



In Loving Memory

May 2026

A compilation of all obituaries published in April 2026

**Honoring Those
Who Have Passed**

A publication of
Bluefield Daily Telegraph


TIMES
WEST VIRGINIAN

BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA
REGISTER~HERALD.

In Loving Memory



April 2026

Loved ones included in this publication:

Bluefield

Anna Byers
 Carolyn Craft
 Castella Dickerson
 Jennie George
 James Goforth
 Bernice Griffith
 William Hatcher
 Stephen Hill
 George Kade
 Judith Lovern
 Wilfred Mathena
 Richard Nicholson
 Roger Peraldo
 Emery Pruett
 Elizabeth Shaw
 George Smith
 Betty Turpin

The Register-Herald

Melva Baldwin
 Kimberly Blankenship
 Brenda Cahoon
 Gerald Chandler
 Marlene Church
 Virginia Clay
 Steven Coleman
 Sandy Copenhaver
 Terri Cornell
 Eliza Dillard
 James Dillon
 Ernest Epling
 Pauline Forte
 Marietta Gray
 Henry Gray
 Charles Gunnoe
 Ellsworth Hanger
 Janet Hodges
 Timothy Hovatter
 LaBetta Lilly
 Mary Maddy
 Barbara Marshall
 George McMurray
 Victoria Miller
 Tammy Moter
 Janet O'Neal
 Ralph Rhodes
 Deborah Roark
 Mark Robertson
 Margaret Smith
 Joseph Stephens
 Mrs. Frances Stevens Allen
 Charlotte Thomas
 Rita Underwood
 Mr. Thomas White Jr.
 Sally Whitt
 Melinda Wills
 Wayne Wriston

The Times West Virginian

Alma Jean Cole Beard
 Jack Franklin Bernardo
 Miriam Louise Cheslock
 Francine Roxanna Cikovich
 Leo Cellesteen Clevenger
 William Stanley Curtis
 David Lee Greaver
 Sandra Jo Inghram
 Thelma May Jones
 James D. Lewis
 Julius Lynn Lorentzson
 LaVerne Monica MacDonald
 Tonya Ann Cooper Marks
 Jeanie Sue McGee
 Ned Owen Merrifield, Jr.
 Martha Jean Mitchell
 Robin Lee Montgomery
 Drexil E. (Gene) Powell
 Freda Keener Scott
 Janet B. Shackelford
 Mark William Shaffer
 Adaline Marie VanGilder
 Maureen Kennedy Wolfe

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Bluefield Daily Telegraph

Castella Delores Scott Dickerson

Sep. 7, 1935 – Apr. 16, 2026

Castella Delores Scott Dickerson began her walk in life on September 7, 1935, in Aberdeen Maryland. Her journey came to an unexpected end Thursday April 16, 2026, peaceful at her home in Keystone WV.

Castella was the daughter of the late Eva Geneva Giles and Leonard Hardy. Castella spent her early childhood in Aberdeen, Maryland. She and her mother later relocated to Coalwood, West Virginia, where she lived until adulthood. She also resided in Havaco and Elkhorn, West Virginia, before moving to Keystone WV, where she lived for 50 years and attended the West Virginia school system.

Known fondly to family and friends as "Cassie Boots," she was a much-beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and a "mother of heart" to her many adopted children who called her mother.

Throughout her 90-year journey, Cassie left a lasting impression on everyone she met; once you met her, you would never forget her.

As the cherished matriarch of her family, she relied on her faith as a guiding light to nurture, uplift, teach, and guide. Her words carried truth, and her lessons carried love. Her embraces, hugs, and kisses felt like a refuge. Castella faith

brought her peace and strength throughout her life.

Castella was united in marriage to James Ivory Dickerson, and this union was blessed with one son and five daughters. James was a member of West Virginia Golden Voices. Previously joined in marriage to Ulysses Scott and was blessed with a son and daughter.

Castella accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Savior early in life and her confession of her faith led her to seek a lifetime close relationship with God. She began her Christian walk at Mt. Airy Baptist Church in Coalwood, continued her growth at Gospel Tabernacle UHC in Keystone, WV and was currently a faithful member of New Vision UHC in Northfork, West Virginia. She was a dedicated, supportive, and loyal member who enjoyed serving wherever she was needed.

Her role within the church were many and included: Mother of the Church, Deaconess, President of the Usher Board, President of the Senior Choir and Church Treasurer. President of the Kitchen Committee for over 30 years. Member of the United Holiness Body for 48 years.

After wearing many hats in life as a wife, mother, grandmother,

and caregiver, she decided to join the workforce—though her family thought she was kidding! She joined the Foster Grandparent Program through the Council of the Southern Mountains, working daily in the classroom with "Ms. Day and the kids." She served at both Kimball Elementary and Mount View School. She loved the children and they loved her; she even rode the school bus with them every day. A tribute will be held in her honor at Mount View School.

Even though our "Cassie Boots" has stepped beyond this world, her influence lives on in the hearts of all those she nurtured. Her spirit is forever woven into the memories of those blessed enough to have known her.

Castella was preceded in transition by her parents, Eva Geneva Giles and Leonard Hardy; her husband James Dickerson; her mother-in-law Fanny Lane; her sons Ulysses Scott Sr. (Butch) and James Oliver Hamilton (Splo); two daughters Willie Kate Dickerson (Katie) and Drema Menafe; granddaughters Anitras D. Smith and Latasha S. Logan; grandson Karletha Dickerson. Now they are all reunited in Heaven.

Her life will continue to

be celebrated through the loving, precious and cherished memories by her children: Rhonda Pat Scott Logan (Winston-Salem, NC), Arnette D. Taylor (Michael) Princeton, WV, Jacqueline D. Johnson (Reverend Daniel) Warren OH, Patricia D. Clark (Reverend Mark) San Diego, CA, Armen-tra Elkrin (Marshall) Tennessee.

A cornerstone of a remarkable five-generation family, Castella leaves behind a sprawling legacy of love and devotion. A vibrant family, including 21 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great grandchildren. In addition to family members and friends, Castella's life was enriched by adopted children and several special friends, including Roosevelt Culbertson, Donna, Peaches, and Maria.

"Well done, good and faithful servant" -- Matthew 25:23

Memorial services will be Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 1:00 pm at Mercer Funeral Home Chapel, with Bishop Anthony M. Tucker officiating. Visitation will be at the funeral home from 11:30 until service time.

Mercer Funeral Home is assisting the Dickerson family with funeral services.

Anna Lee Byers

Aug. 16, 1934 – Apr. 12, 2026

Ann Lee Byers was born August 16th, 1934 in Bluefield, Virginia to the late Daniel G. And Flora E. (Coon) Slade.

On April 16, 1954 she married the love of her life, the late Jack C. Byers.

Anna Lee resided in Bluefield, Virginia until August of 2016 when she relocated to Fishersville, Virginia. She passed peacefully on April 12, 2026 surrounded by her family.

Anna Lee was a devout Christian and life long member of Ebenezer Global Methodist Church formerly (Ebenezer United Methodist Church) and attended Sherando Community Church after relocating. She was a dedicated member of the United Methodist Women and Virginia Farm Bureau Women's Association.

Mrs. Byers is survived by daughters Linda Burdette and husband Greg of Columbus, Mississippi; Jacque Goforth and husband Tom of Stuarts Draft, Virginia; granddaughters Carrie Covey and husband Drew; Andrea Burdette; Mandi Ingram and hus-



band Louie; great grandsons, Jack and Knox Ingram and Wyatt Covey.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on April 20th, 2026, at Grandview Memorial Gardens Mausoleum Chapel with Steve Aker officiating.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. on the day of the service.

Flowers are welcomed or memorial contributions may be made to Ebenezer Global Church, 126 Ebenezer Ave., Bluefield, Virginia 24605, or Sherando Community Church, 2022 Howardsville Turnpike, Stuarts Draft, Va 24477 or Hospice of the Shenandoah, 78 Medical Center Circle Fishersville, Va. 22939.

Dudley Memorial Mortuary

DUDLEYMEMORIAL.COM

Mercer Funeral Home

MERCERFUNERALHOME.COM

James Thomas Goforth

Jun. 20, 1965 – Apr. 12, 2026

MARTINSBURG — James Thomas "Jim" Goforth, 60, went home to be with Jesus on April 12, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of faith, love, laughter, and unwavering devotion to his family and community. After a long journey with neuroendocrine cancer, Jim's passing came suddenly and far sooner than those who loved him were prepared for.

Born on June 20, 1965, Jim lived a life rooted in purpose and shaped by his deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ, his Savior. He was a devoted husband, a proud and loving father, a playful and adoring Pawpaw, a caring son, a loyal brother, and a cherished friend to many. To know Jim was to know warmth, humor, kindness, and a joyful spirit that made others feel immediately at home.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Lori of Martinsburg, WV; his beloved sons, Joshua of Charleston, WV, and Nicholas of Martinsburg, WV. Joshua and his wife, Brittany Lawrence Goforth, gave Jim one of his greatest joys in life: being "Pawpaw" to their four beautiful children, Greyson Lee, Caiden

James, Landon Reed, and Emmeline Margaret. Those grandchildren brought him endless smiles and immeasurable joy.

He is also survived by his father, Harold of Bluefield, WV; his brother, Harold "Lucky" and sister-in-law Debbie of Bluefield, WV; and his sister, Anita Goforth Payne of Austin, TX. Additionally, Jim had several nieces and nephews including: Meredith Goforth of Westport, CT, Paige Sanders of Bluefield, WV, Rachel Taylor of Huntersville, NC, Lexy Payne of Austin, TX and Tyler Payne of Austin, TX.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Jo, his daughter, Tiffany Lynn, and his nephew, Nathan Samuel.

For 28 years, Jim faithfully served as the founding pastor of New Life Community Church in Inwood, WV. He answered God's call on his life with boldness, humility, and steadfast faith. What began as a small gathering in his home grew, through his vision, prayer, and dedication, into a thriving church family and a permanent place of worship. Jim did not simply

build a church; he helped build a community rooted in love, faith, and connection.

Jim's smile could light up a room, and his laughter was contagious. He had a remarkable gift for making people feel seen, welcomed, and loved. He loved to tease, to joke, and to bring joy into everyday moments. Above all, Jim was passionate about sharing the message that had transformed his life: the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ. He called this mission REACH, TEACH and SEND!

His life was a testimony not only in the words he preached, but in the way he lived—with kindness, generosity, compassion, and a genuine love for people. Jim's influence will continue to be felt in the lives of those he encouraged, the people he loved, and all who came to know Christ through his ministry.

Though he will be deeply missed, his family and friends find comfort in knowing that Jim is now at peace, reunited with loved ones who have gone before him, and hearing the words of his Savior: "Well done, good and faithful servant."



A celebration of Jim's life will be held at New Life Community Church, 4102 Tabler Station Road, Inwood, WV, on Saturday, April 18, at 4:00 p.m. If you are unable to join us on line, consider participating in this service on New Life's YouTube Channel: @NewLifeCommunityChurchWV.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the New Life Community Church Playground Fund to help fulfill Jim's vision to build a new awesome playground where children can make memories, laugh together, and enjoy a safe place to play for years to come.

Arrangements are entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be offered at www.BrownFuneralHomesWV.com

William Ray Hatcher

Sep. 25, 1934 – Apr. 15, 2026

William Ray Hatcher, 91 of Bluefield, WV, passed away April 15, 2026, at his home.

Born September 25, 1934, he was a son of the late William and Blanche Hatcher.

William enjoyed trucking, running dozers, farming, attending old antique car shows and sharp 18 wheelers.

He loved spending time with Mike Hatcher and friends hauling hay, coal, mulch, wood, or whatever the load may be; it was his adrenaline rush.

He was a man of few words, but definitely a man of his word. He especially loved his family, his dear friends, and get together for some good food and fellowship. To say the least...W.R. was definitely his three children's hero.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Freda Hatcher; son, Tony A. Hatcher; sister, Betty Hatcher Spangler; and sweet granddaughter, Laura Hatcher.

Those left to cherish his memory are his chil-



dren, Mike (Tammy) Hatcher, and Donna (J.R.) Surface; sister, Sharon Hatcher King; grandchildren, Jody Hatcher, Evan Hatcher, Amy (Danny) Rasi, Hanna (Joey) Sparks, Haley (Richelle) Hatcher, and Rose Hatcher; great grandchild, Kyn-dall Sparks; and sisters in law, Gaye Farley and Patricia Francisco; a host of loving nieces and nephews, and numerous special friends.

