OBITUARIES

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Deadline for print publication:
Tuesday publication deadlines Monday, 9 am EST
Saturday publication deadlines Thursday, 9 am EST

Vernon Ray Vance, 89



Vernon Ray Vance, 89, widower of Susan Prewitt Vance, passed away on November 4, 2026 at the VA Medical Center in Lexington, KY. Born on November 8, 1936 in Clark County, KY, he was the son of the late Orlan and Flora Nell Brandenburg Vance.

Vernon was a proud United States Army veteran who carried his pride in serving his country throughout his life. He was a man who deeply valued his independence, believed in staying positive, and always looked forward to what tomorrow might bring. He loved people, enjoyed a good conversation, and was a natural storyteller. He especially loved talking about history and the past, sharing memories and stories with anyone willing to listen.

Vernon was a lifelong farmer and retired from IBM after many years of dedicated service. Vernon had a lifelong passion for field trialing, hunting, and his beloved bird dogs and horses. He was an active competitor and a longtime member of the Kentucky Field Trial Association, where he proudly served as president for 20 years. His love for the sport, dedication, and friendships made throughout the years were an important part of his life. These were more than hobbies; they were a big part of who he was. He also had a special love for Elvis Presley and his music. His Fourth of July hay rides were looked forward to by children and grown-ups, although no one was more excited than Vernon.

Vernon was a devoted member of Calvary Christian Church at Mount Carmel, where he faithfully served as both a deacon and an elder.

He found joy in the simple things and, most importantly, in sharing them with others. Sunday mornings meant taking donuts to church, and every Friday he looked forward to bringing donuts to the ladies in his cardiac rehabilitation group. His once a month trip to Malone's with the guys was very special to him. These little traditions spoke volumes about the kind of man he was. He valued friendships and seemed to make good friends everywhere he went.

Vernon is survived by his brother, William Vance, and wife, Elsie; his son, Mark Prewitt Vance, and wife, Anita.; and his daughter, Mary Lou Warren, and husband, Kim.

He also leaves behind his grandchildren: Sarah Haydon Warren and husband, Tom Morgan; Taylor Layne Pearson and wife, Rae; Mark P. Vance II and wife, Brandy; Robert Ray Croft and wife, Angela; and Thomas Croft. He is also survived by several great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

The family would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to Vernon's caregivers at the VA for the kindness, compassion, and dedicated care they provided during his final days. Over the years, Vernon was blessed to have Renee Wilson by his side as his caregiver. She was a trusted friend, a companion, and a special part of his life. Her kindness, compassion, and friendship meant the world to Vernon and his family.

Visitation will begin at 1:00 PM on Monday, November 9, 2026, at the Leon Pace Memorial Chapel, with funeral services following at 2:00 PM. Pastor Gordon Smith will officiate, and burial will follow in Winchester Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Heart Association or Calvary Christian Church.

In 1860, America was divided



Van Yandell

Without waiting for Abraham Lincoln's inauguration (March 4th, 1861), seven Southern states seceded from the union of the United States of America. South Carolina was the first state to secede, followed a month later by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas.

Arkansas, Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina followed later, and the Confederacy quickly became a force to be reckoned with.

Many prefer to believe the Civil War was not fought over slavery. An old history book we have ("History of Our Country" by Reuben Halleck, first published in 1923) conclusively states that it was the cause and no other. Southern cotton farmers depended on slave labor to run their plantations successfully.

To those farmers, their slaves were possessions, and the government had no business in taking them. To the slave owners, it would be like the government today telling farmers they could not use tractors.

Southerners used scripture in Leviticus 25 to defend the use of slaves. The Hebrew word ebed (the language in which the Book of Leviticus was written) can mean slave or servant. It can also mean apprentice or assistant.

We know an enslaved person is in bondage, whereas a servant is by choice. Numerous Biblical beliefs, shaped by many opinions, confuse the original Hebrew words with the meaning they want them to have.

The Confederacy formed, and Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was elected president. At that point, secession did not necessarily mean war was inevitable.

Lincoln, however, did not agree with a peaceful separation into two countries. At that point, neither side could agree on the other's stated conditions.

