HUEY L. ADAMS, JR. – Died Friday, May 17, 2024 in Island Lake, Illinois at the age of 70. The cause of death was dementia. He was born on February 26, 1954. He served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Niles Chapter #242.

ALBERT JOHN “Al” ALI – Died Tuesday, July 15, 2024 at his home in Riceville, Tennessee at the age of 81. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Tampa, Florida on December 1, 1942 to the late Charles Walter Ali and Martha Ali. He was a long time resident of Panama City, FL. Mr. Ali was known as Al, AJ, Alfredo, or Ahab the Arab to those who knew him. Mr. Ali was retired after spending 22 and a half years in the United States Air Force. After his military career he ran a lawn business, enjoyed fishing, collecting knives, and loved all things military. He was a member of the DAV, a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Cleveland Chapter #596, and VFW. Mr. Ali was previously a member of Cherry Street Church of Christ in Panama City, FL and currently a member of Riceville Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his parents Charles Walter and Martha Ali and survived by his wife of 22 years Gladys Macks Ali and a daughter and son-in-law, Becky and Houston Oyler. A funeral service was conducted at 6:00 PM on Friday, July 19, 2024 in the chapel of the Smith Funeral Home with Minister Larry Graves officiating. The interment was at 1:30 PM on Monday, July 22, 2024 in the Chattanooga National Cemetery with military honors provided by the U.S. Air Force. The family received friends on Friday from 5:00-6:00 PM at the funeral home prior to the service. You may sign the guest register at www.smithfuneralandcremationservicesofathens.com. The Smith Funeral and Cremation Services was honored to serve the family of Albert John Ali.

ROBERT W. “Bob” ALPAUGH - Died peacefully Tuesday July 16, 2024 in Millsboro, Delaware at the age of 78, with his family by his side. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Doylestown, Pennsylvania to the late Clarence and Margaret Alpaugh. He had resided in New Jersey and South Carolina prior to relocating to Delaware. Bob was a proud United States Marine Veteran and served during the Vietnam War. He was a corporate Executive in telecommunications in New York at McGraw Hill and Time Life Inc. and in Delaware at MBNA. Bob was a member and Past Master of Mount Moriah Lodge #28 F. & A.M., the Scottish Rite Valley of Southern New Jersey and a member of the Crescent Shrine. He was also a member of the Bordentown Elks Lodge #2085 and the American Legion Post #28 of Millsboro, DE. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Delaware. He enjoyed playing golf, photography, travel and landscape design, but more importantly enjoyed spending time with his family. He will be deeply missed. Predeceased by his parents Clarence and Margaret Alpaugh, he is survived by his beloved wife of 24 years Christine N. Alpaugh of Millsboro, DE; his 4 sons, Rodd (Daphne) of Cherry Hill, NJ; Ryan of Okatie, SC; Robert Jr. (Erin) of Pine Hall, NC; and George Neighbors, Jr. (Bryan) of Verona, VA.; his sister Marie Lambert (Richard) of Lindenwold, NJ; Aunt and Uncle, Phyllis and Anthony Antonelli of Pennsauken, NJ; five grandchildren, Adriannah,
Zander, Remington, Zale and Reese; and nieces and nephews and close friends. Services were celebrated at the Bradley Funeral Home, 601 Route #73 South, Marlton, NJ. A viewing was held on Tuesday, July 23rd from 600-800 PM. On Wednesday, July 24th a brief viewing was also held from 10:00-11:00 AM followed by a private burial service for family members. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the https://secure.toysfortots.org/a/honor-memory-ecards.

ANDREW RAYMOND “Andy” ANDERSON - Died Thursday, July 4, 2024 at his home in Milo, Missouri at the age of 75, following a lengthy illness with cancer. He was born in Jericho Springs, Missouri on August 4, 1948 to the late Lola Irene (née McDaneld) Anderson and Raymond Edward Anderson, the only boy and youngest of 5 children. Andy lost his father at a young age and was his Momma’s protector until her death. He was sent to Vietnam with the United States Army fresh out of high school where he was a crew chief helicopter mechanic and door gunner. His and his fellow soldiers time at war was very important to him and he dedicated his life to recognizing all veterans he came in contact with. He wore the Vietnam colors with pride. After returning home he tried a few jobs and decided he needed to be his own boss. He attended barber college in Kansas City and started his 50-year barber career at Mayberry’s in Lamar before coming to the West Side Barber Shop in Nevada to work alongside Teddy Baldwin. Andy cut hair for several generations of the same families. If the walls of the barber shop could talk, boy would it have the stories to tell. There was an article done on him a few years back declaring him to be the cheapest barber in the US. He believed in helping those that needed it and made several house calls to his older clients. He also served the residents of the nursing home. Andy loved to travel and the more the merrier. He liked talking to the locals because you find out the best places to go. He was a mountain man but loved the beach. Besides cutting hair he was a proud rancher. For years he raised pigs and cattle up until the end. He was an avid horse rider in his younger years. Andy’s love of people had gained a wealth of friends over the years, and a few honorary family members. His family was his greatest joy in life. He loved holiday gatherings, especially fish camp and deer camp, and the yearly pheasant hunting trip to South Dakota. He was a collector of many things from cars to arrowheads. He loved the thrill of finding a neat old piece of history. His legacy will live on in all that knew him and he will be greatly missed by many. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Nevada, Missouri Chapter #918. He is survived by his wife Deborah of the home, daughter Angie and (Rick) Reasoner of Milo, Mo, Sons Sean and (Cynthia) Anderson of El Dorado Springs, Mo, Matthew and (Angela) Scott of Kansas City, Mo, grandchildren Quincey and (Tonia) Anderson, Nicole Reasoner and (True Beisly), Amber and (John) Winters, Daniel Scott, Dylan Scott, great grandchildren Cameron Anderson, Kale Burhcell, Jordan Winters, Jaxon VanDerWoude, Oakley VanDerWoude, sisters Patsy Baker, Nadine Perkins, Darlene Winningham, Lorraine Sanders, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. Funeral services were held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at the Ferry Funeral Home in Nevada with Pastor Roger Beach officiating. The interment with Military Funeral Honors was held in the Olive Branch Cemetery. The family received friends from 5:00 to 6:30 PM on Monday at the Ferry Funeral
Home. Memorials were suggested to Fisher House of Kansas City, to support Veteran’s families c/o of the funeral home.

DANIEL GREGG “Dan” ASHWORTH - Died Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at his home in Idaho Fall, Idaho at the age of 71. The cause of death is unknown. Daniel was born on March 8, 1953 in Great Falls, Montana to the late Adam C. Ashworth and Janice E. (née Greaves) Ashworth. He grew up and attended schools in Great Falls and Billings, MT, and graduated from Billings West High School in 1971. Shortly after graduating Daniel enlisted into the United States Navy and was honorably discharged in 1974. In October of 1971 he married Barbara Corneau and had his first son Daniel Lee Ashworth. They later divorced. In August of 1978 he then married Marina L. Urrea, to whom he had a son, Michael James Ashworth and a daughter, Cynthia Lynn Ashworth. They later divorced but remained friends. After leaving the Navy, Daniel began his career with Columbia Paint. Then a few years later he transitioned to Sherwin Williams, where he proudly worked for 29 years, retiring at the age of 59. Throughout his career he earned the nickname "Dr. Dan" as he sharpened his people skills and touched many lives, making numerous friends. He considered a stranger just a friend that he hadn’t met yet. He was a life member at the Elks Lodge and a member of the American Legion, and enjoyed attending Watersprings Church. He was very active in volunteering with EIRMC Hospital and with the Vietnam Veterans. He really enjoyed helping people and was a very loving and caring person to all. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Idaho Falls Chapter #972. Daniel enjoyed spending time with family, going to the cabin, golfing, traveling and making memories, and getting skunked at cribbage. He was an amazing listener and always went out of his way to talk to a fellow service member or veteran. Daniel is survived by his brothers, Rick and Pat; his favorite sister, Lesley; sons, Danny (Michele) Ashworth of North Ogden, UT, and Michael (Jordan) Ashworth of Idaho Falls, ID; daughter, Cynthia (Ervin) Torres of Escondido, CA; 5 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Adam and Jan, and his brothers, Jeff and Kelly. A celebration of life was held at 1:00 PM on August 11, 2024 at the Elks Lodge, 640 East Elva Street. Military Honors were performed by the Bonneville County Veterans Memorial Team and Idaho Honor Guard. In lieu of flowers the family requests a donation be made in his name to the Veterans Fund through the Elks Lodge. “One and half for Dan! Ugh!”

DONALD E. ANDERSON – Died Tuesday, July 9, 2024 in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee at the age of 79. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born in Soddy-Daisy on August 27, 1944. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Soddy-Daisy Chapter #942.
MARVIN RUSSELL “Butch” BARNES - Died Sunday, May 19, 2024 in Mount Juliet, Tennessee at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. Butch was born in Florence, Alabama on May 1, 1945 to the late William Louis Barnes and Isa (née Butler) Barnes. He is also preceded in death by his son, William Bradley Barnes, sisters, Joyce Barnes James and Ellen Barnes Jennings, and a brother, William C. Barnes. Butch served his country in the United States Navy during Vietnam, where he was a member of the River Division 512. He received numerous Medals and Commendations including: National Defense, Vietnam Service with a Bronze Star, Republic of Vietnam Campaign, Navy Achievement with Combat “V”, U.S. Navy Combat Action Ribbon, and the U.S. Navy Meritorious Unit Citation. He was also a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America - Lebanon Chapter #1004. After his time in the service, he spent 39 years working for the Vanity Fair Corporation. He was a member of Baker’s Grove Baptist Church where he held many positions. Butch was a very kind, Christian man, known for his many stories that he loved to tell. He loved his family and the Lord and he always went out of his way to help and encourage others. Besides his family, his other true love was wood carving. He was a master carver and was a member of the Fiddler’s Grove Wood Carvers, Leipers Fork Wood Carvers, and the Nature’s Coast Wood Carvers of Florida. He is survived by: Wife of 53 years, Evelyn Barnes; Son, Brent (Penny) Barnes; Grandchildren, Cheyenne Barnes, Garrett Testerman, Katelynn Foley, Cody Foley; Great Granddaughter, Serenity Vance; Brother, James Louis (Mary) Barnes; Sister, Glenda Barnes (Ralph) Stone; Beloved Fur babies, Riley and Tucker. Funeral services were conducted at 12:00 Noon on Friday, May 24, 2024 at Bond Memorial Chapel with Van Richmond and Bobby Devine co-officiating. The interment with military honors was at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. Visitation was held on Friday from 10:00 AM–12:00 Noon at the Bond Memorial Chapel. Family and friends served as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were the Fiddlers Grove Wood Carvers and the Leipers Fork Wood Carvers. Flowers accepted or memorials may be made to Baker’s Grove Baptist Church, 3562 Earhart Road, Mount Juliet, TN 37122 and/or Proverbs 12:10 Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 210830, Nashville, TN 37221. The arrangements were made by the Bond Memorial Chapel, 1098 Weston Drive, Mount Juliet, TN. www.bondmemorial.com.