The family will receive friends Monday, April 20, 2026 from 5:00pm-7:00pm at Roselawn Funeral Home. A celebration of William's life will begin at 7:00pm, with the Reverend John Blessing officiating. The family will have a private graveside service.

Roselawn Funeral Home and Cemetery
ROSELAWNMONTEVISTA.COM

Bernice Billips Griffith

Apr. 18, 2026

Bernice Billips Griffith, 91, of Bluefield, VA, went home to be with the Lord, Saturday, April 18, 2026.

A service to celebrate Bernice's life will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at Dudley Memorial Chapel at 12:00 P.M., with Minister Steve Moran officiating. Friends may visit with the family on Tuesday, from 11:00 A.M.



until the hour of the service. The burial will be a private family service.

Dudley Memorial Mortuary
DUDLEYMEMORIAL.COM

Stephen Clifton Hill

Sep. 17, 1948 - Mar. 28, 2026

ELKVIEW – Steve went to be with the Lord on March 28, 2026.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Barbara, and his parents, Clifton and Eva (Yon) Hill of Bramwell, WV.

He leaves behind his son Matthew, daughter-in-law Kersha, two grandsons Keegan and Torrhyon, and his sister Cristina Hill.



George Patterson "Pat" Kade

Apr. 2, 2026

George Patterson "Pat" Kade, 90, departed this world April 2, 2026 and is preceded in death by his parents, Ada Brewster and Ishmael Byron Kade, and his brother, William Byron Kade.

Pat spent the majority of his career in construction and was foreman on area projects like the Alexander Fine Arts Building at Concord University, The Mercer Mall, Princeton Community Hospital, and McKeever Lodge at Pipestem State Park. While working on the East River Tunnel, Pat designed and built the wooden door coverings for the entrances and exits of the tunnel, a feat that was thought impossible. He kept building and constructing even when he left the "big jobs". There are numerous decks, playhouses, and renovated spaces that bear the workmanship of which Pat was capable. In talking to the men who worked for and with him, they would tell you he was fair, honest, and focused on doing his best work.

Pat is survived by his sister and devoted caregiver, Judith Kade Lovern and three sons by Nellie Yonce Kade: David Patterson Kade and wife Julia Neal Kade, Glen Allen Kade, and Mark Robin Kade. Pat cherished his two



granddaughters, Noel Elizabeth Kade (and her husband Ben Rosenberg) and Ashley Grace Kade-Hinds (and her husband, Andy Hinds). Pat's sole great grandchild is Avery Elizabeth Hinds, daughter of Ashley and Andy.

In the last year, Pat was aided by caregivers Teresa Hughes and Tina Thompson, whom the family recognize for the care and attention to his needs.

A time of visitation and sharing will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Seaver Funeral Home in Princeton. A graveside service will be held at 12:00 p.m on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton. Those wishing to attend the graveside are asked to meet at Seaver Funeral Home by 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.seaverfuneralservice.com.

Judith Lynn Kade Lovern

Jul. 18, 1944 – Apr. 12, 2026

Judy Lynn Kade Lovern, 81, of Princeton, died peacefully Sunday, April 12, 2026, at Princeton Community Hospital.

Born July 18, 1944, in Princeton, she was the daughter of the late Ishmael Byron Kade & Ada Brewster.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded by her husband Dr. William Lee "Jim" Lovern, stepson, James Eric Lovern, brothers, William Byron Kade & George Patterson "Pat" Kade who resided with her until his death recently.

Judy loved animals, caring for the deer, squirrels, birds, dogs in her neighborhood, and walking with her friend Melanie Jessee.

Judy was a wonderful cook, sharing bread & cookies. She was a devoted and loving caregiver for multiple family members.

Survivors include her son Jon Lovern & wife Lori, two grandchildren, Ian William Lovern & wife Danica, Molly Elise Lovern & husband David, three nephews, Glen Allen "Al" Kade, David Pat-



erson Kade & wife Julia, & Mark Robin Kade.

In celebration of Judy Lovern's life, a time of sharing will be held Friday, April 17, 2026, at Memorial Funeral Directory on the Athens Road in Princeton, from 10:30 until 11:30 A.M. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton.

Online condolences may be shared with the family via www.memorialfd.com

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Mercer County Humane Society, 961 Shelter Road, Princeton WV 24740.

The Lovern Family is being served by the Memorial Funeral Directory & Cremation Center on Athens Road in Princeton.

Betty Jean Turpin

Dec. 9, 1936 – Apr. 25, 2026

Betty Jean Turpin, 89, of Princeton, West Virginia, passed away on April 25, 2026. Born on December 9, 1936, in McDowell County, West Virginia, she spent the greater part of her life in the Princeton area, where she became a beloved part of her community.

A committed follower of Christ from her young adult years, Betty's faith was the foundation of her life. She was a longtime member of Princeton Church of God – now known as Lifeline – where she also served as a Sunday School teacher.

Over the years she worked as a bank teller and retail clerk. She had a gift for brightening the room and making people feel loved.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Turpin; two sons; 18 grandchildren; and 7 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Ellis Rose and Bethel Mae Rose; and her brother, Grandall



Lee "Buddy" Rose.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 29, 2026 in the Chapel of the Memorial Funeral Directory, 654 Athens Road, Princeton, West Virginia, with Pastor J.B. Hurt officiating.

Entombment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Princeton, West Virginia. Friends may visit with the family from 12:00 P.M. until the service hour.

Online condolences may be shared with the family via www.memorialfd.com

The Turpin family is being served by the Memorial Funeral Directory & Cremation Center on the Athens Road in Princeton.

Memorial Funeral Directory

MEMORIALFD.COM

Memorial Funeral Directory

MEMORIALFD.COM

Wilfred Bee Mathena

May 24, 1939 – Dec. 19, 2025

with a degree in Criminal Justice.

Will had served more than 27 years with the Bluefield City Police Department, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant. He was a lifelong member of Bluefield Nazarene Church on Stadium Drive.

Will was a gentle soul that loved life, his church and his beloved wife Cuzzie who died in February of

2025.

In addition to his parents and dear wife Cuzzie, he was preceded by five siblings, Ella Six, Elma Belcher, Ann Bradbury, Basil Mathena, Randolph Mathena & Jesse Morris.

Those left to cherish his memory, his twin brother Willis of Princeton and a host of nieces and nephews along with his church family.

Private Graveside services were held at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton.

Online condolences may be shared with the family via www.memorialfd.com.

The Mathena family is being served by the Memorial Funeral Directory and Cremation Center on the Athens Road in Princeton. May 24, 1939 [ndash] Dec. 19, 2025

Seaver Funeral Home & Cremation Services

SEAVERFUNERALSERVICE.COM



Richard Nicholson

May 29, 1947 – Apr. 11, 2026

Richard Nicholson, 78, of Rock, died at his home on Saturday, April 11, 2026 surrounded by his family and friends.

Born May 29, 1947, in Bluefield, he was the son of the late Clifton Nicholson and Windella Roberts Nicholson.

Mr. Nicholson was a former employee of the City of Matoaka Water and Sewer Treatment Plant. He served in the US Army in Vietnam, where he received the Bronze Star. He served in the 1st/150th West Virginia National Guard and retired after 27 years of service to his country. He received the Army Commendation Medal at Fort Lee for saving three children from a burning house trailer. In his spare time, he owned and restored classic cars. He loved spending time with his family and making people laugh.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, June Weese Nicholson; and one sister, Loretta Mae Nicholson.

Survivors include three children, Darrell Nicholson and wife Tammy "Gracie" of Beeson, Ginger Nicholson of Lashmeet and Christopher Nicholson of Rock; four siblings, Wayne Nicholson and wife Cathy of Surfside Beach, SC, Shirley Nicholson Green of Princeton, Della Marie Clark and husband



Jack of Bluefield and Tina Cales and husband Greg of Athens; four grandchildren, Andrea, Leanna, Nichole and Sarah; and four great grandchildren, Skylar, Kameron, Oliver and Elliot.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, April 16, 2026, at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton, with his special friend, Pastor Roy Williams, officiating. Interment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton, where military honors will be conducted by the Mercer County Veterans Honor Guard.

Serving as pallbearers will be Darrell Nicholson, Christopher Nicholson, Greg Cales, Josh Hager, James McKinney and Melvin Rye.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 16, 2026, from noon until service hour at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.bailey-kirk.com

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home
BAILEY-KIRK.COM

Emery Earl Pruett

Jun. 9, 1939 – Mar. 30, 2026

Emery Earl Pruett, 86, of Wytheville, Virginia, died on Monday, March 30, 2026. He was born on June 9, 1939 in Bishop, Virginia. Emery was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Ann Mundy Pruett. His parents, Maxwell Alexander Pruett and Lelia Letrice Kirk Pruett also preceded him in death, along with six brothers and a sister.

He is survived by his daughter, Cynthia Pruett Jarmul and her husband Jack; and his son, George Maxwell (Mack) Pruett and his wife, Crystal. He also leaves behind four adoring grandchildren: Erin Veasey Recachinas and husband Michael; Claire Elizabeth Veasey -Deters and husband Jonathan; Keegan Earl Pruett; and Owen James Pruett. Emery was also blessed with two great-grandchildren, Anne Marie Recachinas and Isaac Linwood Recachinas. His sister, Mary Iva Pruett Lawson of Richmond, Virginia, also survives him, along with a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Emery was a graduate of Tazewell High School and a dedicated employee of Acme Markets for 42 years, where he served as store manager for Acme Markets and Big A Warehouses throughout Southwest Virginia and Southern West Virginia. After retirement, he worked



at the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store where he enjoyed meeting travelers and sharing stories about his community.

He volunteered with the Wythe County Gerontological Society, the local soup kitchen, and delivered food bags for Hope Packs. He was the family historian and has compiled an extensive written family history.

Funeral services will be held at Grubb Funeral Home, 215 South 6th Street, Wytheville, VA, on Friday, April 3rd. Visitation will begin at 12:00 noon until the service begins at 1:00 pm. Burial will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Tazewell, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to either Wytheville Baptist Church, 205 Church Street, Wytheville, VA 24382 or Open Door Community - Hope Packs and Nourishing Meals, PO Box 743, Wytheville, VA 24382.

Online condolences can be sent to the family at www.grubbfuneralhome.com

Grubb Funeral Home in Wytheville is in charge of the arrangements.

Grubb Funeral Home
276-228-3101 • Wytheville, VA

Elizabeth "Bettie" Mae Flinchum Shaw

Nov. 9, 1926 – Apr. 21, 2026

Elizabeth "Bettie" Mae Flinchum Shaw, age 99, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at Holston Health and Rehabilitation Center in Wytheville, VA.

Born on November 9, 1926, in Bluefield, West Virginia, Bettie was the daughter of the late Richard Foy Flinchum and Leota Elizabeth Lemons Flinchum. She was the last surviving member of the Flinchum family, a distinction that spoke to both her longevity and the legacy she carried with grace.

Bettie dedicated many years of her professional life as a Commercial Loan Assistant at Flat Top National Bank, where she was respected for her diligence, kindness, and steady presence.

Outside of her work, she found great joy in life's simple pleasures. She loved reading, followed sports with enthusiasm, and had a special affection for animals—especially cats, which held a cherished place in her heart.

Her faith was a cornerstone of her life. Bettie was a devoted member of Bluefield Christian Assembly, where she faithfully attended for many years. She found fulfillment in teaching Sunday school and was a consistent source of encouragement, kind-

ness, and wisdom to her church family.

Bettie was known for her sharp wit, a trait that stayed with her until her passing. She was lovingly known as "Bebo" by her family, a name that reflected the deep affection they held for her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Warren Jack Shaw.

Bettie is survived by her niece, Diana Jones Kidd of Bluefield, Virginia, and was a cherished aunt to her great-niece and great-nephews, who will remember her for her steadfast presence in their lives.

Bettie's life was defined by faith, resilience, and a deep love for her family and community. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness and quiet strength that will be remembered by all who knew her.

Graveside services will be Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 12:00 PM, at Monte Vista Park Cemetery.

Visitation will be 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, at Mercer Funeral Home, Bluefield.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com

Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family.

Mercer Funeral Home
MERCERFUNERALHOME.COM

Roger W. Peraldo

Sep. 19, 1942 – Mar. 26, 2026

Roger W. Peraldo went to be with his heavenly Father on March 26, 2026 in Plano, TX.

Roger was married for 57 years to Emma June (Hill) Peraldo, who preceded him in death in May 2021. The son of the late Ernest E. Peraldo and Stella (Maxine) Eanes, Roger was born and raised in Bluefield, WV.

