumrine passed away peacefully on June 10, 2026 at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home in Roanoke, IL. He was 87.

John was born in Streator, IL to Chester J. and Victoria F. (Egleton) Crumrine. He married Lanora J. Piasse on June 20, 1959, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Toluca, IL. She preceded him in death in 2022. He was also preceded in death by his parents, brother Joe, sisters-in-law Rosemary (Haworth) and Barb (Crumrine), and brothers-in-law Joe Piasse and Steve Piasse.

John is survived by his five children, Cathy (Ken) Bilow of Roanoke, IL, Susan (Sue Fahnestock) of Mapleton, IL, Dianne (Brandon) Burwell of Elmwood, IL, John (Kathryn) Crumrine of Fenton, MO and Tony (Jennifer) Crumrine of Roanoke; 13 grandchildren: Leslie (Justin) Hensley, Chet (Erin) Walker, LeeAnn (Brandon) Bachman, Caitlyn (Peter) Vorstadt, Kyler Petrey, Kristina Petrey, Dean Burwell, Eleanore Burwell, Joel (Kelsey) Crumrine, Elise (Ben) Prange, Julia Crumrine, Brooke Crumrine, and Lauren Crumrine; along with 10 great-grandchildren, Mason Hensley, Grace Hensley, Nolan Hensley, Ivy Walker, Indy Walker, Isaac Walker, Della Bachman, Betsy Bachman, Lennon Bachman and Josie Crumrine. He is also survived by his sister, Janet Piasse and his brothers Jimmy, Jerry, Jeff and one brother-in-law, Philip Haworth.

John graduated from Toluca High School in 1956 before attending Illinois State University where he earned his undergraduate degree in education before receiving his master's in education administration. A lifelong educator, John spent 25 of his 40 years in education working at Roanoke-Benson, serving as the high school principal before later moving into the role of district superintendent.

Not one to sit idle, John spent his first year of retirement working as an investment banker before realizing that was too boring so he went back to school - literally. In retirement John served as the principal at St. Mary's Catholic School in Kickapoo before becoming the principal at St. Mark's Catholic School in Peoria.

It was during John's stint leading St. Mark's that the City of West Peoria proclaimed April 24, 2001 John Crumrine Day with the footnote that John was known "as a dispenser of suckers and candy with a bark much worse than his bite."

Among his many hobbies, John enjoyed following the Fighting Illini, rooting for his beloved Chicago White Sox and playing golf with his friends and family. He spent many hours traveling to auctions developing an affinity for them, so much so that he worked with parent's groups at his Catholic schools to launch their school auctions into the major fundraisers they are today.

He also was an active member of the Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus and spent hours making one-of-a-kind items for his grandchildren in his woodshop.

John spent countless hours on lakes and rivers with a line in the water, rarely coming home empty-handed, a fact his family and friends happily benefited from at one of his legendary fish fries. Whether the menu featured bluegill, crappie, walleye, bass, or the occasional carp that "found its way into the batter," no one ever left hungry.

But more important than any hobby, title, or accomplishment was the love he shared with Lanora. During their retirement years at Oak Run, they enjoyed countless rounds of golf, pontoon rides on the lake, and the simple pleasure of spending time together. When declining health began to limit Lanora's abilities, John met the challenge with the same determination and devotion that defined his life, becoming her full-time caregiver and steadfast companion.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to the nurses, staff, and caregivers at the Apostolic Christian Home in Roanoke. Their kindness, compassion, and loving care brought comfort not only to John, but also to his children and grandchildren. The family will forever be thankful for the dignity, friendship, and support they provided during John's final years.

A Memorial Mass services will be held at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Toluca at 11am on Saturday June 20th. Franciscan Friars will officiate.

A visitation will be from 5-7pm Friday, June 19th at the Knapp-Johnson-Harris Funeral Home in Roanoke. A rosary service will begin at 4:30pm. An additional visitation service will be from 10-10:45 am prior to the funeral mass on Saturday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Apostolic Christian Home, Roanoke.

Online condolences and tributes may be sent to the family at www.knappjohnsonharris.com.



WALTER J. FOX

My name is Walter J. "Wally" Fox, I finally met my demise on June 10, 2026. (Date filled in by others) I didn't fight like hell to the bitter end, I understood my diagnosis. Since May 2024, I have awakened in the morning only to get my ass totally kicked by end stage liver disease and stage three renal failure. They finally got me!