DALE ALBERT BERG - Died Thursday, June 27, 2024 at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Illinois at the age of 74. He was a resident of Arlington Heights. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born in Albert Lea, Minnesota on October 17, 1949 to the late Kenneth and Marvel (née Fratzke) Berg. He led a life filled with service and dedication. Dale was a financial consultant by profession. His greatest pride was being a devoted husband to his wife Sharon and father to his sons. He found great happiness spending time and sharing stories of his four grandchildren. Dale’s devotion extended beyond his family. He served his country with honor in the United States Army, during the Vietnam War, and was awarded a Purple Heart and
two Bronze Stars with V Device. His bravery and commitment to his country were exemplary, serving in the 25th Infantry Division, 27th Infantry Regiment - known as the Wolfhounds. Locally, Dale was a fixture in the veteran’s community. He was the Commander of the Arlington Heights American Legion Merle Guild Post #208. Dale was a member of the Sons of American Legion, Arlington Heights Veterans of Foreign War Post #981, and a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Des Plaines Chapter #311. He was also a member of Northwest Towns Sportsman's Club. His involvement in these groups highlighted his dedication to service and camaraderie. Dale is survived by his sons, Ryan (Amy) and Blair (Melanie); his grandchildren, Dylan, Cole, Walter and Britton; his sister, Nancy Baanrud, his brothers, Neil (Collette) and Dean (Liz); and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his wife, Sharon; and his parents. Visitation was held on Thursday, July 11, 2024 from 2:00 PM until the time of Funeral Service at 4:00 PM at the Glueckert Funeral Home, Ltd., 1520 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL. Dale's cremated remains were placed at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (https://www.vvmf.org/Support-VVMF/Memorial-Donations). Funeral Information and condolences can be given at www.GlueckertFuneralHome.com.

KEVIN DALE “Snipe” BLAKE – Died Tuesday, June 11, 2024 in Ormond Beach, Florida at the age of 70, surrounded by the solace and tenacious love of his family and loyal friends. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on September 18, 1953. A proud Vietnam Veteran, Snipe courageously served in the United States Marine Corps from 1971 to 1973. His dedication and bravery during his service reflected his unwavering commitment to his country. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Daytona Beach Chapter #1148. Following his honorable military service, Snipe embarked on an illustrious career in the Nuclear Power Industry. For over 35 years, he dedicated himself to Crane Nuclear, where his invaluable contributions and expertise were widely respected. Snipe’s career was a voyage that took him to all 50 states including Canada and Mexico, where he forged deep bonds and friendships. These relationships blossomed into a cherished network of colleagues who became his beloved extended family. In his roles as a father, grandfather, sibling, and friend, Snipe's love and support knew no limits. His love for his two sons "the boys" Kody and Kevin, and his daughter-in-law, Jeriann, was immeasurable. Snipe's presence brought warmth and light to his grandchildren, who he adored: Samantha, Jake, and Van, who equally adored their "Pop Pops." Additionally, his cherished furry grandchildren, Tucker and Frida, enriched his life with extra layers of companionship and joy. Survived by his siblings David, Gary, Deborah, and Johnny, Snipe's family was his anchor. He maintained a special connection with his ex-wife and friend, Katherine Blake, embodying a spirit of camaraderie and mutual support throughout his life's journey. Snipe's roots and love ran deep. Known for his sense of humor, deep loving heart, and his grumpiness, Snipe truly enjoyed living life to the fullest. He embraced the mantra "Work hard, play hard." Snipe
touched the lives of many with his kindness, wisdom, and generosity. He would give you the shirt off his back. He fostered profound connections and left a legacy of love and impact that continues to resonate with all who knew him. For those who knew Snipe, they understood his love and passion for Harley Davidson Motorcycles, good company, good food, good tunes, the sunshine, and the beach. He was a true New York Yankees fan, adored his Tiki Bar by the pool, and always kept his garage door open to all. While Snipe may have departed from this world, his memory and legacy will endure in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him. Snipe's passing marks a profound loss to many. His vibrant spirit, unwavering dedication, and profound impact on the lives of those around him will forever be remembered and cherished. As we mourn the loss of Snipe, let us also celebrate the life he lived and the impact he made on the world around him. May his memory serve as a source of inspiration and comfort to all who were fortunate enough to know him. May we carry forward Snipe's legacy by embodying the same spirit of love, generosity, and camaraderie that defined his life. In honoring the memory of Kevin "Snipe" Blake, we pay tribute to a man whose presence enriched the lives of those he touched. May his legacy continue to shine brightly in our hearts. Rest easy, Dad, Snipe, Kevin, Handsome, Pop Pops. You will forever hold a special place in our hearts. Services were scheduled for a later date, allowing the family some time.

TERRY BRUCE BLANCHARD – Died suddenly Friday, May 17, 2024 in Fairport, New York at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Niagara Falls, New York on April 23, 1947 to the late Edward Blanchard and Veronica Blanchard. He was also predeceased by his brother, William, his sister-in-law, Irene and his Goddaughter, Susan Blanchard. Survived by loving wife of 49 years Michaele (née Mularz) Blanchard, children Jason (Tara), Courtney Hilliker (Daniel), Grandsons Zachary and Dean Blanchard; Brother’s Thomas (Barbara), Robert (Terri), Sister-in-law Leann Patel (Harshadrai), Bother-in-law Timothy Mularz (Julie) and many nieces, nephews and friends. Terry was a United States Army Vietnam Veteran (1967-1969). He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20. Terry worked at Eastman Kodak Co retiring after 32 years. In retirement Terry had his dream job as a security guard in the District Attorney’s office. The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, May 24, 2024 at Saint John’s of Rochester, 8 Wickford Way, Fairport, NY and the visitation was at 10:00 AM with Mass following at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate or Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #20, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612.

JAMES RICHARD “Rick” “Jim” BOKELMAN - Died Thursday, May 9, 2024 at Pine Haven Christian Communities in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin at the age of 76, with his loving daughter by his side. He was formerly of Newburg, Wisconsin. The cause of death is unknown. He was
born on April 6, 1948 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the late James and Pearl (née Guske) Bokelman. Jim graduated from Solomon Juneau High School in 1966. He was drafted to the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1968-1969 in Vietnam with an Artillery unit in the 1st, 175th guns, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. During his time in the service, he met his lifelong friend, Cooper who shared many adventures. Jim served his country proudly and when he returned home, spent many years serving other fellow veterans in need. In 1971, he married Cheryl Jaedike in Milwaukee, WI. Soon after, they purchased a beloved country home in Newburg that they spent several years fixing up. They eventually had two children, David and Kristy. Jim worked for Pioneer Container in Cedarburg for 34 years before retiring in 2010. Besides being an extremely proud Marine, his other passion was watching the Green Bay Packers. He was lucky enough to attend many games with his children and friends and was a shareholder (Go Pack!). Jim also loved riding his Harley and took great pride in cutting his grass. Jim was an avid hunter and fisherman. He spent many years bowhunting near his Newburg home, and gun hunting in Sauk County with his daughter and dear friends. He was a Life Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America - Kettle Moraine Chapter #448 and a lifelong Lutheran. Jim was a devoted father, grandfather and friend, always putting those he loved first. Survivors include his son, David (Genevieve) Bokelman and their children, Elizabeth and Jeremiah; daughter, Kristy (Brian) Carmody and their children, Penelope, Patrick, and Faith; sister, Nancy (Mike) Mesich; and nephews, John (Olivia) Mesich, Brian (Ashley) Mesich, and Matthew (Leah) Bokelman. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Thomas Bokelman. Visitation was held on Thursday, May 16th at the Suchon Funeral Home, 1317 State Road 67, Plymouth, WI, from 4:00-6:00 PM; with a memorial service to follow at 6:00 PM. The burial was at the Wisconsin Memorial Park in Brookfield on Friday, May 17th at 11:00 AM with Military Rites. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Kettle Moraine Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #448 in memory of Jim. The Suchon Funeral Home assisted the family. For online condolences, please visit www.suchonfh.com. The family would like to send deep gratitude to the staff of Pine Haven Christian Communities and Saint Croix Hospice for all their care and compassion given to Jim. They are true angels, and their incredible support will never be forgotten.

Larry Dale Boyer – Died Friday, July 5, 2024 in Clarksville, Tennessee at age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. Larry was born on February 13, 1951 in Paris, Illinois to the Ira and Lola Boyer. Larry was a Vietnam veteran who served in the United States Army and retired from civil services. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Tennessee. He enjoyed fly fishing, riding motorcycles, watching M*A*S*H, and looking at wildlife. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by 5 siblings. Larry is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Nila Boyer and son, Bryce Boyer and his wife, Stacey. A visitation was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Sykes Funeral Home. The burial took place at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Kansas, IL on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 1:00 PM where military honors were rendered. Please visit Larry's online guestbook at www.sykesfuneralhome.com and share a memory with the family.
CHARLES A. BROWN – Died recently in 2024 in Plano, Texas at the age of 83. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on January 26, 1941. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Texas.

PAUL W. “Bud” “Buddy” BUCHA (USA, CPT.-CMOH) – Died Wednesday, July 31, 2024 in the VA Connecticut Medical Center in West Haven, Connecticut at the age of 80. He was a resident of Ridgefield, Connecticut. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Washington, DC in 1943. It is with a heavy heart that the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation (NMOHMF) offers the following statement on the passing of Captain Paul W. “Buddy” Bucha, who earned the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions in Vietnam and was a life-long advocate for America’s veterans. With his company pinned down, Capt. Bucha crawled 40 meters through a hail of fire to destroy the enemy bunker. Throughout a night of intense combat, he rallied his men, directed artillery and at one point stood in complete view of enemy snipers while using flashlights to direct helicopters which were evacuating the wounded. With his passing there are only 60 living recipients. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Pleasantville (New York) Chapter #49. “Across his remarkable life, Captain Paul Bucha – “Buddy” to his friends and family – exemplified what it means to be a hero,” said Chris Cassidy, President and CEO of the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation. “From his brave actions in Vietnam, where he repeatedly disregarded his own safety to assist others, to his dedication to numerous charities supporting veterans and military families, Captain Bucha set an example of selflessness that we should all strive to follow. “I’m grateful that the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation was one of the many causes he supported. He was a true believer in this project and all that it represents, particularly the idea that the Medal is bigger than any one person. We were thrilled to have him at our 160th Anniversary event at the Library of Congress and at other important moments throughout the Museum’s development. All of us at NMOHMF send our condolences to his loved ones and vow to uphold his legacy and preserve and share his inspirational story for generations to come.” His full Medal of Honor citation can be found here and reads as follows: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Bucha distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer, Company D, on a reconnaissance-in-force mission against enemy forces near Phuoc Vinh. The company was inserted by helicopter into the suspected enemy stronghold to locate and destroy the enemy. During this period Capt. Bucha aggressively and courageously led his men in the destruction of enemy fortifications and base areas and eliminated scattered resistance impeding the advance of the company. On 18 March while advancing to contact, the lead elements of the company became engaged by the heavy automatic weapon, heavy machine gun, rocket propelled grenade, Claymore mine and small-arms fire of an estimated battalion-size force. Capt. Bucha, with complete disregard for his safety, moved to the threatened area to direct the defense and ordered reinforcements to the aid of the lead element. Seeing that his men were
pinned down by heavy machine gun fire from a concealed bunker located some 40 meters to the front of the positions, Capt. Bucha crawled through the hail of fire to single-handedly destroy the bunker with grenades. During this heroic action Capt. Bucha received a painful shrapnel wound. Returning to the perimeter, he observed that his unit could not hold its positions and repel the human wave assaults launched by the determined enemy. Capt. Bucha ordered the withdrawal of the unit elements and covered the withdrawal to positions of a company perimeter from which he could direct fire upon the charging enemy. When 1 friendly element retrieving casualties was ambushed and cut off from the perimeter, Capt. Bucha ordered them to feign death and he directed artillery fire around them. During the night Capt. Bucha moved throughout the position, distributing ammunition, providing encouragement and insuring the integrity of the defense. He directed artillery, helicopter gunship and Air Force gunship fire on the enemy strong points and attacking forces, marking the positions with smoke grenades. Using flashlights in complete view of enemy snipers, he directed the medical evacuation of 3 air-ambulance loads of seriously wounded personnel and the helicopter supply of his company. At daybreak Capt. Bucha led a rescue party to recover the dead and wounded members of the ambushed element. During the period of intensive combat, Capt. Bucha, by his extraordinary heroism, inspirational example, outstanding leadership and professional competence, led his company in the decimation of a superior enemy force which left 156 dead on the battlefield. His bravery and gallantry at the risk of his life are in the highest traditions of the military service, Capt. Bucha has reflected great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