He was preceded in death by stepparents Eula Peraldo, Howard Eanes, Elsie Peraldo and brother-in-law Willard Kenneth (Ken) Hill.

He is survived by daughters Angela B. Thompson (Scott) of Plano, TX, Alisha L. Brown (Mark) of McKinney, TX, Autumn L. Moutadaine (Rachid) of North Africa. He is also survived by grandchildren Regan and Keller Thompson, Zachary Brown, sister-in-law Betty Hill of Pinehurst, NC, sisters Rhonda Peraldo of Coconut Creek, FL and Martha Garian of Richmond, VA.

In addition he is survived by niece Michelle Owen and nephews Michael Hill (Jennifer), Mark Hill, John Vest,

Josh Vest (Stephanie) as well as several great nieces and nephews.

He was a graduate of Bluefield High and The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He was a licensed funeral director in Virginia for over 50 years and was also a sales representative of York Casket Company and Warfield-Rohr Casket Company of Baltimore, MD. He experienced great joy in serving families while working in the funeral home and casket business knowing this was helping families in their time of grief. He was a member of the Virginia Funeral Directors Association, Virginia Funeral Sales Association and Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia and was blessed with many friends through his job. He was honored to assist with the Coffman Funeral Home of Staunton, VA and Driskill Funeral Chapel of Amherst, VA.

Roger and Emma lived in VA prior to his enlistment in the Air Force where he was assigned to Wheeler AFB in Hawaii. Their time in

Hawaii provided treasured memories with military friends. After leaving the military they settled in Charlottesville, VA for over 46 years. He served for many years as an Elder and Deacon at First Christian Church, a Deacon at Trinity Presbyterian, and Treasurer at Grace Community Church.

As a long-time resident of Charlottesville, he was a UVA fan and enjoyed many years of attending football and basketball games.

He was very involved in the Jaycees, serving as President, was awarded the Jaycees Key Man of the Year, Outstanding Young Man of Charlottesville-Albemarle and was a Life Member. He was President of the Week-day Religious Program of Albemarle County and volunteered with several other organizations in the community.

Roger and Emma moved to Texas in 2016 to be near their grandchildren and attended many of their school and sporting events. He cherished time with family, especially enjoy-



ing visits from his grandkids. In Plano.

Roger was a longtime resident of Prestonwood Court and valued his relationship with residents and the caregiving team. He was a current member of Metrocrest Presbyterian Church.

A private family burial will take place with Military Honors at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, with a Memorial Service at a later date.

Roger would like to be remembered as a Christ follower and for being the hands and feet of his Lord, giving of his time and resources. In his honor, the family requests donations to: Mission to the World Account #16120, PO Box 744165, Atlanta, GA 30374-4165 or St Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

George Thomas Smith

Dec. 16, 1928 – Apr. 16, 2026

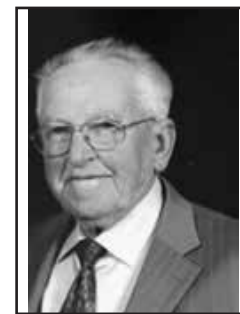
George Thomas Smith, 97, of Bluefield, Virginia, formerly of Princeton, went home to be with his Heavenly Father on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Born December 16, 1928, he was the son of the late Ernest B. Smith and Viola Sparks Smith.

George retired from Overnight Transportation and Garst Truck Line of Bluefield, Virginia. After retirement, he enjoyed flea markets. He was a former active member of First Baptist Church in Princeton.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Jessie L. Smith; second wife, Phyllis D. Smith; one son, Harry Lee Smith; three daughters, Brenda Thompson, Betty Joan Douglas and Beverly Patty Wallace; four brothers, Raymond, Lawrence, Edward and Roy Lee; five sisters, Sylvia, Lillian, Edith, Shirley and Elsie; and four grandchildren, Author Douglas, Jeremy Wallace, Paula Woody Booth and Tonia Rae Chancey; and one great grandson, Billie Cregger.

Survivors include one son, George T. Smith, Jr. and wife Martha of Bluefield, VA; one daughter, Peggy Wright



of Bluefield; one brother, Ernest Smith; and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Special thanks for all the love, care and support from the staff and residents at Westwood Healthcare Center.

Funeral services will be conducted 12:00 p.m. Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton, with Pastor Don Whitt officiating. Interment will follow at Grandview Memory Gardens in Bluefield, Virginia.

Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until service hour at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.bailey-kirk.com.

Carolyn Carper Craft

May 3, 1930 – Apr. 2, 2026

Carolyn Carper Craft, passed away on April 2, 2026.

Born on May 3, 1930, in Boissevain, Virginia, to Grady and Ruth Carper, she spent most of her life in Princeton, WV as a cherished member of the local community.

To read the full obituary and to leave online condolences please visit



www.seaverfuneralservice.com

Jennie Lou (Carper) George

Jul. 3, 1935 – Feb. 15, 2026

Jennie Lou (Carper) George, age 90, was born July 3, 1935, in Princeton, West Virginia, and passed peacefully at home, surrounded by her loved ones on February 15, 2026, in Louisville, Kentucky.

A celebration of Life will be held on June 6, 2026, at 3:00 pm. Harveys Presbyterians Church, 311 Browns Lane, Louisville, KY 40207 (502) 896-1791.

To read the full obitu-



ary and make online condolences please visit www.seaverfuneralservice.com.

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home

BAILEY-KIRK.COM



BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA
REGISTER~HERALD.

Melva Mae Baldwin

Apr. 22, 2026

Melva Mae Baldwin, age 70, of Bolt, WV, passed away Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Visit www.roseandq

[uesenberry.net](http://www.roseandq.uesenberry.net) for complete obituary.

Arrangements by Rose and Quesenberry, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
 ROSEANDQUEENBERRY.NET

Kimberly Marie Blankenship

Apr. 2, 2026

Kimberly Marie Blankenship, age 53, of Beckley, WV, passed away Thursday, April 2, 2026. Visit www.roseandq

[uesenberry.net](http://www.roseandq.uesenberry.net) for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
 ROSEANDQUEENBERRY.NET

Marlene P. Church

Apr. 19, 2026

Marlene P. Church of Crab Orchard, WV, passed away on Sunday, April 19, 2026. Visit www.roseandq

[uesenberry.net](http://www.roseandq.uesenberry.net) for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
 ROSEANDQUEENBERRY.NET

Virginia Clay

Apr. 13, 2026

Virginia Clay, age 90, of Flat Top Lake, Ghent, WV, passed away on Monday, April 13, 2026.

Visit www.calfeefuneralhome.com for service details.

Arrangements are by Calfee Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.



Calfee Funeral Home
 CALFEEFH.COM

Brenda Smith Cahoon

Feb. 17, 1944 – Apr. 4, 2026

Brenda Smith Cahoon, 82, of Chase City, VA, passed away Saturday, April 4, 2026.

Brenda was born February 17, 1944, in Eccles, WV, daughter of the late Phil James Smith and Grace Stover Smith.

Brenda worked her entire career as a Registered Nurse, serving a variety of populations throughout Virginia and West Virginia. Her longest tenure was as an Oncology Nurse in Roanoke, VA, and she retired from nursing after serving as Head Nurse at Mecklenburg Correctional Center in Boydton, VA. After retirement, she served as a volunteer at VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital.

Brenda was an avid gardener and enjoyed making crafts and sewing. She was passionate about her family and remained active in her children's and grandchildren's lives. She was a member of Jamieson Memorial Methodist Church and an active member of the New Beginnings Circle prior to joining Liberty Baptist Church.

Brenda is survived by her husband, Glenn Garner, of Chase City, VA; son, Richard Castle and wife Laura of Clarksville, VA; two sib-



lings, Ronald Smith and Reva Smith, both of Beckley, WV; two stepdaughters, Wendy Mull (Jason) and Cheryl Joynt; two grandchildren, Wesley and Grace Castle; and two step-grandchildren, Carter and Hannah Mull.

A celebration of life will be held at Watkins Cooper Lyon Funeral Home in Clarksville, VA, on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 11:00 am. The family would also like to invite friends and family to join them one hour prior, beginning at 10:00 am for a visitation at the same location.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the team at Clarksville Health and Rehab for the care and support they provided to Brenda. Memorials may be made to the Mecklenburg County Cancer Association, PO Box 94, Clarksville, VA 23927.

Gerald Keith Chandler

Oct. 8, 1932 – Dec. 6, 2025

Gerald Keith Chandler, 93, passed away on December 6, 2025, in Crawley, West Virginia. He was born October 8, 1932, the youngest of four children.

Those preceding him in death include his parents I. Faye Chandler and W. Merritt Chandler, his sister Gaye M. Whitehead, and brothers Walter M. Chandler, Jr., and William A. Chandler.

He is survived by his wife of more than 70 years, Mary Jo Chandler, daughter Gwendolyn Rusk (Craig), daughter Glenna Roones (Kevin), and granddaughters Karen Sempertegui (Jess), Devon Rusk, and Stephanie Roones.

Gerald grew up in Raleigh County, WV. After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in Beckley, Gerald served in the US Navy. He graduated from Marshall College (now Marshall University), Huntington, WV, with a degree in Business Administration.

An entrepreneur, Ger-



ald owned and operated several small cable television systems in southern West Virginia for more than 25 years. In retirement he was an avid woodturner, creating many beautiful and functional pieces of wood turnings, and was a member of West Virginia Woodturners Association.

A memorial service will be held at West Point Baptist Church in Asbury, WV, with the Rev. Ron Miller officiating on Saturday, April 11, at 1:30 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to West Point Baptist Church, Asbury, WV, or to the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Museum, Hillsboro, WV.

Steven Vance Coleman

Apr. 18, 2026

Mr. Steven Vance Coleman, 56, passed away peacefully, following a long illness, April 18, 2026.

Services will be noon on Friday, May 1, at New Hope Baptist Church, 305 Worley Road, Beckley, WV. Viewing at 11 a.m. Officiating is Rev. Brian C. Copney. Interment will be in Greenwood Memorial Park, Beckle.



Services Entrusted to Durgan Home, Beckley.

Durgan Funeral Home
 DURGANFUNERAL.WEEBLY.COM

Sandy Blake Copenhaver

Apr. 16, 2026

Sandy Blake Copenhaver, 40, of Ghent, West Virginia, went to Heaven on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Shady Spring, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home

ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Terri Cornell

Apr. 24, 2026

Terri Cornell, age 70, of Mount Hope, WV, passed away Friday, April 24, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home

ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Eliza Jane Dillard

Apr. 5, 2026

Eliza Jane Dillard, entered eternal rest on April 5, 2026.

A celebration of her life will be held at 12 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2026, at Monahill Memorial Freewill Baptist Church in Logan. Interment will follow in Guyan Memorial Gardens in Godby, WV. Visitation will be held two hours prior to the funeral service starting at 10 a.m. A repast will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2026, at Chief Logan Lodge.



Services are under the professional direction of Collins Funeral Home, Inc. of Switzer, WV.

A full obituary may be viewed at www.collinsfuneralhomewv.com/obituaries/eliza-dillard.

Pauline Forte

Funeral services for Pauline Forte, 86, will be Saturday, at 1:30, at UAFC, 1010 South Kanawha St., Beckley. Visitation, 12:30, with Bishop Timothy A. Schoolfield, officiating. Burial, Blue Ridge Cemetery.



Durgan Funeral Home

DURGANFUNERAL.WEEBLY.COM

James Lee "Jimmy" Dillon

Jan. 11, 1935 – Apr. 15, 2026

from colleagues and friends alike. Jimmy was known not only for his professionalism but also for his captivating stories of times past—stories that carried the rich history of a bygone era and were eagerly shared wherever he went.

Jimmy's personality was marked by an open heart and a generous spirit; he never met a stranger and loved to engage in conversation, delighting in meeting new people and staying connected with lifelong friends. Family was central to his life, and he was known for never missing a family reunion, where he loved to catch up on the latest family news and gossip, always with a smile and an attentive ear.

His interests extend-

ed beyond the rails. From his youth, Jimmy's cultivated a fascination with airplanes, even taking flying lessons as a teenager. His passion for travel enriched his life, allowing him to explore the world and create lasting memories.

James is survived by his son, Roger Dillon, and his wife Helen, his granddaughter Chelsea, and great-granddaughter Audrey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Ocie Dillon; his cherished wife of sixty years, Dorothy Jean Lilly Dillon; his son, Gary Lee Dillon; and brothers, Oscar Boone and George Lewis Dillon.