Lincoln stated, "The union of these states is perpetual." He was adamant that the United States of America could not and would not be divided.

If the country were divided into two countries, neither could have the strength and political clout of the combined nation of the United States of America.

The Confederacy then occupied and controlled most of the military facilities (forts) in the southern states. Fort Sumter, at the entrance to Charleston, South Carolina, Bay, remained under Union control. Lincoln refused to give in to the rebels.

The Southerners began a bombardment of the fort on April 12th, 1861, at 4:30 am. The shelling lasted thirty-four hours. The fort was given up to the south, the Union flag was taken down, and the Confederate flag was raised.

For the next four years, the war raged on, and America was divided. Hatred levels not previously seen developed in a nation with the word "united" in its name.

The exact number of deaths during those years cannot be accurately determined. Numbers range from 620,000 to 750,000, but none can be verified.

Thousands of soldiers died from starvation, exposure, or diseases. Andersonville Prison in Georgia is now a National Historic Site. There are painted cannons, beautiful green grass, and paved roadways through the once horrible death camp located there 160 years ago.

Men died horrible deaths and suffered immeasurably in the conditions at Andersonville. Men slept in mud with rain falling on them in the winters. Heat in the southern summers made for another kind of misery.

Sanitation was not a word at Andersonville. During its fourteen months of operation, 12,920 deaths of Union soldiers were recorded.

General William T. Sherman's march through the South in 1864 and early 1865 was designed to break the will of Southerners. Any and every type of torture, murder, and more were perpetrated on the citizens of the South.

Sherman's men used a "scorched earth" tactic to destroy the economy as well as the people. Homes, barns, and other buildings were burned; bridges, roads, and other infrastructure were destroyed, and crops were destroyed in attempts to starve Southerners.

This "body" called the United States of America was severely divided, and a level of hatred existed for years after the surrender of the South (April 9th, 1865, at Appomattox Courthouse).

If a study of the horror and atrocities of the American Civil War does not make us take notice of the damages of division, nothing ever will.

We may think this example of division, the American Civil War, is an exaggerated case, but is it? Is the dividing of a family something to take lightly? Maybe dividing a community over a trivial matter would seem frivolous to many.

Is Christianity divided? Luke 11:17b "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth."

One thing people of all religions have in common is that we all believe we are right and everyone else is wrong. And of course, we humans still confuse opinions with facts.

This includes the various denominations claiming Christianity as a religion. Confusing opinions with facts has led to the many denominations in Christianity, which has led to divisions in the faith.

Of all the times in the history of Christianity, now is NOT a time to be divided. With the hatred and other forms of chaos in the world, what the world needs is Jesus.

Disagreement over the liberal-conservative political views has further divided the church. Several denominations have split over issues clearly defined in Scripture.

Matthew 16:18 "And I (Jesus) say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The gates of hell may not prevail against the church, but the gate of division is making a serious effort.

There is only one fundamental of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All other subjects are trivial, inconsequential, and have nothing to do with one's eternal destination.

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith-based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6), and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com







AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-5 CRYPTOQUOTE

IEL JQUMW PA VKMM QV OBNPG IEPTNA, HBIPLTIMX JBPIPTN VQU QKU ALTALA IQ NUQJ AEBUHLU. — J.F. XLBIA

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WALLS TURNED SIDEWAYS ARE BRIDGES. — ANGELA DAVIS

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-6 CRYPTOQUOTE

KFJMZ EX LFJK NCEO EOF IJKKFBR, JZL EOF OCKKR NCKK EJYF UJMF XG EOFTRFKIFR. — UXPZE HJRCF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE WORLD IS FULL OF MAGIC THINGS, PATIENTLY WAITING FOR OUR SENSES TO GROW SHARPER. — W.B. YEATS

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

XFS RPXPBU NZRK, XFS BSQQZV VHUK XFRX LZZXFSL XFS KRNJSUHUW LFHNSL. RUK QRPWFXSN, RUK HUU-EHNSL. — NPDSNX ANZZJS

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LEARN TO DEAL WITH THE VALLEYS, AND THE HILLS WILL TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. — COUNT BASIE