JOHN CHRISTOPHER CABRAL - Died Saturday, February 15, 2020 in Stoughton, Massachusetts at the age of 70. He was a resident of Portsmouth, Rhode Island. The cause of death was Alzheimer’s disease. John was born on June 30, 1949 in Fall River, Massachusetts to the late John J. Cabral and the late Lillian (née Luciano) Cabral. John was the husband of Yun Min (Yi) Cabral of Portsmouth. John proudly served in the United States Army in Vietnam in the 101st Airborne Division. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Rhode Island. He worked for many years in shipping and receiving at Etco, Inc. in Bristol, and also served as a school bus monitor for many years in Portsmouth. In his spare time, he loved spending time with his grandsons, cooking, working in the yard, and putting up his Christmas decorations. Besides his beloved wife of 48 years, Yun Min, John is survived by his daughter, Holly (Cabral) Silvia and her husband Ashley Silvia of Portsmouth, his grandsons, Christian J. Silvia and Anthony J. Silvia of Portsmouth, and his siblings, Rev. Clifford Cabral of East Greenwich, Ann Duval and her husband Pierre of Richmond, RI, Madeline Turcotte and her husband Daniel of Lakeville, MA, Andrew Cabral and his wife Esther of Arizona, David Cabral of Tiverton, and Stephanie Silvia of Tiverton. Visiting hours were held on Friday, February 21, 2020 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Connors Funeral Home, 55 West Main Road, Portsmouth. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM at Saint Barnabas Church, 1697 East Main Road, Portsmouth. The burial with military honors was at Saint Columba Catholic Cemetery, Browns Lane, Middletown. Memorial Donations in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association of America, 245 Waterman Street - Suite #306, Providence, RI 02906.
**RICK CARPIN** – Died Wednesday, May 29, 2024 in Weedville, Pennsylvania at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in DuBois, Pennsylvania on October 18, 1946. He was a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Saint Marys Chapter #720.

**ROBERT J. CASTELLI** - Died Tuesday, May 21, 2024 in Katonah, New York at the age of 74. The cause of death was colon cancer. He was born in Lewisboro, New York on December 16, 1949. A former State Assemblyman, Robert J. Castelli dedicated his life to public service beginning at the age of 17 when he left high school to join the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Following basic and advanced infantry training, he volunteered for service in Vietnam, where he was assigned to the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Air Cavalry Division as an infantryman. He arrived in Vietnam and participated in combat operations during the Tet Offensive of 1968, including the Battles of Hue, Khe Sahn, and the A Shau Valley, three of the largest battles of the war. As an infantry point man and later a reconnaissance company team member, he rose to the rank of Sergeant by the age of 19 and remained in Vietnam through part of 1969. He returned home and continued to serve as a training instructor at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, until leaving the Army to return to school. His commendations included the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Air Assault Badge, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, as well as unit awards such as the Presidential Unit Citation and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. After completing his education, Robert began a career in law enforcement as a State Constable in South Carolina, followed by a distinguished 21-year career with the New York State Police, where he served as a Trooper, Sergeant, Investigator, and Station Commander. With a graduate degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Robert transitioned to academia, teaching at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Marist College, and Iona College, where he eventually became chairman of the Criminal Justice Department. Robert continued his public service by serving four years on the Town Board of Lewisboro in Westchester County and was later elected to two terms in the New York State Assembly. There, he served as a ranking member on the Veterans Affairs Committee and passed several significant pieces of veterans' legislation. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Pleasantville Chapter #49. Outside of his professional life, Robert enjoyed spending time outdoors. An avid sportsman and conservationist, he was a member of the Campfire Club of America and Explorers Club. In his early years, he indulged in sports cars, skydiving, and competitive trap shooting. He also loved hunting, port wine, cigars, and, most of all, spending time with family and friends. Robert will be remembered as a soldier, servant, scholar, and statesman. He was one of a kind, and to know him was to love him. He is survived by his beloved wife Jeanette, his children Christian (Jourdan) Castelli and Paul (Jourdan) Castelli, and his grandchildren Sarah, Keegan, Katelynn, Eric and Payton. Robert will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him. A celebration of Roberts life was held at the Clark Associates Funeral Home located at 4 Woodsbridge Road, Katonah, New York on Friday, May 24th from 4:00-8:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 95 Plum
Road, Somers, New York, on Saturday, May 25th at 10:00 AM. The interment was at Saint John’s Cemetery in Queens. For more information or to leave a condolence, please visit www.pelhamfuneral.com.

CLAUDE DONALD “Donnie” CHILDRESS - Died Monday, July 15, 2024 in Lynchburg, Virginia at the age of 76, after a long illness. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Lynchburg, Virginia on April 19, 1948 to the late Volney and Mary Sue Childress. He is survived by his loving wife Patricia Childress, daughter Heather Childress (Chris Goode), son Joe Blondino (Mara Kaktins), grandson Uldi Blondino-Kaktins, and brother Kyle Childress. Donnie was very proud to have served his country as a United States Marine. He joined the Marine Corps at 17 years old and served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968 as a radio operator in the 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, earning the rank of corporal. Upon returning from Vietnam, Donnie worked several jobs. He learned the food business early on, beginning with the Southerner Drive-In and ending with him owning and operating the Chestnut Hill Deli. From there, he went to work as a beer salesman and then onto the printing industry, where he continued working until retiring from R.R. Donnelley. Donnie’s first marriage to Daronda Hartless gave him a daughter, Heather, with whom he maintained a close relationship throughout his life. His marriage to Pat Crickenberger in 1985 gave him a stepson, Joe Blondino, who he raised and loved as his own. Throughout Donnie’s later years, he spent many hours every week volunteering at the Elks Lodge, as well as serving on the board of that organization. He was also active in the American Legion, for which he acted as First Vice-Commander. Donnie loved to see people having a good time and did whatever he could to help make that happen. People were always happy to see Donnie enter any establishment or social gathering, and there was nowhere in Lynchburg that he could go without running into good friends. Donnie also enjoyed golfing and lying about his score, following UVA sports, and watching any television show or movie that involved shootouts, explosions, and gangsters. He was much loved by all who knew him and will be missed by many. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Lynchburg Chapter 196. A celebration of Donnie’s life was held from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, July 27th at the American Legion Post #16 on Greenview Drive in Lynchburg. An observance of military honors and brief comments from friends and family began promptly at 2:00 PM followed by a reception. All who knew Donnie were invited to join his family in celebrating his memory. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made in Donnie's name to the Lynchburg Humane Society, 1211 Old Graves Mill Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502 or the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675.

WILLIAM JOSEPH “Bill” CHRISTIANSEN - Died Wednesday, August 23, 2023 in Glenview, Illinois at the age of 76. He was a resident of Des Plaines, Illinois. The cause of death
is unknown. A lifelong Des Plaines resident, he was born on December 26, 1946 to Christ G. Christiansen and Kathleen (née O’Rourke) Christiansen. Bill was a proud Vietnam Veteran, earning numerous awards including the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star as a United States Army LRRP/Ranger. Bill is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Connie (née Gilmore), his four adoring daughters, Annie (Steve) Grosz, Sara (Dan) Knigge, Leah Dillow, Becky (Brent) Offill and his nine grandchildren: Charlie, Mikaela, Jack, Julia, Evan, Matthew, Thomas, Tessa and Joe. Bill also leaves behind his siblings, Bob (Judy), Kathy (Izzy) Sierra, Tom (Jan) Christiansen, Kevin (Irene) Christiansen and countless nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his dear sister Mary Ann Walker. After retiring from K&R Delivery where he worked as a dockman, Bill enjoyed time fishing and started a second career at Rolling Meadows High School. He worked as an instructional assistant in the Special Education Department and as a coach for girl’s bowling and boy’s water polo. From guest speaking in high school classrooms to serving as president of his local VVA chapter, he found joy in sharing his wartime experiences. Most recently Bill authored a book about his time in Vietnam. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Des Plaines Chapter #311. Above all, Bill was a loving husband, dad, grandpa, brother, uncle, cousin, friend and fisherman. Visitation was held on Sunday, August 27, 2023 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM at the G.L. Hills Funeral Home, 745 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois. A funeral mass was celebrated at Saint Mary’s Church, 794 Pearson Street, Des Plaines, IL on Monday, August 28 at 10:00 AM. The interment was held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #311, 1291 Oakwood Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60016, or the Special Olympics, www.support.specialolympics.org. The funeral arrangements were provided by the G.L. Hills Funeral Home and Cremation Center. For information, please or visit www.glhillsfuneralhome.com.

ROBERT CARL “Motorcycle Bob” CISZEWSKI, SR. (USA, SFC- Ret.) – Died Tuesday, January 16, 2024 in Texas at the age of 75. He was a resident of Mora, Minnesota. The cause of death was heart failure. Robert was born in Saginaw, Michigan on June 19, 1948 to the late Harry and Anna (née Zimmerman) Ciszewski. After graduation from Saginaw High School, he went into the United States Army and served with the 4th Infantry Division and served in Pleiku, Vietnam from August 1968 to July 1969. He continued to serve in the Army Reserve for 27 years and earned the rank of Sergeant First Class upon his military retirement. Bob married Janice Lalonde on August 16, 1961 in Saginaw, Michigan. Bob spent most of his career working for the City of Saint Paul, before retiring after 18 years. “Motorcycle Bob,” as he was known, kept busy in retirement helping veterans, volunteering with the Braham VFW Post #1731, and making the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Braham a reality. In his final years, Bob enjoyed traveling and spending time with his special friend, Helen. He was a great man that will be deeply missed. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America = Mora Chapter #684. Bob was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Janice. He is survived by his
sons, Robert, Jr. “Bob” (Jennifer) and Anthony “Tony” (Shannon); grandchildren, Logan Ciszewski, Shaylin (Chris) Prestidge, Jessica Ehrler and Quinn Ciszewski; great-grandchildren, Ivy, Caleb, Haley and Elaina; sisters, Mary Duffet, Karen Graham and Barb Ciszewski; brothers, Joe and John Ciszewski; many other relatives and friends. A graveside service with Military Honors was held at 12:30 PM on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis. Condolences may be posted at www.hamiltonfhs.com.