Visitation will be held on April 22, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00



p.m. at Morgan Funeral Home, 252 Montvue Drive, Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901. A funeral service to honor James's life will follow immediately at 12:00 p.m. Burial will follow the service in the Mt. Pisgah Cemetery, Hillsdale, WV.

Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh.net

Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.



Henry Alan Gray

Apr. 5, 2026

Henry Alan Gray, age 62, of Raleigh, WV, passed away on Sunday, April 5, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home

ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Charles Gunnoe

Apr. 9, 2026

Charles Gunnoe, age 95, of Wilson, NC, formerly of MacArthur, WV, passed away Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home

ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Janet Hodges

Apr. 23, 2026

Janet Hodges, age 80, of Daniels, WV, passed away Thursday, April 23, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home

ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Timothy Sean Hovatter

Apr. 7, 2026

Timothy Sean Hovatter, age 61, of Beaver, WV, passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Shady Spring, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home

ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Ernest "Ernie" Epling

Jul. 10, 1951 – Apr. 3, 2026

COOL RIDGE — Ernest "Ernie" Wayne Epling of Cool Ridge, WV, joined his wife and heavenly Father on Good Friday, April 3rd, 2026.

Ernie was born July 10th, 1951, in Cool Ridge, WV; he was the son of the late Carl Lafayette Epling and the late Bernice Ella Lilly Epling Maynard. Ernie was of the Baptist faith and a hard worker—a welder, fabricator, and true 'Jack of All Trades' he retired from the Raleigh Co. School Board after 31 years working in maintenance. In his free time he loved being outdoors, hunting, fishing, and camping. He did not know a stranger and would talk to anyone that would listen, especially to his "fractured fairytales".

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his devoted wife of 53 years, Martha Lee O'Brien Epling, whom he loved to the



end; as well as several siblings, nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his only son Brandon Elliot Epling of Cool Ridge, WV; two sisters; extended family and loved ones.

In lieu of flowers the family request that donations be made in his memory to United Way of Southern WV on their website UnitedWaySWV.org or by visiting 110 Croft St. Beckley WV 25801.

A graveside service will be held from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM on 2026-04-13 at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, 5250 Robert C. Byrd Drive.

Marietta Gray

Nov. 17, 1933 – Feb. 26, 2026

MISSOURI CITY — It is with heavy hearts that we announce the death of Marietta (Ward) Gray, who passed away on February 26th, 2026, at the age of 92.

Marietta was born to the late Henry and Mary Etta Ward on November 17th 1933, in Beaver, West Virginia.

After graduating from Shady Spring High School, Marietta moved to Michigan, where she worked as a secretary at Ford Motor Company for many years. It was there that she met and married her husband, the late James F. Gray, Sr. They made their home in Milford, Michigan, where they raised their family.

Marietta was very active in her church and her community, participating in many civic events. Marietta loved knitting, crocheting, playing card games and gardening.



She is survived by sons James F. Gray, Jr and Barry Gray, daughters Melissa Lange and Michelle Cook, and grandchildren Lisa Aggers, Jennifer Grantham, Jillian Lange, Alex Lange, Warner Cook, and Emily Cook.

There will be a graveside service at the Union Grove United Methodist Church in Hillsborough, NC, on May 2nd at 2:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a small donation to the Highland United Methodist Church, Raleigh, NC.

Victoria Miller

Apr. 23, 2026

Victoria Miller, age 78, of Beckley, WV, passed away Thursday April 23, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net

www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Ralph Rhodes

Mar. 31, 2026

Ralph Rhodes, age 73, of Beckley, WV, passed away Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Deborah Ann Roark

Apr. 16, 2026

Deborah Ann Roark, age 70, of Coal City, WV, passed away on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net

www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

LaBetta Myrtle Bowling Lilly

Apr. 3, 2026

LaBetta Myrtle Bowling Lilly, age 88, formerly of Beaver, WV, passed away on Friday, April 3, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net

www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Barbara Marshall

vice details.

Barbara Marshall, age 71, of Shady Spring, WV, passed away Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Shady Spring, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Mark Robertson

Apr. 9, 2026

Mark Robertson, age 67, of Oak Hill, WV, passed away Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Mary Maddy

Apr. 3, 2026

Mary Maddy, age 63, of Beaver, WV, passed away on Friday, April 3, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

George Timothy McMurray

Apr. 18, 2026

George Timothy McMurray, age 72, of Beckley, WV, passed away April 18, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net

www.roseandquesenberry.net for complete obituary.

Arrangements by Rose and Quesenberry, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Joseph Galen Stephens

Mar. 31, 2026

Joseph Galen Stephens, age 86, of Fitzpatrick, WV, passed away on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net

www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Ellsworth Sterling Hanger Jr.

Apr. 8, 1956 – Apr. 17, 2026

ALDERSON — Ellsworth Sterling “Tod” Hanger, Jr., 70, of Alderson, passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, April 17, 2026. Born in Roncverte on April 8, 1956, the son of the late Ellsworth Sterling and Mary Frances Burns Hanger.

Other than his parents, Tod was preceded in death by grandparents Henry Lacy Burns, Sr., Anna Dearing Brackman Burns, Charles Dana Hanger, Margaret Virginia Lively Hanger; uncle Robert Eugene Hanger; and aunt Dorothy Evadne “Dot” (who’s name spelled backwards is why he was called Tod) Hanger.

He leaves behind his caregiver and sister Kimberlee Hanger White, niece Lacey Dana White Peterson and husband Elia of Falls Church, Virginia; and his “baby” Stella Marie Hanger - his beloved cat who never left his side.

Tod was a man of many talents and passions. His hometown, fire department, C & O Historical Society, the Greenbrier Hotel, arts and music, and keeping history alive were the top of his list. From a young age Tod served his town. Tod was the youngest council member ever elected in the Town of Alderson, starting his service at the age of 18. He served as mayor, recorder, councilman, EMT, paramedic, and fire chief throughout his career.

His public safety career started as a junior firefighter under the leadership of Pete Pugh, Richard Ford, and Howard McVey. Richard took Tod under his wing and drove his passion for photography, fire service, and historical preservation. Howard inspired in him the importance of hard work, pride, and dedication. Tod passed on those things instilled in him by those legends to many fire service and public safety professionals he mentored and

served with.

Tod served on the National Fire Protection Association board representing the Greenbrier Hotel. He was the Manager of Fire and Safety at The Greenbrier. A unique opportunity due to The Greenbrier having their own fire department. Tod’s ability to foster partnerships to accomplish fire and safety progress was amazing. His passion was life safety and ADA compliance on every level.

He was a local West Virginia University Fire Service Extension instructor for many years. Tod literally “wrote the book” for many fire service manuals and classes. His teaching ability and knowledge was passed on across the nation when he wrote and presented Operation Lifesaver to CSX, a first responder class that he developed, and the management of CSX grew to the program now. The railroad was a larger-than-life dream that he had.

Tod fell under the spell of the C&O at a young age, riding “The Town of Alderson” car to Hinton or Clifton Forge for fun. He, his family, and childhood friends had the honor of riding the last ride in that car before it was decommissioned. His driving force for historic preservation carried on to his publishing and being a resource for authors on all things railroad. As a child Tod hung around the Dixie Printery, where Bill Dixon and his printing press amazed him.

Thomas Dixon, even though he was older, was Tod’s mentor to preserve the history of Alderson and the C&O. Tod and Tom shared a lot of information in the pursuit of saving history. Many of the photos from The Rise and Fall of Alderson are those of Richard Ford. Tom later inspired Tod to publish his

book, “Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Dining Car Recipes.”

Tod spent years restoring “Gatsby’s Tavern” a dining car from the C&O, with no details spared in restoration to the original plates, silverware, uniform, and linens. He purchased the car when everyone thought he was nuts. It was donated to the C&O Historical Society where it remains.

His artistic ability was nothing short of amazing. From his penmanship to his rolling gold leaf on fire truck lettering, his attention to detail was magical. Whether his canvas was a fire truck or train car, Tod made sure it was accurate with validation to the way it was originally. He planned to restore Alderson’s first fire engine, the beloved Obenchain-Boyer Model A Ford Chemical fire engine, along with taking the Rise and Fall of Alderson to the next publication.

Retirement was not planned as early as it occurred for Tod. Early onset of dementia forced him to slow down and ease out of the life he loved. For the man who met Pete Seeger, songwriter and activist from the 1960’s, countless presidents, celebrities, legendary fire chiefs (from Alderson to Phoenix to Boston), flew around the New River Gorge with David Copperfield as he planned to make a train disappear in the New River Gorge, went to countless meetings with then Senator Joe Biden to save the Amtrak Cardinal Service, and spent the afternoon giving a history lesson to author Maya Angelou his time was cut short.

Young people and those Tod served will still see his devotion looking around when the Amtrak comes to town, the flag he designed in high school waves in the breeze at

Alumni Park, wonder about why the depot is the original orange and not white, the lampposts he designed are decorated for the holidays, and the flags still wave on the bridge he was a founding member of the committee to save. You are gone, but will live on in our hearts, minds, and daily lives when we look around at your accomplishments.

It has been an honor for those who have taken care of him since his illness progressed to be in his life. From the care provided by hospice to those who’ve helped Kim when she was so embarrassed to ask, please know there is no amount of thanks that can be given, except it is known your love for Tod was shown without a doubt.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday April 22, 2026, at 1:00pm at the

Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, with Pastor Sam Groves officiating. Visitation will be from 12:00pm until the time of the service. Tod will take his last ride in a single vehicle procession from city hall to the church on the A Model. Interment will be at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church Cemetery with Reverend Betsy Walker officiating.

Past and present members of Alderson Volunteer Fire Department will serve as pallbearers.

Anyone wishing to honor Tod and his work is welcome to memorialize him through a contribution to one of his passions, The Alderson Volunteer Fire Department, Alderson Memorial Bridge Trust, C&O Historical Society, or Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church.



Tod was a mentor to me from a young age from the fire service to city government. There is a huge hole in my heart for the man who truly loved Alderson. We are eternally “Alderson Proud” of you Tod. My family is honored to have been entrusted to care for you and Kim.

Arrangements by Alderson Funeral Services and Smathers Funeral Chapel.

Online condolences may be made at www.smathersfuneralchapelinc.com

Blue Ridge Funeral Home Blue Ridge Crematory Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens

Gary W. Diehl
Licensee-In-Charge

5251 Robert C. Byrd Drive
Beckley, WV 25801

304-256-8625

www.blueridgefuneralhome.com

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL

☞ LIFE WELL CELEBRATED™ ☞

Tammy Lynn Moter

Nov. 21, 1960 – Apr. 14, 2026

Tammy Lynn Moter, 65, of Beckley, WV, passed away on April 14, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

During her over 25 years with New River Health Association, Tammy touched many lives with her compassion, always going out of her way to make others cared for and valued.

Tammy will be remembered for her strong will, resilience, and unwavering devotion to the people she loved.

Tammy loved cooking and trying new recipes, and she enjoyed sharing meals and creating memories around food with those she loved. She will be remembered as the best mother and grandmother, someone whose love for her family was unconditional. She cherished time spent with her children and grandson and had a special place in her heart for her cats, who were



part of her family.

She is survived by her children, Steven and Stacey; Steven's fiancée, Christina; and Stacey's fiancé, David. She is also survived by her beloved grandson, Colton, who brought her great joy, and her sister Dianna, and her husband Larry. She also leaves behind many other cherished family members, friends, and coworkers who will miss her deeply.

A celebration of life will be held at the New River Convention Center on May 13 from 6pm to 8pm.

Margaret Cooper Smith

Sep. 25, 1931 – Apr. 5, 2026

Margaret Cooper Smith, 94, of Crab Orchard, WV, passed on April 5, 2026.

Services will be at 1:00 PM on Friday, April 10, at Crab Orchard Baptist Church. Visitation will be from 12:00 - 1:00. Pastors Mike Sission and David Bush will be conducting the service.

In lieu of flowers please, consider a contribution to Beckley Dream Center, Box 612, Beckley, WV 25802 or



Crab Orchard Baptist Church, Box 446, Crab Orchard, WV 25827 or Hospice of Southern WV.

Janet Elizabeth O'Neal

Feb. 20, 1935 – Mar. 26, 2026

AUGUSTA — Janet Elizabeth O'Neal, a beloved mother and devoted homemaker, passed away peacefully on March 26, 2026.

Born on February 20, 1935, in Herndon, West Virginia, Janet lived a life marked by selflessness, giving nature, and boundless love for her family. Her unwavering devotion and positivity, even through the most challenging times, served as the heart and backbone that held her family together.

