

Saying Goodbye

WITH

Compassion & Dignity

The J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services



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OBITUARIES



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Ronald Steven ‘Steve’ Swain

Ronald Steven (Steve) Swain, 74, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

He was born Sept. 28, 1951, in Anna, Illinois, to Ronald G. Swain and Elizabeth Ann (Fritze) Swain, who preceded him in death.

He retired after 54 years of being the co-owner and operator of the Hungry Bear Restaurant in Murray. He was an avid Murray State University fan, had a love of reading, and was a true history buff. He was a member of Memorial Baptist Church.

Mr. Swain is survived by his wife of 36 years, Cheryl Ann Swain of Murray; one step-daughter, Brooke Clymer and husband David of Murray; two step-sons, Chris Fry and Chad Fry, both of Paducah; one sister, Nancy Todd and husband Lloyd of Murray; two brothers, Tim Swain and wife Beverly and Todd Swain, all of Murray; two grandchildren, Sam Armbruster and wife Alyssa of Water Valley and Sierra Fry

of Westpoint, Virginia; two great-grandchildren, Maggie Jo Armbruster of Water Valley and Bentley Bostick of Westpoint, Virginia; one niece, Mary Ann Armstrong of Murray; and three nephews, Austin Swain of Murray, Michael Swain of Wisconsin, and David Todd of Paducah.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Martin Severns officiating. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, at the funeral home.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the American Heart Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TXs 75284-0692, or the Humane Society of Calloway County, 607 Poplar St., Suite A1, Murray, KY 42071.

Online condolences may be left at www.jhchurchill.com.

The J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Wanda Omega (Fuqua) Jones

Mrs. Wanda Omega (Fuqua) Jones, 86, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House in Murray, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on Sept. 12, 1939, in Model, Tennessee, she was the daughter of Seamon Harvey Fuqua and Lealor Mable (Chadwick) Fuqua. She devoted her life to her family, her home and her faith, serving as a loving homemaker, wife and mother, and as a lifelong member of New Providence Baptist Church.

Mrs. Jones is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Thomas “Tom” Jones of Murray; her sons, John (Jessica) Jones of Lexington, Tennessee, Larry (Gina) Jones of Murray, Charles (Stacy) Jones of Murray, and Teresa (Mike) Gholson of Harrisburg, Illinois; her much loved grandchildren, Cody Jones, Blake Jones, Abigail Jones, Raleigh Jones, Ashley Jones, Britney Jones, Katlyn McKenty; Amberly Patton, and Kent Geurin;

soon to arrive great-grandson, Beau McKenty; her brother-in-law, Kelly (Shirley) Jones; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a child, Baby Jones; brothers George Fuqua and John Fuqua; and sisters, Nina Fox and Helen Harper.

The funeral service will be at noon Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, in the chapel of Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home with Mike White officiating. Burial will follow in Hicks Cemetery in Model. Visitation will be after 10 a.m. until the service hour Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, at the funeral home.

The family requested that memorial contributions be made in Wanda’s memory to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Online condolences may be left at www.blalockcolemanfuneralhome.com.

Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

William Terry Parrish

William Terry Parrish, 68, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2025, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House.

Arrangements are incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Janet M. McCurry

Janet M. McCurry, 80 of Sedalia, KY, passed away Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky.

Arrangements are incomplete at Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

James Edward Higgins

James Edward Higgins, 81, of Hardin, KY, passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2025 surrounded by his loving family.

James was born to the late Cilous and Flora Mae Balentine Higgins on September 6, 1944 in Trigg County, KY.

A true outdoorsman, he loved hunting, fishing, camping, and especially coon hunting—pastimes that brought him peace. Whether he was casting a line at daybreak or walking the woods under a clear night sky, he was happiest outside. He also had a love for gardening and canning vegetables. One of his favorite places was Land Between the Lakes, his home place. He enjoyed long drives through those familiar roads with his beloved family. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Those preceding him in death include his parents; his loving wife, Mrs. Diane June Higgins and a sister, Mildred Allen.

Left to cherish many wonderful memories include his son, James Cilous Higgins (Mignon) of Hardin, KY; his daughter, Lisa

Jackson (Kevin) of Hardin, KY; four grandchildren, Brandon Jestes, Alex Williams, Brandon McCoy, Corey McCoy, as well as, great grandchildren, Braydon Jobe, Aurora Williams, Bexleigh Jestes, Nyomie McCoy, Bailee McCoy and Xavier McCoy,

The funeral service honoring the life of Mr. James Edward Higgins is set for 1 PM on Monday, November 17, 2025 at Imes Funeral Home. Brett Miles will officiate and burial will follow at Ferguson Springs Cemetery. Pallbearers include Jeff Litchfieldd, Cody Litchfield, Anthony Stroup, Adam Lovett, Luke Wagner and Hank Jacob. His family welcomes visitors from 11 am until the funeral hour, at the funeral home.

Please join family and friends in honoring the life of Mr. Higgins by visiting www.imesfh.com to post your tributes and memories.

Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray, is in charge of arrangements and provided editorial content in its entirety for this obituary.

Dan Leslie

The Rev. Dan Leslie, 77, of Kirksey, Kentucky, passed away Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House in Murray, Kentucky.

He was born Nov. 27, 1947, in Murray, to Roy F. Leslie and Ruby Jo (Parker) Leslie.

He received a bachelor’s degree from Murray State University and a Master of Divinity from Emory University. He was a retired United Methodist Minister having entered the ministry in 1983. He served churches in Western Kentucky and Northwest Tennessee. He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Murray, the Outreach Sunday School class, Appalachia Mission Team, and Ramp Building Team.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Larry Leslie; and a sister-in-law, Carolyn Leslie.