**DARWIN L. CLYDE** - Died Monday, May 27, 2024 at the local hospital in Garden City, South Dakota at the age of 74. He was a resident of Garden City. The cause of death is unknown. Darwin was born on September 2, 1949 in Watertown, South Dakota to the late Gilbert and Donna (née Knox) Clyde. He was raised on a farm and loved farm life and always had stories to tell of all the crazy things he and his two brothers did while growing up. He attended school in Clark, SD and graduated in 1967. In 1969, he was drafted into the United States Marine Corps and then stationed in Okinawa, Japan, where he did radio repairs, served as an office manager, and escorted officers around camp. He was honorably discharged in 1971, and returned home to Clark. Shortly afterwards, he started renting a farm east of Garden City, SD. In 1973, Darwin stopped by Brekke Chevrolet in Clark to buy a grain truck and was intrigued by the secretary there. Later, he looked for an excuse to stop by again, this time to buy a pickup, so he could speak to her again and find the courage to ask her out. After a short courtship, he would ask Wanda McGillivary to be his wife, and they were married in June of 1974. Later that year, they would buy the farm that they had been renting, and continue to reside there until present day. On the farm, they milked cows for over 35 years, raised pigs on and off throughout the years, but always had a herd of beef cattle. Together, they raised 5 children, who also have just as many crazy stories of farm life as their dad did. Darwin was a proud veteran and believed in serving his country and his community. He was a vital part of the Garden City American Legion for several decades until the branch closed in 2014. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Watertown American Legion, a *Life Member* of Vietnam Veterans of America – Watertown Chapter #1054, and the Marine Corp League. He was also a member of the Eden Township board for 37 years. Darwin was known for being a man that could always be counted on when help was needed, and was always willing to step in to help however and whenever he could. He will be fondly remembered for always having a story to tell, his contagious laughter, and being stubborn and determined until the very end. Survivors include his wife of almost 50 years, Wanda; his children: Timothy (Alyssa Schley) Clyde of Henry, SD; Jeffrey Clyde of Clark, SD; Heather Clyde of Fargo, ND; Michael (Andrea Binger) Clyde of Clark, SD; and Christy (Mitchell) German of Fargo, ND; his brothers, Rodney Clyde of Aberdeen, SD, and Kevin (Beth) Clyde of Medora, ND; 1 grandson, Timothy Clyde Jr., 2 granddaughters, Raven Clyde and Peyton Clyde, and 1 great-grandson, Aiden Clyde, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his infant brother, Joseph. Funeral services on July 10, 1951 were held on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel in Watertown, SD. Pastor Steve
Biswell officiated. The service was livestreamed via the Crawford-Osthus website. Visitation was held on Friday, May 31, 2024 at the Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel in Watertown, SD, from 5:00-7:00 PM. The burial was at Graceland Cemetery in rural Henry, SD. Military graveside honors were conducted by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1054. The pallbearers were Bret McGillivary, Danny Knox, Ron Hartley, Darrell Stacey, Corey Dawson and Rick Hartley. The arrangements were made by the Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel www.crawfordosthus.com Watertown, Hayti, De Smet, Bryant, Arlington, Lake Preston, Oldham.

**HARRIS WAYNE COBLE** – Died Monday, May 20, 2024 at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson, Tennessee at the age 81. He was a resident of Humboldt, Tennessee. The cause of death is unknown. Harris was born on May 12, 1943 in Humboldt to the late Harris Mays and Dorothy Marie (née Bass) Coble. Throughout his life, he touched the hearts of many with his warm personality and passion for music and community service. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, showcasing his bravery and commitment to his country. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Trenton Chapter #1124*. Outside of his professional life, Harris found joy and solace in various hobbies such as playing the guitar, participating in the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star activities, and most notably, being an active member of Gibson Baptist Church. His dedication to the church shone through as he served as a deacon and lent his melodious voice to the church choir. Harris will be deeply missed by his surviving family members and friends. He is survived by his loving wife Barbara Coble of Humboldt, TN; daughter Tonya Jones of Jackson, TN; son, Tim Swafford and daughter-in-law April of Gibson; TN; son, Dennis Swafford of Gibson, TN; brother, James Harold Coble and sister-in-law Diana of Sardis, MS; sister Jean Hinson of Humboldt TN; sister, Elaine Primo and brother-in-law John of Covington TN; sister, Linda McMinn of Medina, TN; grandchildren, Daegan Jones, Levin Jones, Jenny Bryant, Christy Swafford Whallin, Shayna Swafford, Hunter Kimery; along with a host of other relatives and friends. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister Annette Cole and her husband Billy. A visitation honoring the life of Harris Wayne Coble was held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, beginning at 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Arrington Funeral Directors. A Funeral Service was held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 11:00 AM at the Gibson Baptist Church, 302 Highway 79, North Gibson, TN, with Reverend Steve Littleton officiating. The burial with Military Honors was at 1:30 PM at the West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery at Parkers Crossroads in Wildersville, TN. The family requested that memorial contributions be directed to Heaven’s Cradle, c/o Community Foundation of West Tennessee, 74 Directors Row, Jackson, TN 38305 or online at www.heavenscradle.org or the Vietnam Veteran of America Chapter #1124, 1252 Manufacturer Row, Suite B, Trenton, TN 38382. Harris' legacy as a devoted family man, loyal friend, and cherished community member will continue to inspire all those who had the privilege to know him. He is forever in our hearts. The Arrington Funeral Directors, 148 West University Parkway, Jackson, TN were in charge of the arrangements. arringtonfuneraldirectors.com.
RICKIE LEE COLEMAN - Died Friday May 17, 2024 at Firesteel Health Care in Mitchell, South Dakota at the age of 77. He was a resident of Watertown, South Dakota. The cause of death was renal cancer. Rickie was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on July 21, 1946 to the late William and Helen (née Carlson) Coleman. He joined the United States Army, serving from 1966 until 1969. He was a crew chief on a helicopter in Vietnam. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Watertown Chapter #1121. He worked for Yellow Freight for 30 years in North Carolina before being employed at Menards in Mitchell. Rickie was a member of the Outkast Car Club in Mitchell. He owned a 1963 ½ Ford Galaxie 500. He enjoyed working on his car, going to shows and spending time with his dog, Oreo. He is survived by his wife, Maryann, his stepchildren, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sisters, Dixie Hedrick of Hamptonville, NC and Diana Lambeth of Burnsville, MS. He is preceded in death by his brother, Francis Coleman. Funeral services were held at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at the Will Funeral Chapel. Visitation was one hour prior to the Funeral Service. The burial with Military Rites took place in Servicemen’s Cemetery.

PAUL EMILE COMIRE - Died Thursday, July 20, 2023 at his daughter Rachel's home in Columbia, South Carolina at the age of 83. He was a resident of Fort Mill, South Carolina. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Manville, Rhode Island on November 13, 1939 to the late Donat Comire and Claire (née Dupont) Comire. He proudly served in the United States Army from 1962 until 1968 and was stationed in Germany for two years. Following his military service, he returned to Rhode Island and worked for Draper/Rockwell International. He married Aurore Laramée from Woonsocket, RI in 1965, and later moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where he worked for Crompton and Knowles. Paul and his wife started, owned and operated Paul’s Appliance Repair Service for more than two decades. Paul was an entrepreneur and inventor, who was also skilled in carpentry, engineering, design, fixing things and finding solutions. Paul was a long-time volunteer fireman and warden in Manville, RI and a volunteer fireman in Charlotte, NC. He was also a scout troop leader and very active in Boy Scouts of America. He was an active member of the Manville and Fort Mill American Legion. He did volunteer work for many places including Le Foyer-the French club, in Pawtucket, RI, the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, RI, and the Fort Mill History Museum in Fort Mill, SC. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – James Michael Ray Memorial (Woonsocket) Chapter #818. Left to cherish his memory are his ten children, Michael Comire (Elizabeth) of Wakefield, RI, Donald Comire (Sally) of Kingsport, TN, Kristine Thurman (Rodney) of Fort Mill, SC, Thomas Comire of Seaford, DE, Rachel Allen (Scott) of Columbia, SC, Mary Bradley (Richard) of Bessemer City, NC, Peter Comire (Patricia) of Charlotte, NC, Jennifer Felton (Quintin) of Rock Hill, SC, Joseph Comire (Amanda) of Gastonia, NC, and Donna Smith (Shane) of Indian Land, SC; 42 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Mr. Paul Comire was preceded in death by his siblings, Margarite Whalen, Marcel Comire, and Viola Griffin, and his first daughter Karen Marie Comire. The
family received friends from 10:00 until 11:00 AM on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at the Wolfe Funeral Home, Fort Mill, SC. The funeral service followed immediately at 11:00 AM with Pastor Kelvin Smith officiating. A Military burial took place at the Crown Memorial Park located in Pineville, NC at 12:30 PM.

ALAN EUGENE COOK – Died Friday, May 31, 2024 in Castro Valley, California at the age of 71. The cause of death was cancer. He was born on May 30, 1953. He served in the United States Army in the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Oakland Chapter #400. He was the former National Treasurer and was the Treasurer for the Vietnam Veteran Assistance Fund and for many years the Chair of VVA’s National Finance Committee. He was a former California VVA State Council President and helped found the VVA Chapter #400 in Oakland. He is survived by his wife, Cindy, his sons, his daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was interred on June 17th in the Sacrament Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

ARNOLD PARKER “Arnie” COOK - Died Wednesday, November 7, 2018 in Chepachet, Rhode Island at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island on July 30, 1944 to the late John H. and Ella (née Parker) Cook. Arnie is survived by his beloved wife, Nancy (née Clarke) Cook and was the husband of the late Connie L. (née Tinkham) Cook. Arnie was a professional cross-country truck driver for 35 years until his retirement in 2008 due to health reasons. He was a former boy scout with fond memories of Camp Yawgoo. He was most proud of his service in the United States Coast Guard during the Cuban Crisis and the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – James Michael Ray Memorial (Woonsocket) Chapter #818. He was also a former volunteer firefighter with the Greenville Fire Department. He was also very active in the Glocester Little League with his sons. He served his country and community with pride. In addition to his wife Nancy, he is survived by his daughters Kim Cook of Sterling, CT, April Cook and Robert Corriveau of Glendale, RI, 3 sons Andrew Cook and his wife Jennifer (JJ) of Coventry, Thomas Cook and Alivia Saunders of Elkton, MD and Daniel W. Cook of Sterling, CT. He was the grandfather of Jonathan Card, Abbigael Cook and Amaya Lynne Cook, step-grandfather of Joshua and Ashley Cook, Pepe to Jordynn Elizabeth Verdoia and Tyler Joseph Verdoia of N. Smithfield. He is also survived by many cousins across the country. Relatives and friends were invited to a committal service with military honors on Friday, November 16, 2018 at 12:00 Noon in the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter.