Throughout her life, Janet found joy in nurturing her garden and tending to her flowers, a passion that reflected the care and attention she gave to those around her. Her gentle spirit and loving nature left an indelible mark on all who knew her.

Janet was predeceased by her parents, Shelvie Lusk and Vercie McKinney Lusk; her husband, Luther Edward O'Neal; her children, Donna Sue Dew, Deborah Ann Corbin, and Dianna Lynn Burnham; and her siblings.

She is survived by her cherished children, Linda Sexton and William "Bill" O'Neal, along with several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many extended family members who will carry forward her legacy of love, strength, and kindness.

Family, friends, and loved ones are invited to



honor Janet's memory at the Thomas L. King Funeral Home and Cremation Services, located at 124 Davis Road, Martinez, GA 30907. Visitation will be held on March 30, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The funeral service will follow on March 31, 2026, beginning at 3:00 PM.

A time of visitation will be held at Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton on Thursday, April 2, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. A Graveside Service will follow at Tollison- Lusk Cemetery near Herndon at 3:30 p.m. with Pastor Ricky Shrewsbury, officiating.

Janet Elizabeth O'Neal's life was a testament to love, resilience, and dedication. Janet was the embodiment of love. She exhibited that love in everything she did including her husband, her children, grandchildren, her garden, her flowers and her care for wild birds. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her spirit will forever remain alive in the hearts of those she so lovingly cared for.

Mrs. Frances Elizabeth Stevens Allen

1991 – 2026

Mrs. Frances Elizabeth Stevens Allen, 35, of Summerlee, WV, passed Sunday, April 19, 2026.

Funeral service will be 1:00PM Saturday, May 2, 2026, at First Baptist Church of Harlem Heights, 416 Broadway Ave. Harlem Heights. Burial will follow in Greenwood Memorial Park, Beckley.

Friends may view and visit with the family one hour prior to the funeral service.



Email condolences to ritchiejohnsonfuneralparlor@gmail.com.

For more information visit ritchieandjohnson.com

Ritchie & Johnson Funeral Parlor
RITCHEANDJOHNSON.COM

Charlotte Thomas

Apr. 23, 2026

Charlotte Thomas, age 72, of Beaver, WV, passed away Thursday, April 23, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for ser-

vice details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Rita Hope Underwood

Jan. 27, 2026

Rita Hope Underwood of Shady Spring, WV, passed away January 27, 2026.

A Celebration of her life will be held this Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Historic Black Knight, 2400 S. Kanawha Street, Beck-

ley, WV, from noon until 2:00 PM. Friends and family are invited to stop by anytime during these hours.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Shady Spring, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Mr. Thomas Edward White Jr.

1951 – 2026

FT. WAYNE — Mr. Thomas Edward White Jr., 74, of Fort Wayne, WV peacefully passed away on April 4, 2026.

Funeral service will be 12:00PM Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Welcome Baptist Church 206 Eighth St. Beckley. Burial will follow in Greenwood Memorial Park, Beckley.

Friends may view and visit with the family one hour prior to the funeral service.



Email condolences to ritchiejohnsonfuneralparlor@gmail.com.

For more information visit ritchieandjohnson.com

Ritchie & Johnson Funeral Parlor
RITCHIEANDJOHNSON.COM

Sally Whitt

Apr. 18, 2026

Sally Whitt, age 83, of Beckley, WV, passed away Saturday, April 18, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net for service details.

vice details.

Arrangements are by Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

Melinda Wills

Apr. 22, 2026

Melinda Wills, age 71, of Grandview, WV, passed away Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Visit www.roseandquesenberry.net

for service details.

Arrangements by Rose and Quesenberry, Beckley, WV.

Rose & Quesenberry Funeral Home
ROSEANDQUESENBERRY.NET

OAK HILL - Wayne Alden Wriston, Sr., 100, of Oak Hill, WV passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on April 16, 2025, following a short illness.

Wayne was born on August 14, 1925 in Kingston, WV. He is survived by his devoted wife, Patricia (Pat) Wriston Wriston. Wayne and Pat were West Virginia Wesleyan (WVWC) sweethearts. They were married seventy-four wonderful years.

Wayne was the son of Bertie Jennings (B.J.) Wriston, Sr. and Sadie Ellison Wriston.

He is also survived by brother Tom Wriston of San Diego, CA, who would call his big brother every day, his daughter and primary caretaker Christina (Chris) Mitchell (King), Oak Hill, WV and three sons: Alden Wriston, Oak Hill, WV, Dave Wriston (Cindy), Lynchburg, VA, and Greg Wriston (Kim), Lost Creek, WV, sister-in-law Sharon Winston Phlieger of Belen, NM, and nieces Sara Wriston (Harry Fish), Providence, RI, Barbara (Dr. Richard Ruddy, MD) Cincinnati, OH, Shawnda Osborn (Danny), Belen, NM, Ellison Onsi (Bob), North Potomac, MD, Dr. Gretchen Gwynette, MD (Dr. Frampton Gwynette, MD), Shreveport, LA, and one

nephew, Marshall Wriston (Mika Dodd-Waddington), San Diego, CA. Grandchildren are Tricia Sasser (Josh), Dr. Amanda Wriston, Ph.D. (Kevin Bryant), US Army Sgt. Major Zach Wriston (Rebekah Lindsley), Beth Sykes (Marko), Karlee Wriston, Dr. Davey Wriston, MD (Dr. Karena Moran, Ph.D.). Great grandchildren: US Marine CPL Anthony Sykes, Jayna Sykes, and Maggie Wriston. Special cousins are Sue Remaley, Boise, ID and Isabelle (Izzy) Moon of Ava Maria, FL.

He was preceded in death by parents Bertie Jennings Wriston, Sr., Sadie Ellison Wriston, brother-in law David Clark Winston, brother B.J. Wriston, Jr. and wife Janie, sister-in law Polly Wriston, daughter-in-law Marilyn Wriston, and daughter-in-law Joy Wriston. Wayne was inducted into the Oak Hill Red Devil Sports Hall of Fame on Sept. 25, 1998 presented by the late Avis L. Partain and H. Ray Londeree. The Quota Club of Plateau Area, Inc. on Nov. 9, 2002 held a Celebrity Roast which honored Wayne and Pat Wriston. The OHHS-CHS Alumni Association Award 2010 was awarded to Wayne and Pat Wriston.

Wayne and Pat were devoted members of The Oak Hill United

Methodist Church where his 100th birthday party was held. He served positions of the church: member of the Men's Sunday School Class, Chairman of the Administrative Board, member of the Board of Trustees, Delegate to Annual Conference and Lay Leader. He had been a member of the Fayette County Retired School Personnel.

Wayne was a teacher, assistant principal, and principal of Collins High School, and Fayette County Board of Education Director of Transportation with thirty-eight years of service.

Wayne and Pat enjoyed their grandchildren's school events, sporting events, and traveling in their van throughout the United States in their retirement.

Wayne played football and basketball as he graduated from Kingston High School in 1943. He proudly served his country as a Seabee in the United States Navy from November 1944 to July 1946 and was stationed in the South Pacific. He graduated from WVWC in 1950 where he received his BS degree in Education and Business and was also on the football team. He continued his education and graduated from Marshall University with his Masters in Administration and Business. Wayne was a



fervent WVWC alumni supporter as three of their children are WVWC alumni.

Wayne donated his body to WVU Medicine. The family would like to thank Hospice of Southern West Virginia for their excellent services in their home, Dr. Lora Keaveny, DO, Pastor Dr. Ken Krimmel, Oak Hill United Methodist Church family, WVWC Emeritus Club with Bob Skinner, and Collins High School/Oak Hill High School Alumni Association.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on April 25, 2026 at The Oak Hill United Methodist Church, 250 Main Street, Oak Hill, WV. Visitation will be 12p.m.-1p.m. The service will begin at 1p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Wayne's memory to West Virginia Wesleyan College, 59 College Avenue, Buckhannon, WV 26201 or Hospice of Southern West Virginia, P. O. Box 1472, Beckley, WV 25901.



Sears Monument Co

"Artfully remembering our loved ones."



1707 Harper Rd. Beckley, WV | (304) 253-6480 | www.searsmonument.com

TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

Alma Jean Cole Beard

Alma Jean Cole Beard, 86, of Fairmont, passed away on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV surrounded by her loving family. Alma Jean was born February 21, 1940 in McCoole, MD a daughter of the late Donald F. and Pauline A. Rowan Cole. She is survived by her loving husband, of 67 years, Clyde W. Beard.

Mrs. Beard was a homemaker in her own home. She was a 1958 graduate of Bruce High School in Western Port, MD, where she was inducted into the Bruce High School Hall of Fame. She was a member of the Barrackville United Methodist Church. As a minister's wife, she had several church memberships over her lifetime as she followed her husband's church appointments including: Albright, Short Gap, West Liberty, Bell, Petersburg, Parkersburg, Huntington, Elm Grove, and Fairmont churches. Alma Jean had a strong Christian faith and placed all of her trust in God. Alma Jean authored her own book, "Holly Hocks around the Out House", referencing what it meant to be a minister's wife. Her number one accomplishment was being a loving mother and raising four accomplished children. Alma Jean enjoyed

cooking and was the best pie maker. She was very artistic and enjoyed many different types of crafts including crocheting, toll painting, among many other crafts. She owned and operated her own craft store while living in Parkersburg, WV.

In addition to her husband, Alma Jean is survived by her children: Paula Beard of Fairmont, Linda (Dan) Meeker of Richmond, VA, Dr. Keith (Drew Black) Beard of Huntington, WV, and Eric (Renee) Beard of Morgantown, her nine grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and her sister, Bobbie Ann McClintic of Richmond, VA.

Memorial contributions may be made to the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Memorial Trust Fund for Alma Jean Cole Beard, P.O. Box 3811, Charleston, WV 25338-3811, or online at www.umfwv.org, to support children, youth and families within West Virginia.

The family has entrusted the arrangements to Ford Funeral Home, 201 Columbia Street, Fairmont, WV. All services will be private. Interment will be held privately at the Potomac Memorial Gardens in Keyser, WV. Online condolences may be made to www.fordfuneralhomes.com.

Ford
FUNERAL HOME

Jack Franklin Bernardo

Jack Franklin Bernardo, 83, of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, formerly of Fairmont, passed away Thursday, March 19, 2026.

He was born October 17, 1942, in Fairmont, a son of the late Louie A. and Mary H. Bernardo.

Mr. Bernardo proudly served in the United States Air Force. He was well known for his years in radio with WMMN and as the voice of numerous local sporting events, earning the nickname "Voice of the Huskies." He later worked at Soles Electric until his retirement. In retirement, he resided in Myrtle Beach, where he enjoyed golfing and spending time at the beach.

Surviving are his children,

Anthony C. Bernardo (Nicole) of Fort Mill, South Carolina; Jacquelyn S. Bernardo (fiancé Alex) of St. Johns, Florida; Kristine DeVine of Morgantown; John DeVine (Jane) of Evans, Georgia; and Suzanne DeVine of Alexandria, Virginia; several grandchildren; and his sisters, Mary Lou McDonald (Rodney) and Renee Kerns (David).

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Linda K. Bernardo.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Brookdale Crown Point Memory Care, Attn: Kim Herbert, 10050 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

David Lee Greaver

David Lee Greaver, 76, of Shinnston, died on April 14, 2026 at UHC. Dave was the youngest child of the late Luvon and Thomas Greaver of Owings. He was born December 27, 1949 at Owings.



Dave worked in the mines for over thirty years at Robinson Run and Oakdale Portal. He also worked at Hazel Atlas glass factory and other miscellaneous jobs. He graduated from Fairmont State College in 1972.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by two older brothers, Thomas and Robert.

He is survived by his only son, Christopher Michael Greaver of Washington, DC; and by his two sisters, Karen Crayton of FL, and Janet Dotson (Roger) of Shinnston; and

several nieces and nephews.

He loved being active with Shinnston Bocce League, Stonewall Horseshoe League, Robertson Run Portal, and Shinnston Seniors. He was an avid runner, golfer and lottery enthusiast. He loved the Steelers and Pirates, going to WVU ball games, and most importantly, spending time with his son.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home on Friday, April 17, 2026 from 3:00PM-8:00PM. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 11:00AM with Pastor Mike Farris officiating. Interment will follow at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at harmerfuneralhome.com

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.



Miriam Louise Cheslock

Miriam Louise Moore Cheslock, 89, of Fairmont, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at her residence surrounded by her loving family. She was born August 2, 1936 in Cassville, WV a daughter of the late Chester Carl and Evelyn Walls Moore. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Edward Cheslock.