Rev. Leslie is survived by his wife, Aileen (Palmer) Leslie of Kirksey, whom he married July 12, 1969 at the Kirksey United Methodist Church; two daughters, Alison Leslie Chaney of Kirksey and Emily Leslie Burks (Taylor) of Nashville, Tennessee; one sister,

Cindy Leslie of Hazel; four grandchildren, Chris Eldridge (Cass), Ashley Eldridge Weathers (James), Jordan Eldridge, and Cheyenne Chaney Oliver (Jacob); and three great-grandchildren, Oliver Shilmulo, Annabelle Weathers, and Jenny Weathers.

A memorial service will be at 3: p.m., Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025, at First United Methodist Church of Murray with Jeff Rudy and Rick Dye officiating. Dr. Todd Hill will oversee the musical selections. Visitation will be from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025, at First United Methodist Church of Murray.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Appalachia Mission Team at Murray First United Methodist Church, 503 Maple St., Murray, KY 42071, or the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House, 803 Poplar St., Murray, KY 42071.

Online condolences may be left at www.jhchurchill.com.

The J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Sylvia Jean Thomas

Sylvia Jean Thomas, 86, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025, at the Towne Square Care of Puryear in Puryear, Tennessee.

Arrangements are incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

FUNERAL NOTICE

Imes Funeral Home & Crematory

James Edward Higgins

The funeral service is at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Ferguson Springs Cemetery.

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The J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services

Ronald Steven ‘Steve’ Swain

A memorial service is at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, 2025 at the funeral home.

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Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services

Wanda Omega Fuqua Jones

The funeral service is at noon Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Hicks Cemetery in Model, Tennessee.

Michael Dwain Elkins

Michael Dwain Elkins, 55, of Kirksey, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

He was born December 8, 1969, in Murray, Kentucky.

He was of Christian faith.

He was preceded in death by his father, Earnest Dwain Elkins; and one brother-in-law, James Darren Marshall.

Mr. Elkins was survived by his wife, Jennifer (Stalls) Elkins of Kirksey; mother, Pam (Tidwell) Wyatt of Murray; mother-in-law, Peggy Stalls of Moulton, Alabama; one son, Michael Dale Elkins of Wadesville, Indiana; two sisters, Penny Marshall of Almo, and

Buffy Wiseman of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee; one grandchild, Elliott Daniel John Elkins of Wadesville; one sister-in-law, Lori Stalls of Pensacola, Florida; one brother-in-law, Mark Stalls of Moulton; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Need Line, 509 North 8th St., Murray, KY 42071.

Online condolences may be left at www.jhchurchill.com.

The J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Billy Earl Brandon

Billy Earl Brandon, 83, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, at Spring Creek Health Care in Murray.

Arrangements are incomplete at Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Bassam H. Atieh

Dr. Bassam H. Atieh Ph.D., 74, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

Arrangements are incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Former Lexington prison staffer pleads guilty to sex abuse, providing contraband

LEXINGTON – (TNS) A former federal prison employee in Lexington pleaded guilty this week to having sex with a prisoner.

Ariel Zulewski, a former recreation specialist at the Federal Medical Center, pleaded guilty Nov. 14 to charges of abusive sexual contact and bribery of public officials and witnesses.

Zulewski had sex with an inmate between December 2023 and February 2024, according to the plea agreement. She also sent nude photos of herself to

the inmate’s contraband cellphone.

She brought him tobacco and vapes, too, according to the plea agreement.

Zulewski received two CashApp payments totaling \$500 for not reporting the contraband, according to court documents.

She could face a total of four years in prison and a fine up to \$250,000.

Zulewski’s sentencing is scheduled for 1 p.m. Feb. 13, 2026, in Lexington.

(By Taylor Six, Lexington Herald-Leader) ■

National Guard troops to leave Chicago, Portland: reports

(TNS) The 400 out-of-state National Guard troops deployed to Chicago and Portland, Ore., will be sent home in the coming days, according to multiple reports.

In Chicago, 200 Texas National Guard troops were sent to the city in early October but their deployment to the streets was stalled by multiple court rulings. In Portland, 200 California National Guard troops have been sitting through a similar situation.

“In the coming days, the Department will be shifting and/or rightsizing our Title 10 footprint in Portland, Los Angeles and Chicago,” U.S. Northern Command wrote Friday on social me-

dia.

That “rightsizing” will involve removing the hundreds of National Guard members from Chicago and Portland, sources told CNN.

President Trump’s deployment of National Guard troops to various cities has been met with a host of legal challenges in court. The cases focus on federal versus state power and the legality of using military troops on U.S. soil.

Federal judges have largely ruled against the deployments. When the Trump administration sent Guard troops and Marines into Los Angeles in June, a judge ruled months later the deployment had violated



Brian Cassella/Chicago Tribune/TNS

Members of the Texas National Guard assemble at the Army Reserve Training Center in Elwood, Illinois, a far southwest suburb on Oct. 7, 2025.

ed federal law.

The administration has claimed the National Guard troops are necessary to enforce immigration law in cities that have seen pro-immigrant protests. However, several judges

have ruled the demonstrations do not represent an “insurrection” that would be required to justify sending in the National Guard.

(By Joseph Wilkinson, New York Daily News) ■



• The Calloway County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, at the Court House Annex.

• The Murray Board of Zoning Adjustments will meet at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, at City Hall. Public hearing items includes a conditional use permit to allow recreational equipment (camper) to be stored in the driveway in front of the residence at 1535 Oxford Dr.

• The Murray Planning Commission will not meet in regular session for the month of November.