AREA OBITUARIES

LORA MAE JAMES

Lora Mae James, age 83, of South Fulton, Tenn., passed away on Sat., Feb. 14, 2026, at Clinton Place in Clinton, Ky.

She was born on March 29, 1942, in Cedarville, Ark., to the late William Nimrod Allen and Ruby Mae O'Brien Allen.

She was a devoted member of South Fulton Methodist Church and dedicated her life to her family as a homemaker. She formerly served as Historian for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and was instrumental in helping establish the flag program in South Fulton.

She is survived by three sons, David James, of South Fulton, Tenn., John (Missi) James, of Monroe, Ga., and Joe (Terra) James, of Martin, Tenn.; two grandchildren, Jacob James and Janna James; one brother, George Allen, of South Fulton, Tenn.; and one sister, Rose Oliver, of Fulton, Ky.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy Pat James, who passed away on April 20, 2025; two sisters, Barbara Tidwell and Mary Olive; and three brothers, Harold Allen, Merle Allen and Don Allen.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thurs., Feb. 19, 2026 at Hornbeak Funeral Chapel, with burial to follow at Obion County Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 5 - 8 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 18 and from 9 a.m. until the hour of service Thurs., Feb. 19.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105.

BILLY REX LAWSON

Billy Rex Lawson, age 90, of Fulton, Ky., passed away peacefully at his residence on Sat., Feb. 14, 2026.

He was born on March 13, 1935, in Fulton, Ky., to the late James Thomas Lawson and Mable Hodges Lawson.

He was a retired school bus driver for the Fulton County School System, where he faithfully served his community for many years.

He was an avid fisherman who loved camping, gardening, and spending time outdoors.

He also cherished his animals and took great pride in caring for them.

A devoted man of faith, he served as a deacon at Union Church, where he was a lifelong member.

He was also a proud veteran of the United States Army.

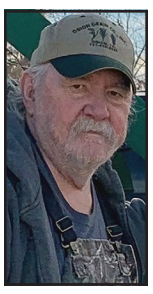
On Aug. 28, 1982, he married the love of his life, Esther Pearl Freeman Lawson, who survives.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Angie Lawson, of Fulton, Ky., Laura Lawson, of McKenzie, Tenn., and Tammy Elliott, of Fulton, Ky.; three step-children, Jo Anne Gallimore, of Dresden, Tenn., Janet Perry, of Kenner, La., and U.S. Navy Captain (Retired) Bobby Hurt, of Franklin, Tenn.; his grandchildren, Austin Jarrod Matheny, of Fulton, Ky., Lauren Rose, of Orlando, Fla., Dr. Cayce Rose, of Greenfield, Tenn., Erika Marie Elliott, of Deltona, Fla., and Jesse Myerski, of Port Orange, Fla.; his step-grandchildren, Aaron Gallimore, of Martin, Tenn., and Noah Gallimore, of Gulfport, Miss.; his great-grandchildren, Kingston Dorelli, of Port Orange, Fla.; Savannah Matheny, of Fulton, Ky., and Ayden Matheny, of Fulton, Ky.; his step-great-grandchildren, Will Gallimore, of Knoxville, Tenn., Emma Gallimore, of Martin, Tenn., Elijah Gallimore, of Gulfport, Miss., and Dallas Gallimore, of Gulfport, Miss.; and two brothers, Rev. James Lawson, of Fulton, Ky., and Tommy Lawson, of South Fulton, Ten.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Elwanda Lawson.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 18, 2026 at Hornbeak Funeral Chapel with burial to follow at Union Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 12 noon until the hour of service on Wednesday.

FRANKLIN DAVID GOSSUM



Franklin David Gossum, age 80, of Wingo, Ky., passed away at his residence on Wed., Feb. 11, 2026.

He was born on Dec. 1, 1945, in Fulton, Ky., to the late William Gossum and Lillie Mullins Gossum.

He retired as an Engineer with the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad following many years of dedicated service. He was a lifelong resident of the area.

He is survived by his daughter, Shannon Papierski, of Wingo, Ky.; two grandchildren, Jessica Choate (Alyssa), of Wingo, Ky., and Sarah Spivey (Brittany) of McKee, Ky.; two great-grandchildren, Jacob Shadowens (Tabby), of Wingo, Ky., and Layla Dodd, of South Fulton, Tenn.; and two sisters, Vicky Franklin, of Wingo, Ky., and Gwendelen Johnson, of Mayfield, Ky.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, William Gossum; and three sisters, Patsy Tripplet, Daphine Jackson, and Delores Hicks.

There will be no services held at Hornbeak Funeral Chapel.