Miriam was a kind and caring person who was committed to her family, she never forgot a birthday or anniversary and was known for sending the perfect card for each occasion, she made holidays special. She and her husband had a very large garden for many years. They were well known for their canning, as well as their Easter bread, lasagna, and nut rolls, all of which were a labor of love. Her main goal in life was to make others happy. Miriam thought education was important, she was extremely proud that all her children and grandchildren were college graduates. She always said "education is the best gift you can give yourself".

Mrs. Cheslock was a proud graduate of the University High School Class of 1954. She enjoyed spending time with her fellow classmates and spouses, and organized their reunion picnic every year. She was often called "the glue that held the class together". Miriam was a member of the Central United Methodist Church in Fairmont, where she helped in the kitchen, served as a communion steward, and taught Bible school over the years. She was a stay-at-home mother, where she raised her children, and helped raise her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Miriam believed her greatest achievement was having children, and loving her family was her highest honor. She served alongside her husband in the running of Fairmont TV and Appliance in which they co-owned.

In addition to her husband, Miriam is survived by her children, Twyla and Sam Marra of Fairmont; Terri Cheslock of Fairmont; Gary and Tami

Cheslock of Dublin, OH. She was Nana to her five grandchildren: Anthony and Aundrea Marra of Mooresville, NC; Angela and Andrew Folio of Morgantown; Andrew and Camille Marra of Morgantown; Dean and Taylor Cheslock of Bloomfield Hills, MI; and Baylie and Will Zimmerman of Dublin, OH.; and ten great-grandchildren Antonio, Arabella, and Adrian Marra; Lena and Cecilia Folio; Massimo Marra; Leo, Noa, and Callum Cheslock; and Lucy Zimmerman. Sisters Shirley and Lee Kidd, and Jeanie Johnston. She is also survived by her brothers Robert Moore, and David and Risa Moore; her sisters-in-law Constance Powley of Morgantown, and Ileda Cheslock of Fairmont, as well as several nieces, nephews, and extended family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister and brother-in-law Carole and Andrew Cottage; brother-in-law Walter Johnston; sister-in-law Jeanne Moore; nephew Michael Statler, sister-in-law Anne Cieslak, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Waclaw and Ruby Cheslock, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Mildred and Merwin Davis, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Julian and Margaret Cheslock; brother-in-law Ernest Cheslock; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Rose-line and Harold Brand; and brother-in-law Eugene Powley.

Memorial donations may be made to the Fairmont Senior High School Foundation, PO Box 91, Fairmont, WV 26555, of which she and Ed were very involved.

The family has entrusted the arrangements to Ford Funeral Home, 201 Columbia Street, Fairmont, WV. Friends and family may visit on Sunday, April 12, 2026 from 2PM until 8PM, and on Monday, April 13, 2026 from 10AM until 11AM. The funeral will be held in the funeral home on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 11AM with Reverend Junius Lewis officiating. Interment will follow at the Beverly Hills Memorial Gardens in Westover, WV. Online condolences may be made to www.fordfuneralhomes.com.

Francine Roxanna Cikovich

Francine Roxanna Cikovich, 54, daughter of the late Milan W. Cikovich (Chick) and Maxine Hennen



Cikovich, passed away on March 27, 2026, at Ruby Memorial Hospital, surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer.

Born on May 21, 1971, Francine was a graduate of Fairmont Senior High School and went on to follow her passion for cooking at the Pittsburgh Institute of Culinary Arts. Although her struggles with schizophrenia limited her ability to pursue a long-term career, she had a true love and talent for cooking that brought joy to those around her.

Francine was a kind, soft-spoken, and generous soul who brought warmth and laughter to those around her. She loved spending time with her family and friends, traveling, and especially cherished trips to the beach. She had a special place in her heart for animals, particularly cats.

She is survived by her brother, Milan W. Cikovich Jr. (Rocky) and his wife Susan; her sister, Christine M. Park and her fiancé Michael J. Beaudry; her nephews, Tyler J. Park and Alec M. Moyer;

her niece, McKenzie N. Moyer; and her cousin, Joseph F. Muto (Giuseppe) and his fiancée, Michelle Bowers. She is also survived by her step-nieces and nephews, Bob and Staci Conrad and their son, Scott and his wife, Brittani, and Shelly and Shane Snider and their daughter, Molly.

She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her father, Milan W. ~ Cikovich (Chick); her mother, Maxine Hennen Cikovich; her aunt, Imogene Hennen Muto; and her uncle, Billie F. Muto.

Francine's family takes comfort in knowing she is now at rest, surrounded by love.

Friends and family may call at the Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home, 209 Merchant Street, Fairmont, West Virginia, on Thursday, April 2, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM and on Friday, April 3, 2026, from 10:00 AM until the time of the funeral service at 11:00 AM with Pastor Jim Zinn officiating. Interment will follow at the Grandview Memorial Gardens.

Expressions of sympathy can be left for the family at carpenterandford.com

Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cikovich family.



Leo Cellesteen Clevenger

Leo Cellesteen Clevenger (Moran), 102, of Bridgeport, West Virginia, passed away on Friday, April 17, 2026, at



The Manchin Assisted Living Facility in Bridgeport. She was born on July 22, 1923, in Braxton

County, West Virginia, a daughter of the late Leo and Mary (Stutler) Moran.

Leo was a graduate of East Fairmont High School. She then became a factory worker for Westinghouse. She enjoyed square dancing, horseback riding, and enjoyed riding her four-wheeler at the camp. She was a member of the Life United Methodist Church.

Leo was a loving mother and wife. She was the heart of her home and always nurtured her family with unconditional love.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clacy Woodrow; her parents; one son, Robert Clevenger; and

one daughter, Patricia Reed.

Left to cherish her memory are one son, Roger (Carole) Johnson; five daughters, Sharon (Gary) McCutcheon, Karen (Bill) Bergeson, Betty Holbert, and Carol (Bryan) Birdsell; several grandchildren; several great grandchildren; and several great great grandchildren.

Friends and Family may call at the Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home, 209 Merchant Street, Fairmont, on Friday, April 24, 2026, from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. A service will be held at the funeral home on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 1:00 pm, with Pastor Jim Zinn presiding. Interment will follow at the Rest Haven Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Amedisys Hospice, 67 Casino Drive Suite 102, Anmoore, WV 26323

Expressions of sympathy can be extended to the family at www.carpenterandford.com

Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home is honored to serve the Clevenger family.



Sandra Jo Inghram

Sandra Jo Inghram, born June 28, 1938, passed away peacefully at home on April 1, 2026, after a lengthy illness.



Daughter of Adda Mae Inghram and Harold Straight, Sandra grew up in Elkins, WV, Fairview, WV and Fairmont, WV in the care of her loving mother and grandmother. Out of high school, she worked as a clerk in the A and P Warehouse in Fairmont, then in 1967 began work at Fairmont in the nascent Computer Center, later in the Technology Department, and finally with the Department of Family and Consumer Science, retiring in 2004.

Sandra was a devoted daughter, making her mother's last days comfortable at home. Following her teacher mother's example, education was important to her, and she completed her Bachelor's degree in History and French at Fairmont State, and after her retirement, a Master's degree in Transpersonal Psychology from Atlantic University.

Her life revolved around her faith in Jesus Christ, and her church, the Baptist Temple, Fairmont, and over the years she participated as a Sunday School teacher, and member of the choir, Women Working for God circle, and the Social Action team. She also trea-

sured her work with Marion County Literacy Volunteers, helping adults improve their reading skills.

Sandra's own love of reading was well known to her friends, and she read widely, especially political memoirs, and accounts of near-death experiences. She also loved to travel, and avidly participated in short trips with MCParks up until the last year of her life, her favorite destination being Amish country.

Sandra's kind and compassionate nature drew many devoted friends to her, and she will be sorely missed by the many students she befriended at Fairmont State, by brothers and sisters in Christ at the Baptist Temple, as well as by her work colleagues, and her housemates.

Friends and family may call at the Baptist Temple Church, 430 Morgantown Ave, Fairmont, WV, on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. A service will be held at 1:00 pm with Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Copenhaver presiding. Interment will follow at The Woodlawn Cemetery.

Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home is honored to serve The Inghram Family.

Expressions of sympathy can be extended to the family at carpenterandford.com

Memorial contributions may be made to the Baptist Temple.



Calfee FUNERAL HOME
FUNERAL AND CREMATION CARE

Dan Calfee, Licensee in-Charge
800 South Oakwood Avenue
304.253.8381
www.calfeefuneralhome.com

Thelma May Jones

Thelma May Vance Jones gained her wings and peacefully moved on to her heavenly home on April 06, 2026.



She was born on August 14, 1938, in Bowden, Randolph County, West Virginia, to the late Howard Taft Vance and Martha Phares Vance.

Thelma spent her early years in Bowden before moving to Hutchinson, West Virginia in 1948, where she continued her schooling. She grew up in a close-knit community and carried those values throughout her life. She was active in church from a young age, teaching Sunday School and later serving in many roles including Ladies Circle President, choir member, and women's ministry leader. Thelma attended Swisher Hill Union Mission, Jewel City Church, Trinity Baptist Church, and Harvest Bible Chapel in Cambridge, Ohio.

Thelma worked at several places when she was young woman: The Parkett Restaurant in Fairmont, W.V., Monty's Restaurant in Newport News, V.A., Westinghouse Electric in Fairmont, W.V., and Federal Tool and Engineering in St. Anna, C.A. After the birth of her children, she was a stay-at-home mom until her children were married. She then worked at Sears in the Meadowbrook Mall in Bridgeport, W.V.

On July 14, 1954, Thelma married the love of her life, Billy Ray Jones and they were married for 63 years before God took him home on November 08, 2017. During Billy's time in the service, he and Thelma lived in several states before returning to West Virginia. Together, they raised two children: Billy Ray Jones Jr., and Regina Ann Jones Clark. In 2001, Thelma moved

to Cambridge to be closer to her family. In 2019, she moved in with her daughter where she stayed until her passing.

Thelma is survived by her children: Billy Ray Jones, Jr. and companion Carol Sago, and Regina Ann Jones Clark and husband Roger; grandchildren: Misty Renee Jones Hendershot and husband Terry, Amanda Marie Clark Larson and husband Matthew, Destiny Rochelle Barker Jones, Alyssa Barker Jones, Jason Howard Jones and wife Janelle, and Brent Thomas Clark and wife Hannah; great grandchildren: Jaime Larson, Michael Larson, Kaitlyn Larson, Talon McKinney, Remington Hamrick, Preslee Hamrick, Ryatt Hamrick, Jaxson Clark, Jameson Clark, Mackenzie Barnes, Josephine Jones, and Oaklynn Jones; brother, Stanley Vance and wife Francis of Bridgeport, W.V.; and three generations of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Thelma was preceded in death by two grandsons: Shawn Michael Clark and Roger Michael Clark.

Thelma will be remembered for her strong faith, her love for family, and her lifelong dedication to serving others through her church and community.

Friends will be received at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Thursday, April 09, 2026, from 11:00 am until the time of the service at 2:00 pm with U.S. Army Retired Colonel Chaplain Brian Harki and Reverend Roy Clark officiating. A graveside service will be held at 12:00 pm on Friday at Northwood Cemetery in Cambridge, O.H. Online memories and condolences may be left for the family at www.PerineFunerals.com.

The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Jones Family



James D. Lewis

James Delno Lewis (Jimmy), 69, of Fairmont, died peacefully surrounded by his family on April 21, 2026.



Jimmy was born in Fairmont WV, the son of Mary Louise William and Elett Delno Lewis. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years Patricia A Lewis.

In addition to his wife he is survived by his mother Mary Louise Williams, son Matthew and his wife Sierra Lewis, his daughter Melissa and her husband Nathon Westfall of Fairmont. His brothers: Rex Lewis, Bill Prince, and Donnie Lewis of Fairmont. His sisters Loucille Kellogg of Michigan, Mary Rogers of Fairmont, Christine Williams of Morgantown, Laura Lewis of Florida, and Christal Drake of Fairmont. Six grandchildren: Olivia Lewis, Emmitt Westfall, Parker Lewis, Owen Westfall, Ellie Lewis and Mia Lewis, along with several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Elett Delno

Lewis.

Jimmy was a graduate of East Fairmont High School.

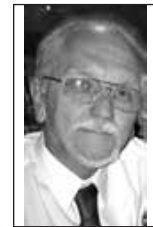
Jimmy was a retired Maintenance Supervisor from Pepsi Cola Bottling Company, where he served for 46 years. He was avid hunter, Nascar enthusiast, and a member of the Fairmont Elks Lodge #294. Jimmy enjoyed hosting cookouts/barbecues with family and friends. He enjoyed spending time with all his grandchildren, spending time at the camp in Cabins, and taking his grandchildren on side by side rides.