DAVID C. COULTER – Died recently in 2024 in Lake Havasu City, Arizona at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on August 2, 1947. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Arizona.
LEE S. COVINO – Died Monday, May 20, 2024 in Staten Island, New York at the age of 72. The cause of death was heart failure. He was born on July 10, 1951. He was a United States Army veteran who served three borough presidents and many other elected officials and was a leading voice in advocating for veterans on Staten Island and nationally. The name Lee Covino is synonymous with service to country and community. Lee Covino served in the US Army veteran from 1970-71 during the Vietnam War. He became an advocate for veterans’ affairs as a peer counselor while attending the College of Staten Island on the GI Bill from 1973-1977. From 1980-1984, he worked as an intervention counselor for the VA’s Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center in Brooklyn and Staten Island, assisting close to 1,000 Vietnam era and combat vets. In July 1990, he was appointed to the cabinet of Staten Island Borough President Guy V. Molinaro, where he served as the Veterans Affairs Advisor and Director of Contracts & Procurement. He continued his tenure in the administration of Borough President James P. Molinaro, and with Borough President James S. Oddo, until his retirement in March, 2014. In May 2002, Covino was appointed to the City’s Veterans Advisory Board by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. He was re-appointed to the board by the Mayor in 2007 and in 2012, ending his term as Vice-Chairman of the Board in April, 2015. Lee was active in supporting public officials who supported U.S. veterans. Many generations of Staten Island elected officials sought his counsel and advice on veterans and community issues. Over the years, Lee had played a major role in bringing the Vet Center and the VA Clinic to Staten Island, as well as in obtaining a Staten Island bus link to the VA Hospital in Brooklyn. Working with the Borough Presidents, he helped coordinate annual Fleet Week activities, developed Operation Vet Care, which brought the VA’s outreach van to minority-based areas on Staten Island, Operation Vet Call, which assisted vets with resume development and job search through the State Department of Labor, and Operation Vet Link, which assisted veterans with learning basic computer skills through free courses donated by local business schools. Lee was a steadfast presence at public events supporting veteran causes. He always heeded a call-to-action on behalf of vets and indeed he led the charge many times over the years to oppose any budget cuts to programs designed to help vets. In addition, Lee testified and spoke up at public hearings on issues of importance to people in need, from senior housing to mass transportation to health and human services. In his retirement, Lee played French Horn for the South Shore Band and Richmond County Orchestra. He enjoyed every moment with his grandchildren and continued to be actively involved in the community. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Staten Island Chapter #421. Lee was also a member of the VFW, American Legion, the Catholic War Veterans, AMVETS, the NYC Veterans Alliance and the 369th Veterans Association. Covino also served as Treasurer of the United Staten Island Veterans’ Organization, Inc. (USIVO), an umbrella group of Staten Island veteran organizations which sponsor the annual Memorial Day Parade. He was to be inducted into the NYS Veterans Hall of Fame later this year. Lee was installed into the CSI Alumni Hall of Fame in March, 1989. In 2004, the College of Staten Island Archives catalogued a collection of veteran’s issues which Covino was involved in from 1973 – 1994. Lee Covino leaves behind a daughter Mariel and three
grandchildren, Melina, Michael, and Samantha. His wife of 43 years, Catherine (née Valuri), predeceased him in 2017. A memorial service for Lee Covino was announced later by the family.

**THOMAS W. “Tom” CRAMER** - Died Thursday, April 18, 2024 of Plum Boro, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on June 11, 1948. He was the father of Scott (Kelly) Cramer and grandfather of Miranda and Daphne Cramer. Tom served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, member of the Moose, American Legion, a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Battle Creek (Michigan) Chapter #313 and retired from the Air Force Material Command after 34 years of service. There were no visitations. A Military Service was held at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, 1150 Morgan Road, Bridgeville, PA on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 1:30 PM. The funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Readshaw Funeral Home, Inc.

**JERRY SANFORD CRAWFORD, SR.** - Died Tuesday, May 14, 2024 in Richmond, Kentucky at the age of 87. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Taylorsville, Kentucky on February 4, 1937 to the late William Thomas Crawford and Florence (née Landers) Crawford. He was the widower of Judy (née Lane) Crawford. He served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War where he earned the Bronze Star. He was retired from Civil Service with the Army as well as the Air Force. Jerry loved volunteering for American Legion Post #12. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Richmond Chapter #1066. He is survived by three sons, Jerry Sanford Crawford Jr.(Donna), Glenn Austin Crawford and Michael Wayne Crawford; one daughter, Tara Marie Crawford; a half-brother, Leslie Cowherd and a half sister, Irene Cowherd; grandchildren, Amanda Crawford-Ballew, Michael Crawford Jr., Dakota Bell, Chelsea Crawford, Alesia Crawford, Bailee Crawford, Rilee Hensley, Christina Miller (Nick) and Cathy Jo Bowling. He is survived by many great-grandchildren whom he loved and who loved him dearly. Services were held on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Oldham, Roberts and Powell Funeral Home with visitation from 12:00 Noon until the time of service. The interment was at Madison County Memorial Gardens in the mausoleum. The pallbearers were Dakota Bell, Michael Crawford Jr., Austin Cummins, Jerry Sanford Crawford, Jr., Michael Wayne Crawford and Cecil Walker.

**PHILIP EDWARD CRAWLEY, SR.** (USMC, MSgt-Ret.) - Died Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at his home in MacClenny, Florida at the age of 81, with his loving wife by his side. The cause of death is unknown. Philip was born in Morganton, North Carolina on September 30, 1942 to the late Guy and Mary Jane (née Mabe) Crawley. Philip enlisted in the United States Marine Corps following school and served in the Vietnam War. As a result of his service, he was the recipient of a Purple Heart, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, along with several other
decorations. After his stint of twenty years of active service duty, Mr. Philip would serve as a civilian, as a diesel fuel pump instructor at Camp Johnson, North Carolina and as a supervisor at Blount Island for twelve years, totally nearly forty years of service to his country. Upon meeting Mr. Philip, you knew he was extremely proud of his service in the Marine Corps. In his free time, Philip enjoyed spending time with family and friends, fishing and hunting, and was a longtime member of the VFW Post #8255 in Middleburg. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Glen Saint Mary Chapter #1134. He was preceded in death by his father, mother and stepfather, Howard Malone; and a brother: Drew Malone. He is survived by his beloved wife, Glenda Crawley of Macclenny; son: Philip (Christina) Crawley, Jr. of Hubert, North Carolina; stepchildren: Terry (Kathy) Rochester of Ranger, Georgia, and Tony Rochester and Tracy (Rachel) Rochester both of Jackson, Georgia; grandchildren: Julian Philip Crawley, Tadashi Crawley, and Avigail Crawley; as well as six step-grandchildren. His funeral service was held at 11:00 AM on Friday, May 17, 2024 at the Christian Fellowship Temple with Pastor Timmy Thomas, Reverend Bill Allen, and Ira Cofer officiating. The family received friends at the church an hour prior to the service. The interment was at the Bethlehem Cemetery, 2115 State Road 100, Lake City, Florida. Hawke M.T. Forbes and H.M. “Hank” Forbes, Jr. of Forbes Funeral Home were honored to assist the family with the arrangements. 409 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida “With Your Family In Mind”. Please leave your condolences for the family in the online guestbook at www.forbesfuneralhome.net.

EUGENE CROSS – Died Sunday, June 2, 2024 in Victoria, Texas at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 20, 1946 in Burdette, Arkansas to the late Quentrell and Ardessa (née Dabney) Cross. He was a member of Saint Peters Baptist Church. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Victoria Chapter #898. Eugene is survived by his wife Loretta Cross, his son Antonio Cross, his daughter Tangela Cross, his brothers Freedy Cross and Ernest Cross, and his four grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents. A visitation for family and friends was held on Thursday, June 13, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Grace Memorial Chapel, 8819 US Hwy 87N, Victoria. The funeral service was on Friday, June 14, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Saint Peters Baptist Church, 2708 South Laurent Street, Victoria with Reverend Kevin Van Hook, officiating. The interment was held at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 1:15 PM.

GREGORY VAN DAWSON, SR. (USA, MAJ-RET.) – Died Thursday, May 23, 2024 at Saint Joseph’s Hospice, Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the age of 74. He was a resident of Prairieville, Louisiana. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on May 19,
1950. Gregory graduated from Capitol High School in 1968. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Gregory went on to earn a Master of Arts Degree in Law Enforcement and joined Louisiana State Police, where he served the citizens of Louisiana for 25 years. He served his country over 40 years in the U.S. Army, holding the rank of Chief Warrant Officer and retiring as a Major with 377th TSC (Theater Sustainment Command). He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Baton Rouge Chapter #852. He is survived by his wife, Valorie. The Funeral Service was held on Friday, May 31, 2024 at 10:00 AM with the viewing from 9:00- 10:00 AM at the Charity Christian Center, 871 O’Neal Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with Pastor Linda Bradford, officiating.

LARRY CLAYTON DECKER – Died Sunday, March 10, 2024 in Ballwin, Missouri at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Saint Louis, Missouri on March 29, 1946. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1966 to 1970 with a tour in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Fenton Chapter #1028.

JOHN HENRY DICKERSON (USAF, MSgt.-Ret.) – Died recently in 2024 in Pineville, Louisiana at the age of 89. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 19, 1934. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and retired on May 31, 1974 at the rank of Master Sergeant (E-7). He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Alexandria Chapter #1131.

JAMES NIXON “Nick” DOBEY, JR. - Died Thursday, April 4,2024 in Greenville, South Carolina at the age of 83, after battling a long illness. He was a resident of Landrum, South Carolina. The cause of death is unknown. He was born a New Year’s baby on January 1, 1941 in Spartanburg, South Carolina to the late James Nixon Dobey, Sr. and Rebecca Lee Dobey. He was affectionately known as "Nick". Nick was an esteemed alumni of Clemson University and served his country with honor in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War from 1963 to 1969. His service was recognized with prestigious awards including: the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal. Outside of his military endeavors Nick pursued a twenty-eight-year career with Duke Energy, working at the Oconee Nuclear Powerplant. Nick also pursued various interests that brought him great joy. He found solace in running marathons, cycling, even participating in “the Paris Brest Cycle Race”, and passionately followed Clemson Football. His commitment to cycling was particularly notable, as he achieved the title of being second in the State of South Carolina for the longest cyclist and made a remarkable twenty-nine-year consecutive journey to the peak of Mount Mitchell. Nick’s enthusiasm for life extended beyond his hobbies as he cherished spending time at the VFW lodge with friends and fellow veterans. His dedication to both his personal pursuits and his comrades was truly admirable. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Walhalla Chapter #1017. He is survived
by his son; James Nixon Dobey III "Trey", a brother Henry Dobey, nieces; Deborah Dobey, and Tiffany Gobillot (Fred). He was predeceased by his father James Nixon Dobey Sr. and mother Rebecca Lee Dobey. A graveside service with Military honors was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 starting at 2:00 PM at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens, 1300 Fernwood-Glendale Road, Spartanburg, South Carolina. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to "The Wounded Warriors Project", PO Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675 or by phone by calling. The JF Floyd Mortuary- Greenlawn Chapel was in charge of the arrangements.