LINDA GAIL RATACHIE

Linda Gail Ratachie, age 76, of Fulton, Ky., passed away on Mon., Feb. 16, 2026, at West Tennessee Healthcare Volunteer Community Hospital Emergency Room, in Martin, Tenn.

She was born on Feb. 4, 1950, in Union City, Tenn., to the late Allie B. Forrester and Lillie Stenett Forrester.

She was of the Baptist faith and was formerly employed in the food industry as a production worker. She lived the majority of her life in Chicago, Ill.

She is survived by her daughter, Kim (Daniel) Stout, of Greenfield, Tenn.; two grandchildren, Sarah Schuck and Arjay Stout, both of Greenfield, Tenn.; and one brother, Gary Forrester, of Sedalia, Ky.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by 11 siblings.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 20, 2026 at Hornbeak Funeral Chapel, with burial to follow at Shady Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 12 noon until the hour of service at the funeral home.

NEDRA WARD

Nedra Dean Mullins Ward, age 91 of South Fulton, Tenn., passed away Wed., Feb. 11, 2026 at Volunteer Hospital in Martin, Tenn.

She was a member of Fulton United Methodist Church and a retired seamstress at H.I.S.

Nedra was a Worthy Matron in the Order of the Eastern Star.

She is survived by her grandchildren, Angelica (Hoyt) Crocker, of South. Fulton, Tenn., and Seth William Paul Ward, of Chicago, Ill.; a great grandchild, Jude Crocker, of So. Fulton, Tenn.; and a brother, Rev. Doyce Edward "Butch" Mullins, of Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Doyce Goodden and Minerva Lee Camp Mullins; two sons, Bruce Ward and William Ward; and an infant son.

Graveside services was held Mon., Feb. 16, 2026 at 1 p.m. at the Clinton Cemetery. Friends were asked to meet at the cemetery at the service time.

Brown Funeral Home, in Clinton, Ky. is in charge of arrangements.

South Fulton Commission to meet Feb. 19

The South Fulton City Commission will meet for regular monthly session on Thurs., Feb. 19 at 5 p.m. in the South Fulton Municipal Complex Commission room.

The meeting is open to the public.

The following items are listed on the meeting's agenda: 1. Call to Order by Mayor; 2. Pledge of Allegiance; 3. Invocation; 4. Roll Call; 5. Approval of January Minutes; 6. Review of January Disbursements; 7. Approval of January Financials; 8. Approval of Department Reports; 9. Communication from Mayor; 10. Report from City Manager; 11. Commissioners' Comments, Questions, and Suggestions; 12. Old Business: None; 13. New Business: A. 2025-01 - A Resolution Regarding Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training Grant; 14. Citizen Comments -Non- Agenda Items; 15. Sign-In sheet for Question, Comments, and Suggestions Germane to the Agenda; and 16. Adjournment.

Current Events

Spring Bulk Trash Pick-Up in Hickman

Spring Bulk Pick-up for the city of Hickman is scheduled to begin Mon., April 13. Residents are asked to have items for disposal set out by April 13. Republic estimates picking up the bulk items for the entire town will take three-four days.

Breakfast Buddies

The Smiles On Seniors Breakfast Buddies will meet at 9 a.m. at Buttercup's Bistro on the third Thursday of each month for dutch treat breakfast. All seniors ages 55 and older are invited to attend.

Storehouse Ministries Needs

Storehouse Ministries, 311 Main St., Fulton, Ky., is in need of new men, women and kids' coats and hoodies to give to people in need in this area. Storehouse Ministries is open Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Everything is free to anyone in need.

Ken-Tenn Foodbank

The Ken-Tenn Foodbank, 212 Carr St., Fulton, will distribute commodities to Fulton County households living in poverty, TEFAP, will be Fri., Feb. 27 from 9 – 11 a.m. Distribution to South Fulton, Tenn. qualifying residents of the 1 for 84 program, will be Sat., March 7 from 9 - 11 a.m.

New Bingo Location

Smiles On Seniors, S.O.S., will host "Treasure Bingo" on the fourth Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Meadows Hotel Blue Room, use rear parking lot entrance to the hotel. All seniors age 55 and older are invited to attend. There is no cost to participate. Those planning to attend may bring one item from home, which they no longer use or want, to be used as a bingo prize.

S.O.S. Lunch Bunch

Smiles On Seniors, S.O.S., a 501(c)(3) organization, invites all area seniors, ages 55 and over, to gather together for "Lunch Bunch", a time for dutch treat lunch and fellowship the first Monday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Fulton Pizza Hut, 1101 West Highland Drive, in Fulton.

Roberts Lodge Meeting

Roberts Lodge 172, Free and Accepted Masons, meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Lodge, located at 210 Washington St., Fulton. A meal at 6 p.m. precedes the meeting.

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