The family has entrusted the arrangements to the Ford Funeral Home, 201 Columbia Street, Fairmont. Friends will be received on Monday, April 27, 2026 from 1 pm until 8 pm and again on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 from 10 am until 11 am. The funeral service will be held in the funeral home on Tuesday at 11 am with Reverend Jim Zinn officiating. Entombment will follow at the Mt. Zion Cemetery & Mausoleum, Fairmont. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.fordfuneralhomes.com.



William Stanley Curtis

William Stanley Curtis, 86, of Fairmont, WV, passed away Friday, March 27, 2026, at United Hospital Center, Bridgeport, WV.



He was born on May 11, 1940, the son of the late William C. and Iza Hazel Skinner Curtis.

He was preceded by his wife of 50 years, Viola Jacklyn Curtis, a daughter, Sherrie Kinkade, two brothers, Leonard Curtis and Herman L.

Curtis, two sisters, Edith Thompson and Valeria Linn.

Surviving are two grandchildren, Sheena Kinkade and Nathan Kinkade.

He retired from Logan Manufacturing Company in 2003 after 26 years of being a mechanic.

Friends will be received from 12-1 PM on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at Palmer Funeral Home, Pine Grove, WV with a Graveside service at 2 PM at Northview Cemetery, New Martinsville, WV. Online condolences may be expressed at palmerfuneral.com.

Julius Lynn Lorentzson

Julius Lynn Lorentzson of Fairmont, WV, age 76, passed away suddenly on Friday, April 24, 2026.



He was born in Norfolk, VA on February 13, 1950, one of twin sons of the late Sarah Lynn Boe and Julius Alexander Lorentzson.

He is survived by his wife and soulmate, Kathryn Hansen Lorentzson, who added a sparkle to his life that never dimmed; his brother, Joseph Lynn Lorentzson and his nephew, Blake Lorentzson, of Orange Park, FL; and his large and extended family of reenactors from throughout the country and beyond.

He has a loving family in the New Orleans area, including brothers-in-law Karl Hansen; Michael Hansen (Ann); sisters-in-law Peggy Austin (Charles); Jane Morgan (Tim); Elizabeth Laird (Michael); and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews. He was so happy to be a part of the family.

Julius graduated from Florida State University, with a B.A. in History, and had a distinguished career working for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Clarksburg, WV.

Julius and Kathy loved to travel. They made frequent trips to New Orleans to visit and celebrate with family. Their travels together have taken them to all fifty states, as well as several other countries.

He had a lifelong passion for learning and was widely recognized for his knowledge of American History. He expressed this passion as a living history reenactor, authentically portraying characters from Colonial times through WWII. His WWII reenactments included taking his prized, restored Jeep to Normandy for D-Day celebrations, and participating in parades. His most recent passion was his portrayal of an Old West cowboy as a cast member in the annual live action "The Great Durbin Train Robbery", which he co-created. Julius also acted in short films. The uniqueness of his personality stood out at any gathering, and he was deeply loved by all who knew him. He never met a stranger.

The family has entrusted the arrangements to the Ford Funeral Home, Ford Chapel, 201 Columbia Street, Fairmont, WV 26554. A memorial service will be held at the Ford Funeral Home in Fairmont, WV at a later date. Interment will be in New Orleans. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.fordfuneralhomes.com.



LaVerne Monica MacDonald

LaVerne Monica MacDonald, 89, of Grafton, WV, went home to Heaven on April 18, 2026. She passed from this life



surrounded by her loving family. LaVerne was saved at the age of 19, at the Wallace Ave Free Methodist church in East Pittsburgh, PA. She lived a long and full life rooted in faith, grace, and unwavering love for her Savior, her family, and the many people who called her friend. She left this mortal life in the same way that she lived it—with quiet grace, dignity, and care and concern for those around her.

Born on September 15, 1936, in East Pittsburgh, PA, to Monica Mallon Appleby and Elward Appleby, LaVerne dedicated her life to serving others. She was a member of the Evangelical Wesleyan Church and attended McConkey Chapel in Grafton, WV, where she and her husband pastored for many years. She faithfully served her church family, taught Sunday School, and found great joy in fellowship and prayer. For many years, she and her husband traveled and ministered in churches across the U.S. and in mission churches in South Africa, Brazil, Ukraine, and Bloodvein (Manitoba). She had a special place in her heart for children and found great joy in teaching them about the love of Jesus. Countless young lives were touched by her gentle influence and Christian example.

LaVerne was preceded in death by her parents, Elward and Monica Appleby; her mother and father-in-law, John and Mary MacDonald; her sisters, Patricia Carey and Rose Appleby; her sisters-in-law, Mary Hipple and Joanna Sapp; her brothers-in-law, Fred Hipple, Walter Pysell Sr., Arnold Haight, James MacDonald, and Ed Carey; her infant son, Charles Edward MacDonald Jr.; and her beloved first grandchild, Jimmy Stalder.

She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Rev. Charles MacDonald of Grafton, WV, and their children: Martha Stalder (Jim) of Beaver City, NE; John MacDonald (Karen) of Beaver City, NE; Becky Mickel of Grafton, WV; and Esther Wil-

son (Bryan) of Lost Creek, WV. Her grandchildren—Jimmy Stalder, Josh Stalder (Sarah), Jake Stalder (Tabitha), John MacDonald Jr., William MacDonald (Melody), Chrissy Parthemer (Randy), Daniel MacDonald (Rochelle), Amy Allan (Jamie), Kara Liberatore (Ryan), Jimmy Mickel (Erica), Emily Mickel, Devin Gorbey, and Jada Gorbey—were among the greatest joys of her life, and she cherished each of them deeply. She was also blessed with a growing number of great-grandchildren who brought her so much happiness. LaVerne was a loving aunt to many nieces and nephews, all of whom held a special place in her heart. She was a spiritual mother to many others who found comfort, solid advice, and loving support in her.

The family would like to send special thanks to the staff of the WVU CVICU, especially her nurses Lindsey and Becca, whose extraordinary care and compassion during her last day on earth were immeasurable comfort to her and her family. In addition, Rhonda Bornheim; the staff at Taylor County Meals-on-Wheels; and her medical providers, Dr. Sarah Reed and Dr. Charles Brian Arthurs, were such a blessing to LaVerne in her last years through the excellent care they provided.

LaVerne loved life and saw beauty in all the little things around her, like her flowers, the song of birds, the evening sunset, and the nature surrounding her. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, strength, and steadfast faith that will continue to guide those who called her Mom, Grandma and Great-Grandma, Aunt, Cousin, and Friend.

Friends and family may call at The Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home, 209 Merchant Street, Fairmont, West Virginia, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, and again on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 11:00 am until the time of service at 1:00 pm with John MacDonald presiding. Interment will follow at The Pride Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy can be extended to the family at www.carpenterandford.com

Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home is honored to serve the MacDonald family.

Tonya Ann Cooper Marks

Tonya Ann Cooper Marks, of Merritt Island, Florida, passed away on April 15, 2026. She was born on September 22, 1948, in Elkins, West Virginia, a daughter of the late Burley Austin Cooper, Sr. and Helen (Davis) Cooper Robey.



Tonya attended Elkins High School and was a graduate of East Fairmont High School. She was also a graduate of Morgantown Beauty Academy.

She was a hairdresser for many years at Jo Lee Coiffures Beauty Shop in Fairmont and at Nasa Exchange Store at Kennedy Space Center, and at J.C. Penney's in Florida.

Tonya enjoyed playing Bingo but most of all she enjoyed riding motorcycles with her husband Willie Marks and

spending time with family and her many friends. Tonya never met a stranger.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years Willard Marks of Merritt Island, Florida; a son Matthew Marks and his wife Christy of Florida; a daughter Jessica Marks of Florida; grandchildren Kory Marks, Hailey Marks, Deven Frederick; brother Burley "Bamby" Cooper Jr. and his wife Cheryl of Fairmont; brother-in-law William Shaw of Monumental' and sister-in-law Ladonna Anderson of Florida.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by stepfather Leroy Robey, sister Dona Shaw and brother-in-law Andy Anderson.

As per her request, Tonya was cremated and a Celebration of Life is planned at later date in Florida.

Condolences and memories may be shared with her family at www.carpenterandford.com



Ned Owen Merrifield, Jr.

Ned Owen Merrifield, Jr., Owen and Helen Merrifield, of Fairmont passed away on Thursday, April 9, 2026. He was born on February 20, 1932, a son of the late Ned

Owen and Helen Merrifield. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.fordfuneralhomes.com.



Martha Jean Mitchell



Martha Jean Mitchell, 93, of Lincoln, MA, formerly of Fairmont, WV, passed away on April 16, 2026. She was the daughter of Martha Howard Mitchell and John Morgan Mitchell.

For Martha's full obituary and online tribute page, please visit www.Deefuneralhome.com.

Jeanie Sue McGee

Jeanie Sue McGee, 68, of Fairmont, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her immediate family on Friday, April 24, 2026 in the United Hospital Center in Bridgeport, WV. She was born on May 1, 1957 in Marietta, OH, the daughter of the late Robert E. and Bettie L. Morris McCracken. Jeanie is survived by her loving husband of 48 years, Edward A. McGee.



She is also survived by her two daughters, Jessica Varuolo and her husband Michael of Lee, New Hampshire, and their children, Josephine and Alden, and Lorna Ebstein and her husband Sammy of Basel, Switzerland, and their children, Isabella and Henry. She is also survived by her brother Matthew McCracken and his wife Shannon of Marietta, OH, and their daughter Cailin, as well as four other siblings. In addition to her parents, Jeanie was preceded in death by brother, John.

Jeanie was a proud 1975 graduate of Marietta Senior High School and Fairmont State College. She worked as a Registered Nurse for over 20 years at the old United Hospital Center. She was also a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Fairmont.

Jeanie was a very talented cook and loved celebrating her favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. She was known for her

homemade grape jelly and peach jam. She enjoyed gardening in her beautiful flower garden and watching the birds as they flocked to her feeders. Jeanie was an avid traveler, where she made countless memories visiting 19 countries. She never knew a stranger and would always give her honest opinion on everything. Jeanie had a way of lighting up any room. In high school, she was named the class clown because Jeanie could make anyone laugh. Jeanie found her greatest enjoyment in spending precious time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

The family has entrusted the arrangements to the Ford Funeral Home, Ford Chapel, 201 Columbia Street, Fairmont. Friends will be received on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 4 pm until 8 pm and again on Thursday, April 30, 2026 from 10 am until 11 am. The funeral service will be held in the funeral home on Thursday at 11 am with Reverend Father Walter Jagela presiding. A service of committal will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026 at 11 am in the East Lawn Memorial Park in Marietta, OH. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.fordfuneralhomes.com.

Memorial contributions may be made in Jeanie's memory to the Morris Park Celebration of Lights, c/o Tygart Valley United Way, 221 Washington Street, Fairmont, WV 26554.



Robin Montgomery

Robin Lee Montgomery, age 70, of Morgantown, West Virginia, passed away on April 12, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. She was born on September 10, 1955, in Indiana, Pennsylvania, to Robert and Viola Stahlman Isenberg, who preceded her in death. Robin carried the values of kindness, loyalty, and hard work throughout her life, and those who knew her best will remember her as a loving woman whose gentle spirit touched many hearts.

Robin spent her early working years at the Indiana Gazette from 1973 to 1975, where she served as a receptionist and special recorder and earned recognition for her work. She later devoted herself to her home and family as a housewife from 1975 to 1985. Her career continued with meaningful service as secretary of First Christian Church for one year, followed by nine years at WVU Health and Human Resources in Allen Hall. She then dedicated 30 years of faithful service to the CDC NIOSH Office of the Director, where her professionalism and steady presence were deeply valued. Robin was also a member of the Indiana PA Moose #174 and was active with PTO North Elementary from 1981 to 1987.

Family was the center of Robin's life. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, John Robert Montgomery. She is survived by her daughter, April Michelle Powell and her husband Jason of Mannington; her son, Nathan Michael Montgomery and his wife Mary of Fairmont; her sister, Diana

Heasley and her husband Jim; and her brother, Robert "Bob" Isenberg. She was also preceded in death by her sister-in-law, Robin Isenberg. Robin leaves behind cherished grandchildren, Lillie, Nicholas, and Clara Powell, as well as Morgan, Madelyn, and Mitchell Montgomery, who brought great joy to her life. She is also survived by her brothers-in-law, Kenneth Montgomery and Timothy Montgomery and his wife Debbie, along with her sisters-in-law, Janet Kramer and her husband Tim, and Vicki Williams and her husband Dan. She was preceded in death by her brother and sister-in-law, Sam and Dorothy Rose McCormick, as well as her brother-in-law, Jacob Montgomery.

