

Obituaries

Jerry Dean Dingess 1945-2024

Jerry Dean Dingess, 78 of Ashland, died Sunday, Feb. 25.

He was born Aug. 15, 1945 and raised in Martin County, a son of late Reuben Dingess and Minerva Lou Lycans Dingess. Jerry was also proceeded in death by his siblings: Reuben (Don) Dingess, William (Bill) Dingess, Millard Ray Dingess, Augusta Jay Dingess, Betty Sue Pennington, Benny Jack Dingess, Bonnie Triplett, Jim Dingess, and Rita Alley.

Surviving are his wife, Judy Ward Dingess; two daughters; Stephanie (Charles) Swaney of Brentwood, Tenn., and Deanna (Jeremy) Dunford of St. Petersburg, Fla.; a son; Ashley (Katherine) Dingess of Catlettsburg; and eight grandchildren; Cameron (Shannon) Swaney, Sarah Swaney, Trevor Dunford, Ashton Dingess, Ryan Dunford, Lexie Dingess, Gavin Dingess, and Holley Dingess.

Jerry worked at AK Steele and retired as a quality control specialist consultant. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War, became a certified EMT instructor, was a commissioner for the Westwood Fire Department and volunteered for the Ramey Boys Home and numerous other organizations. He loved his community and showed it through serving wherever he was needed. Jerry was an incredibly loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He was a kind and gentle soul known for his honesty, integrity, generosity, compassion, and great sense of humor.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, March 1, by Pastor Ken Gowin at Preston Family Funeral Home in Ashland.

Burial was day 2 p.m. in Dingess Family Cemetery at Hode with military honors.

Vickie Marie Fosson 1954-2024

Vickie Marie Fosson, 69 of Ashland, died Saturday, Feb. 24, in Community Hospice Care Center at Ashland.

Vickie was born April 24, 1954, at Ashland to the late Paul Eugene and Juantia Stevens Fosson. She was also preceded in death by her son, Paul Edward Brown in 1983; a sister, Anita Jean “A.J.” Fosson; and a brother-in-law Darrell Dotson.

She was a 1972 graduate of Boyd County High School. She previously worked as a claims representative with the Commonwealth of Kentucky Division of Unemployment. Above all she loved the Lord and was fervent prayer warrior.

Surviving are a sister, Paula Fosson of Ashland; a nephew Steven Scott Fosson of Ashland who she loved as her own; life partner, Arvil Conner; a niece, Heather Bush Kesner (Stephen) and her children, Jonathan Skow, Stephen and Lorelai, of Raceland; and an Aunt Karen Sue Fosson Pinson of Florida; and a host of extended family and friends.

There will be no visitation or funeral services. Burial will be in Rose Hill Burial Park at Ashland.

Caniff Funeral Home at Westwood is in charge of arrangements.

Robert Michael Cooley 1951-2024

Peggy Lynn Porter O’Bryan, 72, died Wednesday, Jan. 31, surrounded by her loved ones.

Peggy was an exemplary soul up for any adventure, at any time. She embodied the best of qualities - unconditional love, strength of spirit and an unending generosity seen in her care for her community.

Peggy loved spending time in the kitchen, creating delicious, comforting meals for her family.

Her beloved flower gardens were treasured by so many, and she took extraordinary pride in her ability to keep anything alive and thriving. It brought her immense joy to share both her gardening knowledge and creations with her girls to adorn their own homes and gardens.

She is comforting us with handwritten notes she left for us in our books, quotes she snipped from magazines and gifts that she pre-ordered and are just now arriving.

Peggy was born March 22, 1951 in Elliott County to Willis and Eva Hannah Porter.

She often told stories of her humble childhood surrounded by her 11 siblings and the adventures they embarked on.

She met the love of her life in 1968, John O’Bryan, and shortly they married and started a family. Together they maintained a loving marriage full of life’s greatest adventures. Because of their love and values, their children and grandchildren have a passionate love of life, the hearts of a lion and an insane work ethic.