I was born in 1947 in Peoria, IL. My father was John Fox, a decorated World War II veteran who worked at Western electric. My mother was Nadine Heisel Fox, a former office girl at Farmers Auto Insurance in Pekin. I also have a brother, Tom. I attended Peoria High School and the University of Illinois with a degree in Biology. After graduation, I was immediately drafted into the United States Army. I chose duty to country over sticking my tail between my legs and joining the cowards in Canada. I was trained to be a Stone Cold Killer as a combat infantry man in a wartime setting, a job I took very seriously. I received many awards and medals: the CIB, two air medals, and Bronze Star serving in Vietnam and Cambodia. My most vivid memory is securing an area around two helicopter crashes and being chosen to remove the charred remains of my comrades. I can still remember it all.

The best part of the war was finding Diana Wroten as a penpal. We have been married over 53 years. We have three children, our son Mark (Erica) Fox; daughters Vicki (Quentin) Howell & Betsy (Simon) Schneitter; five grandsons Tyler Parkinson, Chase Parkinson, Peyton Fox, Ethan Fox, and Alexander Briggs; and one great grandson Eliot Parkinson. Diana is the pacifist to my combat, the happy face to my grumpy, the outgoing to my borderline antisocial, and the lover to my lack of emotion. How lucky I have been that she was my caregiver when I have no more to offer.

I worked mainly as a night janitor, a wire drawer at Keystone, and a mail carrier, retiring in 2009. I

received more awards, but none really worth mentioning. We love to travel with our children and family. I was a normal guy, trying to create a good life for my family. I have never spent the night in the hospital since I was two days old.

Cremation rites have been accorded and there will be no service or celebration of life. Please do not send flowers, do not make a donation in my name. If you live close to Lacon, take Diana to lunch. If you can't be here, take a friend of yours to lunch. Leave a good tip. I will rest in peace with few regrets. Diana and I want our ashes scattered in a remote location in Colorado. I love you Diana, and who can forget Colorado Springs. Online condolences can be left at lenzmemorialhome.com.



DAVID W. MURPHY

David W. Murphy, age 75, died unexpectedly at home in Sparland, Sunday June 14, 2026.

David was born December 7, 1950 in Peoria IL to William and Mildred (Loser) Murphy.

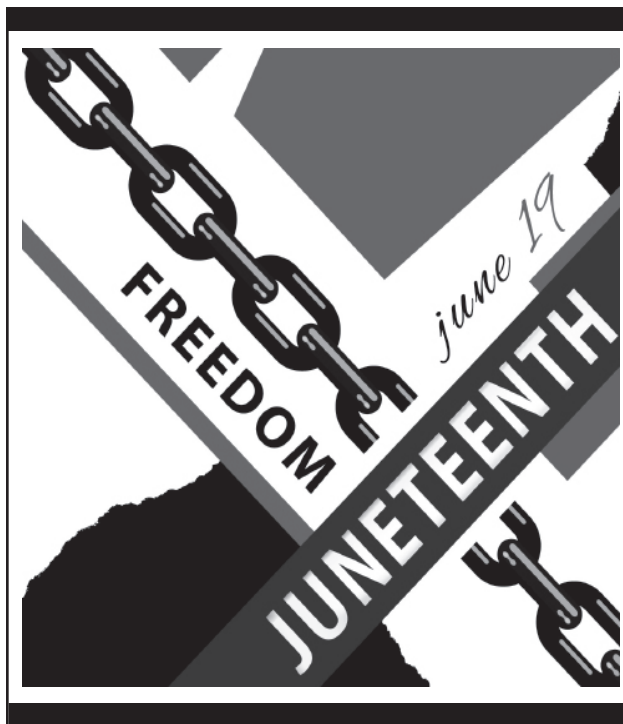
David graduated high school and went on finishing a couple of years in college before going to work in the heavy equipment industry for CATERPILLAR, for 30 years. He started Sept 26, 1969 retiring September 26, 1999. David then of course retired by working another twelve years for Schnucks of Peoria as a maintenance technician.

From the beginning David was accompanied by the love of his life, Carol Jean Diehl; who he married in Sparland on June 30, 1972. Together they raised their family, married for 54 years until Carol's death December 15, 2020.

Surviving David are his children, Shawn T. Murphy and Heather A. Murphy; his brothers Gregory A. Murphy of Sparland and William J. Murphy Jr. of Lacon and his sister Brenda (Brad) Konno of Colorado.

David was preceded in death by his parents, William Sr. and Mildred.

Lenz Memorial Home, 823 Fifth street in Lacon IL 61540 is serving the family and cremation rites have been accorded per David's wishes.



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Juneteenth, a
Federal Holiday,
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Friday, June 19th**

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