Robin's life was enriched by the simple pleasures she loved so dearly. She enjoyed crafts and crocheting, and she especially loved collecting bears. She found comfort and enjoyment in reading, spending time with her family and friends, and being with her family pets. She also enjoyed watching crime shows, game shows, and movies, which brought her many hours of relaxation and entertainment.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made in Robin's name to the Amedisys Foundation, 3854 American Way, Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA, 70816.

Friends may gather on Friday, April 17, 2026, at McCulla Funeral Home from 1pm until the 4pm service time with Rev. Bob Jackson officiating. Following the service, McCulla Funeral Home will provide cremation services. Online condolences may be extended to the family at www.McCulla.com



Drexil E. Powell

Drexil E. "Gene" Powell, age 98 of Mannington, WV passed away on Wednesday, April, 22, 2026 at Rosewood Nursing Home in Grafton. He was born January 1, 1928 in Mobley, Wetzell Co., WV, a son of the late Irvin and Cora Satterfield Powell.

He is survived by his 8 children, Pamela Cole, Anita (Rodney) Triplett, Teri (Tim) Shock, Crystal (Herbie) Frye, Bradley Powell, Kevin Powell, Kelly (Carrin) Powell, and Tim (Cheryl) Powell. Gene is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Gene was also preceded in death by his loving wife Geraldine Norris Powell, his five siblings, Luda Wilson, Alta Roberts, Gladys Fisher, Chester Powell, and Dale Powell, his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Tim and Roseann Norris, two sons-in-law, Merle "Pete" Cole and Ric Cunningham, and his grandson Royce Frye.

Gene was a member of the Mannington Church of Christ for many years. He worked at many jobs including the City of Mannington as the Water and Street Superintendent from 1964-1971, the Board of Education from 1971 and retiring in 1990 having started as



a plumber and electrician and retiring as the Director of Transportation. Gene served in the United States Army from 1946-1947 being stationed in Japan after WWII during the Korean Era in Occupational Forces.

Gene was actively involved in the Mannington community for many years serving as Mayor, as a member of the American Legion Post #40, the Director of Marion Co. Senior Citizens, a past president of the Lions Club, the Mannington Park Board, the Mannington Industrial Corp., a past president of the Buffalo Valley Association, a past president of the West Augusta Historical Society, the Executive Committee of Marion Co. Development Authority, and as a past trustee of Pleasant Acres Christian Haven.

The family would like to thank WV Caring Hospice of Marion Co. and Taylor Co as well as the VA Hospital for their care of Gene. They would also like to thank family, friends, and the church elders for visiting him.

Family and friends may call at Masters Funeral Home in Mannington, WV on Friday, April 24, 2026 from 4-8:00pm. Funeral services will be held in the funeral home on Saturday, April 25, 2026 beginning at 11:00am with Evangelist Dr. Michael P. Reese officiating. Interment will follow at Mannington Memorial Park Cemetery.

Masters Funeral Home



Freda Kenner Scott

Freda Keener Scott, 97, of Fairmont, WV passed away with her faithful caregiver, Karen Thornton by her side, peacefully on April 3rd, 2026. The family offers a very special appreciation to Karen.



Freda was born on December 23, 1928 in Listonburg, PA where she lived her early life then lived her childhood and adolescence in Mount Morris PA and the remaining years in Fairmont. Freda lived a long life marked by devotion to her Lord and family; she was always willing to help others.

She quit school at age 16 and went to work to help her family. She carried herself with a quiet strength and loyalty to those she loved. At age 18 she moved to Fairmont and began working at Owens-Illinois Glass Company, where she exhibited a strong and dependable work ethic for 39 years. She married her husband William J. Scott in 1963 and he preceded her in death in 2012.

Freda was the daughter of the late Evie Cecil Keener and

Edna (Nedrow) Keener. Freda is survived by 5 sisters, Nina Hayhurst, Shirley Hartley (Carl), Margret Gotses, Barb "Pidge" Haines (Tim) and Carolyn McFarland (Cecil) and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her siblings, Betty Haines, Marlyn Thomas, Robert, Darrell, and Jack Keener. Freda was an avid bowler; she bowled on a team for many years. When she was younger and able she loved spending time at Valley Falls state park. She was a member of Mount Harmony Church and for many years organized the funeral meals. In her late life she attended Mount Morris Gospel Tabernacle until she was unable to drive that far.

Freda will be fondly remembered for her unwavering faith, her devotion to family, and her steadfastness.

A memorial service will be held at Mount Morris Gospel Tabernacle on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 11 am with Pastor Joe Adams officiating. McCulla Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be extended to the family at www.McCulla.com.

Janet Shackelford

Janet B. Shackelford, 74, of Ranson, WV died Friday, March 20 after a long illness.

She was born Janet Wilson on October 30, 1951 in Bridgeport, WV to Edgar Kyle Wilson and Helen Wilson.

She graduated from Bridgeport High School in Bridgeport, WV. On June 27, 1971 she married Michael Shackelford of Fairmont, WV. The couple originally lived in Fairmont, WV, and eventually moved with their son to Ranson, WV in 1997.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael, who passed away in 2021. She was also preceded in death by several of her siblings, most recently Danny K. Wilson of

Adaline Marie VanGilder

It is with broken hearts we announce our beautiful Matriarch Adaline Marie (Woods) VanGilder, 83 has left us too

soon on March 28, 2026. She passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving

family. Adaline was born on August 23, 1942 in Fairmont, W Va to the late Matthew D. Woods and Mary K. (Glover) Woods.

In addition to her parents Adaline was preceded in death by her best friend and sister Janet Darway and her half-sister Alta Mae (Jo) Flynn. Her son-in-law Billy Joe Bower Jr, who she was extremely close to. Adaline has lost many beloved nieces and nephews as well.

Adaline was a devoted stay at home Mom and Grandmother. She loved caring for her children, grandchildren, neighbors and her home. She

Morgantown, WV in 2023.

She is survived by her son, Benjamin Shackelford of Ranson, WV, one sister in law, Pat Wilson, of Mt. Lookout, WV, her mother in law Violet Jean Vincent of Fairmont, WV, a brother in law, Aaron Shackelford of Morgantown, WV, and additional friends and relatives, including nieces and nephews.

She was a longtime member of Jehovah's Witnesses and at the time of her death was a member of the Charles Town congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. Much appreciation is expressed to all who provided love and support during this difficult time.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Condolences may be expressed at www.eackles-spencerfuneralhome.com

loved her radio which was always on, set on Country Music Stations. Adaline loved having her family and friends around her. She loved sitting on her front porch with her coffee, admiring her beautiful flower beds and watching for hummingbirds to visit her Butterfly bushes.

Adaline is survived by her husband of 63 years, William H. VanGilder. Her brother, Omer Woods (Lucy). Her children William (Buster) VanGilder (Lisa), Cathy (Cissy) Bradford (Earl), Dawn Duncan, and Shelia Burcham (Herbie). She adored her 9 Grand Children and 10 Great Grand Children. She also loved many special nieces, nephews and friends.

In respect of Adaline's wishes there will be a private graveside service for family and close friends, at Cherry Hill Cemetery, Elkton MD.

In lieu of flowers Adaline requested donations be given to St Judes Children's Hospital in her honor.

Mark William Shaffer

Mark William "Beau" Shaffer son of Charles and Doris Shaffer, brother of David Shaffer, all who predeceased him. Mark passed at Ruby Hospital on April 13, 2026, after a long battle with cancer.



He was an avid golfer, playing in the Can-Am Tournament for over 20 years. He was a member of both White Day (where his father taught him the game) and Green Hills Country Club (where he made a hole in one) for many years.

Beau was a coal miner with over 30 years in the mines and was a proud EFHS graduate of 1971 where he lettered in Track and Field and Golf. He was a member of the first golf team at EFHS. His parents owned a camp in Franklin where he, his dad and uncle would hunt and fish for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Keener Shaffer of almost 40 years, his daughter Lauren Shaffer Thomas and son in law Austin Thomas, his brother and sister in law Wesley "Bub" Taylor and Michele

Keener Taylor, brother in law Richard Keener and sister in law Nina Keener Gyorhe, a maternal aunt Ada Riggs, several nephews, nieces, cousins and a great great niece.

He also leaves behind many golf buddies from Green Hills, where he enjoyed many games throughout the years.

It is with great sadness that Beau has left us, cut short in the golden years of his life, with so many things left that he wanted to do, yet was too sick to do them.

Family and friends can gather at Carpenter & Ford Funeral Home, 209 Merchant Street, on Friday April 17, 2026, from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm and Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10:00 am until the time of the service at 11:00 am. Rev Y.A. Joseph, a long-time friend, will be officiating and an interment will follow at Maple Grove Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be made in Mark's honor to EFHS Foundation, 1993 Airport Road Fairmont, WV 26554.

Online memories and condolences can be left for the family at www.carpenterandford.com



Maureen Kennedy Wolfe

Maureen Kennedy Wolfe passed away peacefully at home on March 9, 2026, with her family by her side. Born



November 6, 1927, she was the daughter of William Michael Kennedy and Mary Rosalee Hession Kennedy. With her brother and sisters and a large extended family, she grew up on the Kennedy Farm in Fairmont, along the street-car line that is now Locust Avenue. She graduated from St. Peter's High School and Fairmont State College, where she met her future husband, Harry Wolfe.

Maureen is survived by children Constance Simonton and husband Kevin of Vienna, WV; Margaret Wolfe of Fairmont, WV; Richard Wolfe of Charleston, WV; James Wolfe and wife January of Charleston, WV; seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Barbara Rojas of Los Angeles, CA.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Harry G. Wolfe Jr.; her brother Richard Kennedy; sisters Mary Ann Devlin, Martha Hebblethwaite, Claire Algier, Margaret Mauney, and Nancy Kennedy.

A lifelong member of St. Peter's Catholic Church, Maureen belonged to St. Therese's Circle, sang alto in the church choir for many years, and participated in the church wellness group. She was also a devoted godmother to many young people in the parish.

Maureen was known for her wit and wisdom, and her love of learning never faded. She participated in the Lifelong Learners program and the Bo-Con Book Club, was an avid reader and a gifted writer, an expert chronicler of family and community history, and the undisputed champion of all the puzzles found in the daily newspaper.

She enjoyed a wide range of activities such as bridge club, tennis, swimming, and bird-watching. A dedicated volun-

teer with community organizations including Meals on Wheels and the Fairmont Concert Association, Maureen also remained an active member of Fairmont State's Gamma Chi Chi Sorority alumni group. In 2022, she was named marshal of Fairmont State's Homecoming Parade.

She was employed at Fairmont State College and Hartley's Department Store, and she worked in admissions at Fairmont General Hospital for nearly 20 years. She was also a whiz at shorthand and worked for a time as a freelance stenographer.

Maureen loved traveling with her husband Harry, driving coast to coast on Route 66, exploring state and national parks, enjoying family vacations up and down the Atlantic coast, and visiting Ireland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Canada, Hawaii, and Australia. She especially treasured the annual family gatherings at Alpine Lake, where she would go for a swim well into her 90s, and the Kennedy family reunions in Canaan Valley and Fairmont.

Visitation will be open to family and friends on Saturday, April 11 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at St. Peter's Fisherman Church in Fairmont, followed by the Catholic Funeral Liturgy at 11:00 a.m. with Fr. Joseph Konikattil as Celebrant. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery. Following the interment, friends and family are invited to gather for lunch and fellowship in St. Peter's Parish Hall.

Donations in Maureen's memory may be made to Marion Meals on Wheels, Inc., P.O. Box 1264, Fairmont, WV 26554.

Maureen's family wishes to thank Amedisys Hospice workers for their care and compassion, and the many friends and neighbors who provided love and support.

Arrangements are under the care of Ross Funeral Home 801 Fairmont Avenue Fairmont.

Condolences may be sent to www.rossfh.com.

You Can Change Lives Today and In the Future



When you include the Princeton Community Hospital Foundation in your estate plan, your generosity makes world-class health care more accessible right here at home.

Learn more by calling 304-487-7242 or emailing Crystal.Mabe@wvumedicine.org.

PRINCETON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

122 12th Street • Princeton, WV 24740 • WVUMedicine.org/Princeton

WVUMedicine