Surviving are her husband of 55 years, John O’Bryan; son Christopher O’Bryan; two daughters, Jennifer (Craig) Tomlinson and Andrea (Scott Nelson) O’Bryan; four grandchildren, Lyndsey (Eric) Hearn, Lafe O’Bryan, Molly and Ava Tomlinson; great-grandchild, Leo Hearn; three sisters, Wilma Stueve, Pon Ibsen and Colleen Brickey; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was also preceded in death by infant daughter, Jerusha O’Bryan; three sisters, Louise Taylor, Ottie Belle Wilburn, and infant Penzola Porter; and five brothers William, infant Woodford, Lowell, and twins John and Jack Porter.

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

Carolyn Lee Howland 1953-2024

Carolyn Lee Howland, 70, of Wurtland, died Saturday, Feb. 24, in Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice House at Huntington, W.Va.

Carolyn was born April 21, 1953, at Akron, Ohio, a daughter of the late William L. and Roxie Lee Hannah Elliott.

She was a loving mother who retired from working as a registered nurse at St. Mary’s Hospital. Carolyn enjoyed quilting and spending time with her family and cat ,Sunny.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, Charles Howland.

Surviving are a son Mark (Sabrina) Howland of Hurricane, W.Va.; a brother, Robert (Rita) Elliott of Flatwoods; and two grandchildren, Samantha Webb and Michael Franklin II.

A memorial service was conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, at Reed Funeral Home in Greenup by Dr. Tom Melvin.

Sherman Kamer 1939-2024

Sherman Kamer, 84, of South Portsmouth, died Sunday, Feb. 25, in Edgewood Manor at Lucasville, Ohio.

He was born Nov. 11, 1939, at Garrison, a son of the late Estin and Grethel Cassidy Kamer. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Odust Kamer and Kenneth Kamer; and four sisters, Evelyn Cooper, Marie Dummitt, Doris Downing and Geraldine McCleese.

Sherman enjoyed spending his time and traveling with the love of his life, Monda. Sherman was an animal lover and had many precious puppies over his lifetime each holding a special place in his heart. Sherman was active in many churches, lastly at the Church of God in South Shore.

He retired from Kroger. He loved woodworking and fixing cars.

Surviving are his wife Monda Seagraves Kamer; four sons, John (Sherry) Kamer of Deland, Fla., Gregory “Brian” (Tara) Kamer of Portsmouth, Ohio, Aaron (Ashley) Kamer of South Webster, Ohio, and Shannon (Kaitlyn) Kamer of South Portsmouth; a brother, David (Tammy) Kamer; and 11 grandchildren, Caitlin Jaramillo, Hannah Kamer, Aiden Jenkins, Adam Lloyd, Xavier Kamer, Zeke Kamer, Kaleb Kamer, Bryson Kamer, Colton Kamer, Braeligh Kamer and Hayden Kamer.

Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, at Roberson Funeral Home in South Shore by Raymond Lewis.

Burial was in Scioto Burial Park at McDermott, Ohio.

Donna Sue Smith 1953-2024

Dianna Sue Smith, 70 of Russell, died Sunday, Feb. 25, in Community Hospice Care Center at Ashland.

She was born Sept. 28, 1953, at Ashland, the daughter of the late Ray Enyart and Mary Belle White Enyart. She was also preceded in death by her husband, “Gomer” Stanford Smith Jr.

Dianna Sue was a member of the Greenup First Baptist Church.

She retired as a teamster for the Local 175 union out of Charleston, W.Va. She was also a current employee of Ram Pharmacy in Raceland where she loved her job, people she worked with and the people she delivered to.

Surviving Dianna are three sisters, Sharon Kay (Gary) Frye, Barsha (Tim) Skaggs, Pamela Jo (David) Manis; a brother, Bill Ray (Marlene) Enyart; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, at Evans Funeral Home at Raceland A graveside service will be held on a later date.

Sam Pennington 1997-2024

Sam Pennington, 26, of Argillite, died Monday evening, Feb. 26, at his home.

Samuel was born Sept. 11, 1997, at Ashland, a son of Gregory Scott Pennington of Argillite, and the late Kimberly Sue Elswick Pennington.