DENNIS L. DORRIES - Died Friday, July 19, 2024 in Breese, Illinois at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on September 8, 1946. He is survived by his wife, Nanette Dorries. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Highland Chapter #269. There was no viewing and no funeral. His cremains were interred in Jefferson Barracks Cemetery.

NANCY JOANN ECKERT - Died Friday, June 288, 2024 in the In-Patient Hospice Unit of L.V. Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania at the age of 83. She was a resident of Allentown. The cause of death is unknown. She was born in Allentown on May 10, 1941 to the late Woodrow and Alma (née Richards) Eckert. Nancy was a graduate of Allentown High School, Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing and Cedar Crest College. Nancy was a Registered Nurse and also worked in Neuro Science Research at L.V. Hospital for 37 years. She was a registered nurse and a former decorated Captain of the United States Army Nurse Corps, serving as a combat nurse at the 93rd Evacuation Hospital Long Binh, Vietnam. She is part of several videos about combat nurses, “Not on the Front Line,” “The Other Angels” and the Ken Burns Podcast “The War is Still With Us.” She was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Easton Chapter #415 and worked on legislation for “Agent Orange” compensation and the flying of the “POW-MIA” flag over government buildings. She is known to share her experiences at local schools and churches. Nancy was a member of Nativity Lutheran Church, Allentown. She was a volunteer at the DaVinci Science Center and was a mentor in the Allentown School District. She is survived by: Daughter, MollyKathleen N. Craig and her husband David of Cornwall, UK; Grandchildren: Annabel, Alice and George. Nancy is also survived by many cousins. Funeral Services were held at 11:00 AM on Monday, July 8, 2024 at the Nativity Lutheran Church, 4004 West Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA. Visitation was held from 10:00-11:00 AM on Monday, July 8, 2024 in the church. The arrangements were made by the Stephens Funeral Home, Inc. www.stephensfuneral.com. Contributions: to the church or National MS Society, PO Box #91891, Washington, D.C. 20090 –1891.
GEORGE WILLIAM EDGAR – Died Tuesday, May 28, 2024 in Brunswick, Ohio at the age of 80. The cause of death is unknown. George was born on August 15, 1943 in New Castle, Pennsylvania to the late Donald and Lois (née Alldridge) Winzer. He was the beloved husband of the late Janice (née Zupancic); loving father of Elizabeth (Amilcar) Hernandez, Mary (John) Godfrey, Catherine (Bernard) Harrigan, and Michael (Katherine); devoted grandfather of Isaac, Sebastian, Leo, George, Ella, Maeve, and Sylvia; dearest brother of Dr. Thomas (Lynn) and the late John; dear uncle and great-uncle. He was an active resident of Geauga County for over 40 years. After graduating from Shaw High School, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served as a radioman in the Beach Jumper Unit. Upon his honorable discharge, George continued his education at John Carroll University and eventually earned his MBA from Case Western Reserve University. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Ohio. He retired from East Ohio Gas and devoted time to local services within his community, especially the Chardon School Board and Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery. Strong in his faith, he was an active parishioner of Saint Helen Catholic Church. Above all things, he was a proud father and loved being a father and grandfather. On May 28, 2024, George passed away leaving his family missing his great sense of humor and everlasting presence.

RONALD BOYD “Ronnie” ELSEA - Died Thursday, June 13, 2024 at his home in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on December 1, 1946 to the late, Boyd and Julia Mae Elsea. Ronnie served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War with the 101st Airborne Division and served with the Soddy-Daisy Fire Department. He was an avid gardener, a great shade tree mechanic and loved to fish. He retired from Wrigley Mars Manufacturing and was a contract painter. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Soddy-Daisy Chapter #942 and the American Legion Post #107. He loved the Lord, his country and his family. He was preceded in death by his infant sons, Ronnie Jr. and Zachary David Elsea, parents, Boyd and Julia Mae Elsea, sisters, Judy Elsea, Lola Randolph and Elizabeth Elsea and brother, Jimmy Elsea. Survivors include his devoted wife of 36 years, Pamela Elsea, children, Kodii (Megan) Elsea, Rhonda and Matthew Elsea, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, siblings, Brenda Wooten, Martha Brock, Carol (Danny) Dennis, Michael Grant and Willard Elsea. Funeral Services were held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 12:00 Noon in the Chapel of Legacy Funeral Home with Pastor Roger Redmond and Pastor Mike Davis co-officiating. The burial was at the Chattanooga National Cemetery with Military Honors. The family received friends on Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 11:00 AM until 12:00 Noon in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to the North Red Bank Baptist Church, 4701 McCahill Road, Chattanooga, TN 37415 or Summit Baptist Church 4502 Green Shanty Road, Ooltewah, TN 37363.
The arrangements were made by the Legacy Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 8911 Dallas Hollow Road, Soddy-Daisy, TN. To share memories, photos or condolences please visit www.legacyfuneralhome.com.

GERALD WALTER “Butch” EMERICK - Died Friday, May 31, 2024 at his home in New Market, Virginia at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on August 31, 1944 in New Market to the late Forrest Seekford Emerick and Esta Lee (née Golladay) Emerick. He was a United States Marine Corps veteran. He was stationed with the 2nd Division at Camp Lejeune, serving during the Cuban Missile Crises and receiving the good conduct metal. He formerly worked for Moore Brothers for 4 years building bridges on Interstate 81 and retired from Kennametal in 2004 after 28 and half years. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Woodstock Chapter #936. He was a member of Manor Memorial and the Methodist Men, the Valley Marines, New Market Eagles, and volunteered at the Food Pantry. He was preceded in death by his wife, Georgia (née McNair) Emerick; stepfather, John Walter Emerick; stepmother, Yvonne Seekford; brothers and sisters, John Frank Emerick, Debrah Emerick, John “Weasel” Emerick, Jr., Peggy Lohr, and Donna Shafer. Butch is survived by his son, Sean Miller and wife Carla of New Market; sisters and brothers, Patricia Sager and Charles of Quicksburg, Arlene Ramsey of Danville, Jackie Emerick of Broadway, William “Bill” Emerick of Shenandoah, and Roger Emerick of Mt. Jackson; three grandchildren, Erica Schell and fiancé Cody, Hayden Miller and wife Amanda, and Aundrea Taylor and husband Jordan; three great-grandchildren, Lily McCourt, Sean Mattock Miller, and Wrenley Taylor; and half-sisters, Phyllis Shifflett of New Market, Peggy Doty of Coventry, CT, and Janelle Seekford of Woodstock. The funeral service was held on Thursday, June 6th at 11:00 AM at the Manor Memorial United Methodist Church in New Market. Pastor Steven Creech officiated. The burial with military honors by the United States Marines was in the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery in New Market. The family received friends on Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 PM at the church. The pallbearers were David Hughes, Stacy McNair, Jeff Manning, Matt Estep, Rocky Sager and Brian Hepler. The honorary pallbearers were Tom Frye and Bob Estep. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Manor Memorial Methodist Men’s Group, 9320 North Congress Street, New Market, VA 22844. The family would like to thank his church family, retired Kennametal Group, all veterans, Valley Marines and the staff at Southern Kitchen for their friendship and support. We know he is giving out hugs and kisses to all the ladies in Heaven, especially the love of his life Georgia. Online condolences may be left at www.valleyfs.com. The arrangements were made by the Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg, Virginia.

JILL FEIST – Died recently in 2024 in Watertown, South Dakota at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. She was born on October 20, 1949. She is survived by her husband Ray, of the home. She was a Life Member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Watertown Chapter #1054.
JAMES RUSSELL FIELDER - Died Saturday, June 15, 2024 at NHC in Dickson, Tennessee at the age of 74. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born in Dickson on January 1, 1940 to the late Brown Crittendon Fielder and Opal Corrine Peeler Fielder. James was a proud United States Navy Vietnam Veteran and participated in monthly meeting. He was a kind and gentle soul with a heart of gold. He was always willing to help others and was a soft place to fall when someone fell on hard times. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Dickson Chapter #950. He loved Farmall tractors, collecting guns, target practice, making handmade knives, shooting fireworks, barbecuing, making homemade ice cream, watching old westerns, and playing drums. He loved his family and friends, and especially loved hanging out with his grandkids and great-grandkids. He is survived by his son, Keith Fielder, of Dickson; his two daughters, Michelle Hartley (Chad), of Middleburg, FL and Mandy Fielder, of Dickson, TN; one brother, Brown Lynn Fielder of Burns, TN; two sisters, Myrtle Jean Norwell of Dickson, TN and Marie Joan Durdin of Dickson, TN; eight grandchildren, Austin, Anna, Russell, Orla, Liam, Emmett, Emma, and Lexi, and; four great-grandchildren, Audrey, Avyen, Ella, and Brinley. He was predeceased by his parents, Brown Crittendon Fielder and Opal Corrine Peeler Fielder. The Graveside Service was conducted at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at Fielder Cemetery.

JAMES HAY “Jim” FINNEY, SR. - Died Monday, March 4, 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the age of 75. The cause of death was chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was born in Indianapolis on December 23, 1948 to the late William T. Finney and Martha (née Cummings) Finney. Jim was a long time member of Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church, serving as a greeter, sacristan, lector, Eucharistic minister, and wherever he was needed. This led a close friend to comment "his hands were everywhere" in the church. As an active member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Jim delivered groceries to needy families and helped identify families in need. He served as an officer and active member of Mater Dei Council #437 of the Knights of Columbus. He was always ready to serve anyone who needed his help. He consistently answered his phone "How can I help you?". Jim served in the United States Army as a medic in Vietnam. Jim was an active Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawrence Chapter #295 and VFW Post #261. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. As a member of the Eastside Club of Indianapolis, he encouraged anyone and everyone with whom he spoke. He struggled for years with COPD, but his physical ailments never slowed him down, including in his roofing and guttering business. He was a friend to everyone he met. James is preceded in death by his parents, William and Martha Finney; and brother, William "Bill" Finney. He is survived by his sons, James "Jim" Finney, Jr. and Ryan Finney; brothers, Peter Finney and Steve Finney; sister in law, Margo Finney; and many cousins and nephews throughout the country. A memorial mass
was held at Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church, 550 North Rural Street, Indianapolis, IN on Thursday, May 9th at 11:00 AM. The burial was at the Crown Hill National Cemetery, 725 West 42nd Street, Indianapolis, IN. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim’s honor may be made to Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church, 550 North Rural Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201, or to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, 3001 East 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218.

JOSEPH ALLEN “Joe” FLEMING (USN, CMDCM-Ret.) - Died Wednesday, March 6, 2024 in Cantonment, Florida at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Spanishburg, West Virginia on March 19, 1946 to the late Frederick and Martha Fleming. A proud Veteran of the United States Navy, he was a retired Command Master Chief, serving for 22 years. He was a member of the elite HA (L) 3 United States Navy Seawolves, a search and rescue operation. He was a member VFW #3441 and a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Princeton (West Virginia) Chapter #628. He loved to farm and garden at his 100-acre farm in West Virginia, and he was also an avid hunter. Joe was also a former Golden Glove boxer in his younger years. Preceded in death by, parents, Frederick and Martha Fleming, sisters, Sue Higgenbotham and Perry Penner, brothers, Frederick Jr., Richard, Keith and Paul, stepson, Robert Lanning, stepdaughter, Vicky Lanning. Survived by, children, Timothy Lanning, Susan (Richard) Boone, Durward (Rhonda) Fleming and Frederick (Lisa) Fleming, brother, Bernard (Pam) Fleming, sister, Virginia (Eugene) Holstein, numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other family and friends. Friends visited the family at the Jerry Spears Funeral Home, 2693 West Broad Street. Columbus, Ohio on Thursday, March 14, 2024 from 4:00-7:00 PM where the funeral service was held at 11:30 AM on Friday, March 15, 2024 with Reverend Austin Paparella officiating. The interment was in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens.

NORMAN CHARLES FEUSTEL, JR. - Died Monday, April 22, 2024 in Perry County, Tennessee at the age of 73. He was a resident of Flatwood, Tennessee and formerly of Linden, Tennessee. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on April 2, 1951 in East Meadow, New York to the late Norman Charles Feustel, Sr. and the late Dorothy Lee (née Stewart) Feustel. Norman dedicated many years to his work as a supervisor at Long Island Cremation. He was of the Methodist faith. He honorably served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, where he received his Purple Heart and several other medals. Norman was a lifetime member of AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars, a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Linden Chapter #1123 and National Rifle Association. He was a man of very few words who never hesitated to say “No!” He was a proud man with a very big heart who truly enjoyed his solitude. Norman is survived by his son, Derek (Jennifer) Feustel of Linden; daughter, Norisa (Dwight) Arnold of Santa Fe; brother, Frank; sisters, Ellie, Glenda, Brenda and Dorothy; several
grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Norman Feustel, III.; brother, Clifford; and sisters, Gwenda and Carol. The Heritage Funeral Home assisted the family with the arrangements.

LESSE LEE “Sonny” FONTENOT, JR. – Died Friday, July 5, 2024 at his home in Eunice, Louisiana at the age of 76, surrounded by family and loved ones. The cause of death is unknown. Sonny was born in Eunice on December 18, 1947 to Lessie Lee Fontenot, Sr. and Betty (née Savant) Fontenot. He worked hard as a mechanic his entire life to provide for his family, beginning in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, then at Dresser Industries and, finally, finishing out his work career with retirement from National Oil Well. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Alexandria Chapter #1131. Sonny, or as some close to him referred to him, “Sonny Bunny”, loved his family and friends immensely. He was an avid outdoorsman, cook, fisherman and loved dancing and spending time with his family and friends. There was nothing he enjoyed more than to be standing near a fire with a glass of Ancient Age in his hand, except maybe taking a Saturday night trip to the casino. He also looked forward to annual fishing trips with his “Toledo Bend Family”, which was a tradition he kept alive with his family for three decades. Sonny is survived by his loving and devoted wife of thirty-five years, Sandra Martel Fontenot; her three children, Shelly Fontenot, Jarrod Fontenot (Tricia), and Justin Fontenot (Brittany); his mother Betty Savant Fontenot; his daughter, Lori Fontenot; his three siblings, Kerry Fontenot (Fran), Sussie Fontenot Rozas (Blaine), Linda Fontenot Wheeler; seven grandchildren, Tyler Trosclair (Morgan), Layni Trosclair Vizena (Jon-Erik), Lynzi Trosclair Gaspard (Christopher), Alex Trosclair (Madison), Kynsli Fontenot, Kaylee Fontenot, Madison Fontenot; two great-grandchildren, Eli Gaspard and Channing Vizena, as well as a host of friends who were not blood, but definitely family. Sonny was preceded in death by his father, Lessie Fontenot, Sr.; his son, Blake Fontenot; his brother, Russell Glenn Fontenot, Sr. and his great-grandson, Callahan Vizena. His dance moves, infectious smile, sense of humor and kindness will be missed by all who knew him. No Services were held in accordance with Sonny’s wishes. A Celebration of Life with loved ones took place at a later date.

RAYMOND ROY FREIBERGER - Died Thursday, April 25, 2024 in Burton, Michigan at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. Raymond was born on July 11, 1948 in Burton to the late Raymond Leroy Freiberger and Lorraine Frances (née Conn) Freiberger. He was a Veteran of the United States Army and had been stationed in Vietnam and Germany. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Michigan. Raymond married Lynne Michaeelle Thompson on July 16, 1981 after meeting on a blind date in Germany over 40 years ago. He
retired from the IRS with many years of service. Raymond was involved in The Cat Fancy. Surviving are: wife of 42 years, Lynne; two children, Jonathan (Kelly) Freiberger of Texas, Jeanette (Paul) Vander Putten of Florida; grandchildren, Thomas, Travis and Evelyn; brother, Michael (Jane) Freiberger; several nieces and nephews; aunts and uncles. He was preceded in death by, his parents; and brother, Tommy Freiberger. The committal service was held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, May 2nd at the Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 North Belford Road, Holly. The arrangements were provided by the Sharp Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 6063 Fenton Road, Grand Blanc, Michigan. Those desiring may make contributions to a charity of their choice.

LAWRENCE STEARNS “Larry” “M.O.A.T.” FRIEND, SR. - Died peacefully in his home in Annandale, New Jersey Friday, July 12, 2024 at the age of 79. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born in Annandale on April 19, 1945. Lawrence was a beloved member of his community and cherished by all who knew him. Lawrence served his country proudly in the United States Navy from 1966-1972. He was a proud Vietnam Veteran who continued to serve and volunteer for others in need. His dedication to service and community extended far beyond his military career. Lawrence was a proud Eagle Scout and mentored many others to achieve the honor. For over 55 years, Lawrence was an active leader in the Boy Scouts of America, influencing young scouts and contributing to the organization's mission of building character and leadership in youth. His commitment earned him numerous accolades, including the highest Silver Beaver Award and the respect of all who had the privilege of knowing him. In addition to his work with the Boy Scouts, Lawrence was deeply involved in several veterans’ organizations, including being a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Manville Chapter #452, Rolling Thunder, American Legion, Horses for Forces and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He was also a passionate member of the American Poolplayers Association (APA), his commitment to his teams and services were strong. Larry’s life was a testament to the values of family, service, and passion. He was married to the love of his life, high school sweetheart Lynne Friend for 48 years. A loving husband, brother, father, and grandfather, he always put his family first. He is survived by his devoted family: Larry, Emmy, Leigh, BR, Vincent, Zachary, LT, Griffin, Carol and his cat Lovey. His love for his family was evident in all he did, and he took immense pride in their achievements and happiness. Beyond his professional and community involvements, Lawrence had a full personal life. He was a proud vexillologist (flag expert) who enjoyed speaking whenever asked or given the opportunity to educate others. He was a dedicated collector of dice, eggs, glass orbs and owls, amongst other things. His friends and family will remember him for his loving, thoughtful personality, his great stories (he always had one, or two...), his sense of humor that could make anyone laugh and the warmth he brought to every gathering. A celebration of Lawrence’s life was held on Wednesday, July 17th from 2:00-5:00 PM at the Kearns Funeral Home in Whitehouse Station, NJ. A Navy Honor Guard was present at 4:30 PM. In honor of his fun and informal spirit, attendees were encouraged to wear tie-dye. Larry believed in living life colorfully and joyfully, and this request is a fitting tribute to his memory. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly
requests that donations in memory of Larry may be made to Washington Crossing Council (WCC), BSA 1 Scout Way, Doylestown, Pa 18901; Attention “Friend Summer Camp Scholarship”, WCC. Lawrence Stearns Friend Sr. will be deeply missed and forever remembered by his family, friends, and all whose lives he touched. His legacy of love, service, and joy will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

LEON LARRY FROELICH - Died Sunday, May 5, 2024 at ProMedica Toledo Hospital in Toledo, Ohio at the age of 76. He was a resident of Ney, Ohio. The cause of death was cancer and Parkinson’s disease. He was born in Defiance, Ohio on August 5, 1947 to the late Edward and Agnes (née Berryman) Froelich. He proudly served our country in the United States Army. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Defiance Chapter #954. On April 1, 1983 he married Barbara Calvin, who preceded him in death on December 28, 2021. Leon worked as a Millwright at General Motors for 45 years until his retirement in 2012. Leon will be greatly missed by his family and good friends. Together during their marriage of 38 years, Barb and Leon raised their children; Greg Calvin of Atlanta, GA, Kim (Shane) Lantz of Montpelier, OH, Joe (Laurie) Froelich of Sherwood, OH, and Lenny Froelich (Pam Miller) of Hamlet, OH. He also leaves behind his grandchildren; Jake (Lindsay) Roose of Defiance, Matthew Calvin of Johnson City, TN, Jason Roose of Bryan, OH, Mitchell (Lydia) Calvin of Tennessee, Deven Froelich of Sherwood, OH, Brittany Froelich of Chicago, IL, Sophie Froelich and Zoe Froelich, both of Sherwood, OH, ten great-grandchildren, and his sister, Dina Gallant of Defiance. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Froelich, son Shon Froelich, brothers Gerald Froelich, Edward Froelich, and Gene Froelich, and sisters Charlene Donley and Bonnie Hasselswerth. Visitation was held on Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Schaffer Funeral Home in Defiance. A funeral service followed at 3:00 PM at the funeral home, with Pastor Terry Knapp officiating. Leon will be laid to rest at Riverview Memory Gardens. Memorials are suggested to Parkinson’s Research, Children’s Miracle Network, or Activities Fund at Parkview Care Center. Online condolences can be given at www.Schafferfh.com.