Also surviving are a stepbrother, Matthew Elswick of Flatwoods; and a brother, Zebediah Pennington of Argillite.

Preston Family Funeral Home at Ashland was in charge of arrangements.

James Arthur Colt 1938-2024

James Arthur Colt, 85, of Flatwoods, died Monday evening, Feb. 26, at his home while under hospice care.

Jim was born Oct. 23, 1938, at Cleveland, Ohio. He was retired from the composing department of the Ashland Daily Independent. Jim served in the US Air Force and was a member of Poage Lodge #325 F&AM and El Hasa Shrine Temple.

He was preceded in death by a sister; Diana Teranova.

Surviving are two sons, Shawn Colt (Donna Mills) of Flatwoods and Christopher Colt, and wife, Linda, of Ironville; a daughter, Michelle Colt (Timothy Griffith) of Hanging Rock, Ohio; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. Monday, March 4, at Preston Family Funeral Home at Ashland. Burial was in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East in Greenup County with military honors.

Michal Gale Darnell 1941-2024

Michael Gale Darnell, 82, of Franklin Furnace, Ohio, died Saturday, Feb. 24, in SOMC Hospice at Portsmouth, Ohio.

Michael was born Dec. 5, 1941, at Greenup to the late Samuel Darnell and Bernice Bradley Darnell.

Michael was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam and was awarded a Purple Heart. He retired from Armco Steel, and was a member of Plymouth Heights Church of Nazarene.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Patricia Ann Dyer Darnell, whom he married Nov. 23, 1963, at Franklin Furnace; two sons, Shawn (Shelley) Darnell and Aaron (Tonya) Darnell; three brothers, Curt (Juanita) Darnell, Samuel (Kathy) Darnell Jr. and Gary (Kay) Darnell and seven grandchildren, Ally, Jake, Mia, Cole, Kylan, Izzy and Cruz.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, in Harrison-Pyles Funeral Home at Wheelersburg, Ohio.

Military graveside services were conducted in Haverhill Cemetery.

Susan Faye Conley 1953-2024

Susan Faye Conley, 70 of Flatwoods, died Monday, Feb. 26, in King’s Daughters Medical Center.

She was born March 9, 1953, at Ashland, a daughter of the late James Earl & Bertie Mae McIntosh Stringer.

She was retired from King’s Daughters Medical Center as a nurse in Labor and Delivery.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, James Keith Conley in 2017; and a brother, Ronald Perry.

Surviving are a son, James Alan “Bub” Conely of

Flatwoods; a daughter, Cindi Michelle Bradley and her husband, Derrick of Greenup; two sisters, Donna Griffith of Dayton, Ohio, and Sandra Price of Flatwoods; four grandchildren, Makenzie Bradley, Collin Bradley, Evan Conley and Axton Conley.

Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Friday, March 1, in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East in Greenup County, where she was buried with her late husband Keith Conley, by Brother Chester Keathley.

Wright’s Funeral Home in Greenup was in charge of arrangements.

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Teach Your Children

Parents have a great responsibility to teach their children. Request our **Free** article: “Teach Your Children” and find out a few principles from the Bible that can greatly assist you.

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Errors Are Inevitable

To err is human; to forgive divine. So goes the saying and we all know that everyone makes mistakes. Expecting perfection, or worse, demanding it, is not just unrealistic, it also causes people to hide or lie about their errors. There is a more intelligent way to deal with errors, and that is by telling ourselves and others that we should be honest and open about errors and try to learn from them. Of course not all errors are the same. A slip of the tongue rarely causes much harm, whereas slipping on icy pavement or having your car slide off the road threatens more serious harm. When it comes to moral errors, or sins, as it were, there is a similar gradation of harm. Cheating at solitaire may cause you to question your own integrity in minor matters whereas cheating on your beloved may cause everyone to question your integrity. But even in moral matters we should realize that we all make mistakes and should have the same attitude towards these types of mistakes as we do towards mistakes at work or in school. We should be open and honest about them and try to learn from them. Ask yourselves why you are drawn towards certain sins, and how you can best avoid them in the future. Finally, ask forgiveness of those you may have wronged, and especially yourself.



Neil Wright

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