ROBERT E. Gamba – Died Sunday, July 8, 2018 at home in Cranston, Rhode Island at the age of 68. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Cranston on October 1, 1949 to the late Amelio and Anna (née Caldamone) Gamba. He was the beloved husband of Ann (née Woo) Gamba. Mr. Gamba was a laborer for Cardi Construction for many years until his retirement; he was also a United States Army Vietnam Veteran. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Rhode Island. Robert was the brother of the late Joyce and Norene. Relatives and friends were invited to attend his committal prayers on Thursday at 9:30 AM in Saint Ann’s Cemetery Chapel. A funeral procession was formed outside of the front gates of the cemetery at 9:15 AM to process to the chapel.
THOMAS HENRY “Butch” GANN – Died Wednesday, August 17, 2022 in Omaha, Nebraska at Nebraska Medicine at the age of 75. He was a resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa. The cause of death is unknown. Butch was born in Williford, Alaska on September 5, 1946 to the late Thomas and Dorothy (née McCallan) Gann. He married the love of his life Connie on April 22, 1967. He served in the United States Army and was a proud Vietnam Veteran. Butch worked for Mid-American Energy for 27 years and happily retired at age 62 in 2009. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Iowa. He was a member of First Christian Church. He loved hunting and fishing and watching his beloved Saint Louis Cardinals, but above all, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He had a quick wit and a razor sharp memory and loved sharing memories and telling stories. He was a man who never met a stranger and will continue his legacy in heaven. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by siblings, Jerry, Keith, and Terry Gann. Thomas is survived by his wife of 55 years, Connie Gann; children, Laurie Tehral (Ron), Shawn Temple (Don), and Lisa Gann (Paul Beisch); siblings, Rita Brandt (Roy), Sharon Moravec. Carol Tinhino (Carl)Bobbi Boze, and Larry Gann (Kelli); sister-in-law, Vickie Gann and Pam Muell; 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and cousins. Visitation was held from 2:00 -4:00 PM at the Hoy Kilnoski Funeral Home on Sunday, August 21, 2022. The funeral service was held at 10:00 AM at the Hoy Kilnoski Funeral Home on Monday, August 22, 2022. The interment was in the Omaha National Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to First Christian Church or Operation 22.

HOMERO MIGUEL GARZA – Died Monday, May 15, 2023 in Harker Heights, Texas at the age of 90. The cause of death was respiratory failure. He was born in Beeville, Texas on May 8, 1933. He served in the United States Army from December 1962 to February 1982 with a tour in Vietnam. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star for Valor and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Harker Heights Chapter #1000. He is interred in the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas.

LARRY WILLIAM GEAR-Y - Died peacefully Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at the Martinsburg Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia at the age of 75. He was a resident of Mount Jackson, Virginia. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 23, 1948 in Steubenville, Ohio to the late William and Delores Marie (née Mckinney) Geary. Larry
graduated from Follansbee High School class of 1966 and earned an associates degree from WVNCC. He proudly served his country in the United States Army and was Roman Catholic by faith. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Woodstock Chapter #936. Larry is survived by his beloved wife Kathy (née Sneddon) Geary at home; two children, Christopher (Selena) Geary of Mt. Jackson, VA and Sasha (Tim) Troup of Martinsburg, WV and one sister, Barbara Rujak of Follansbee, WV; 4 grandchildren, William and Sarah Geary, and Cheyenne Wittich; one great granddaughter, Theadora; and a nephew Brian Rujak. There were no calling hours. A graveside service was held on Saturday, June 29th at 10:00 AM with Reverend Father Gerald Mouka officiating at Oak Grove Cemetery where Larry was laid to rest. Full military honors were conducted by the United States Army and the Ohio Valley Veterans Memorial Squad. The arrangements were under the direction of the Mullenbach Funeral Home, 669 Main Street, Follansbee, WV. Condolences may be sent to www.mullenbachfh.com.

GLENN ALLEN GILLESPIE (USA, SGM-Ret.) - Died Wednesday, May 15, 2024 in Moore, South Carolina at the age of 86. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Nemours, West Virginia on April 2, 1938 to the late Ernest and Vivian (née Tate) Gillespie. His education included graduating from Pocahontas High School in 1956 and Campbell University - BBS. Glenn started his career in the United States Army in 1956 and rose to the rank of Sergeant Major. He served in Vietnam and the Pentagon while there, retiring in August of 1983. Several awards and medals were received during his career, including Bronze Star – Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Meritorious Service Medal. From 1984 through 1986 he was an Agent with the Internal Revenue Service. Glenn was a member of the Masonic Order AFAM Kansas, Past Worthy Patron Order of Eastern Star. He was also a member of Disabled American Veterans Chapter #3 and a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America - Landrum Chapter #1049. Glenn leaves behind his stepson, David Bolen, and stepdaughter, Devora A McKenzie, both reside in GA. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Charlotte Ann Wines Gillespie. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Disabled American Veterans Chapter #3, 2381 Roanoke Boulevard, Salem, VA 24153. No services were scheduled.

STEPHEN KENNETH “Steve” GILLESPIE - Died Sunday, June 2, 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky at the age of 78. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Louisville on November 29, 1945 the eldest child of the late Mary Lou and Kenneth Gillespie. He attended Saint Xavier High School and graduated from the University of Louisville. A proud United States Army veteran, Steve served in the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Louisville Chapter #454. He retired from IBM after 22 years and Ford Motor
Company after 15 years. Steve is survived by his wife Jean; children Dan (Robin), Missy Highley (Adam), and Katie Scales; grandchildren Allie and Claire Monday Gillespie, Ethan, Reid, and Bryce Highley, and Anna and John Scales; siblings Tom (Vicky), Ric (Rosie), Mark (Shirley), Sandy, and Larry (Valerie); special Quillman and Gillespie cousins; Schell sisters- and brothers-in-law; and many nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews. A Memorial Catholic Mass was celebrated at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 7th at Saint Paul Catholic Church, 6901 Dixie Highway, with a celebration immediately following in the Saint Paul cafeteria. The interment took place later at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff, KY. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Saint Xavier High School, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, or a charity of your choice.

**PETER E. GILMAN** – Died Monday, September 25, 2023 in Potomac, Maryland at the age of 78. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Norwalk, Connecticut on July 1, 1945. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Maryland. Funeral services were private at the request of the family.

**KARL WAYNE GIRTY** – Died Monday, January 22, 2024 in Enid, Colorado at the age of 59. The cause of death is unknown. Karl was born on December 7, 1964 in Cherokee, Oklahoma to the late Jerry and Evalyn (née Chew) Girty He was a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Enid Chapter #940. The graveside service was held at 3:00 PM on Friday, January 26, 2024 in the Enid Cemetery under the direction of the Anderson-Burris Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to the funeral home to help with expenses.

**THEODORE “Ted” GRANDALL** - Died Saturday, December 16, 2023 in a Minot North Dakota hospital at the age of 77. He was a resident of Lignite, North Dakota. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on January 11, 1946 in Powers Lake, North Dakota to the late Gerald and Eileen C. (née Gullickson) Grandall of Lignite, ND. He was raised on the family farm South of Lignite. Ted attended Lignite Schools, graduating as Valedictorian in 1963. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Minot State College in 1967. On August 4, 1967, Ted and Wilma J. Eaton were married in Flaxton, ND. They lived in various places throughout their lives, with Ted holding a variety of jobs and Wilma teaching in public schools. They taught in Kenmare until he performed military service in Vietnam. Upon his return Ted turned to farming. In 1989 they moved to Killeen, TX and taught school for a year, before returning to ND. They lived and taught in Whiteshield. In 1995 they returned to Lignite and were employed in the Burke Central School System. Ted served as Burke County Auditor, Burke County Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator and then returned to teaching at Burke Central until his retirement. Ted enjoyed vegetable gardening immensely, and even more, enjoyed giving the produce to friends and neighbors. Wilma died
unexpectedly April 12, 2003, leaving a painful hole in Ted’s heart and in the family’s hearts. Ted enjoyed visiting with people whether friends or strangers. He especially enjoyed explaining things in depth, with special fondness for precise descriptions of scientific and mathematical processes and results. Ted was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Lignite; he was involved with the church council, altar guild and the choir. Ted had a special affection for the people of Christ Lutheran. He was also a member of the American Legion Post, NDEA, NEA, Mu Sigma Tau fraternity at Minot State University and Lignite Lion’s Club. He was also a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – New Town Chapter #487. His loving family includes: Brothers, Michael Grandall, Grand Forks, ND, and Elliott (Karen) Grandall, Spring Valley, MN; nieces and nephews, David Grandall, Soren (Emily, Tate, and Dax) Grandall, Brenda (Chris) Christianson (Heather and David), Amie (Ray) Kraft (Ethan, Alyssa, and Ciara), Dan (Amy) Nelson (Micah, Isaac, and Addie), and Leslie (David) Rubbert (Faye, Kari, and Emma). He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Wilma. Visitation took place one hour prior to the service. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, Lignite. The interment was in the Lutheran Cemetery, Lignite, ND. Memorials are preferred to Christ Lutheran Church, Lignite or donor’s choice. The service was video recorded and available for the public to view on Thursday, December 20, 2023. The video can be accessed by going to the Thompson-Larson Funeral Home YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@thompsonlarsonfuneralhome3198.

BILLY N. GREEN - Died Monday, March 25, 2024 in Princeton, West Virginia at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 13, 1944 in Beaver, West Virginia to the late Kelmar Darwin Green and Vetrice (née Thomas) Green. Mr. Green was a veteran of the United States Army having served in Vietnam. He was a mechanic and attended OCS school in the military. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Bramwell Chapter #985 and attended the Vietnam Veterans Center in Princeton. He loved to build model cars, tinkering and gardening. He loved spending time with his grandkids. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one daughter, Melissa; one brother and one sister. Survivors include his wife, Shirley Green; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. A graveside service was conducted on Saturday, July 27, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the Whittaker Cemetery on Halls Ridge Road, Princeton, West Virginia. Military Honors were conducted by the Mercer County Veterans Honor Guard. The arrangements were made by the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.bailey-kirk.com.
DENNIS WAYNE GRIFFITH - Died Sunday, December 17, 2023 in Troy, Alabama at the age of 76, after an extended illness. The cause of death was cancer. Dennis was born on December 8, 1947 and raised in Kansas, and was a wonderful brother, husband, and father. A decorated Vietnam War veteran, Dennis retired from the United States Army after 20 years of military sacrifice for our country. After retirement, Dennis lived in Troy and served our community in various positions in the criminal justice system. Dennis also volunteered within our community in a number of organizations such as The Salvation Army, The Exchange Club, as well as Post #70 of the American Legion, a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Montgomery Chapter #607 and many others. He will be missed by all who knew him. Loving survivors include his wife, Susan Little Griffith; daughters, Holly Turner (Casey), Jennifer Griffith; grandchildren, Vivian Turner, Carson Turner; sisters, Nancy Griffith, Marsha Barfoot (Carey), as well as extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar & Lelia Rose Griffith. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Friday, December 22, 2023 at Green Hills Memorial Cemetery Veteran’s Plaza, with Reverend Bobby Templin officiating and American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #607 rendering full military honors. Visitation began at 10:00 AM at the Green Hills Funeral Home. The staff of Green Hills Funeral Home was honored to serve the Griffith family.

KENNETH LESTER “Ken” GUISEWITE - Died Friday, June 7, 2024 at home in Rebersberg, Pennsylvania at the age of 77, after a lengthy battle with lung disease caused by Agent Orange. He was born on May 28, 1947 in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania to the late Lester M. and Anna J. (née Garrett) Guisewite. In December 1965, Ken and four of his friends decided they were going to enlist in the United States Army. The very next day they did exactly that. Ken began his basic training with Company B, 6th Battalion, 2nd Brigade at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. After basic training in March of 1966, Ken went for training as a vehicle mechanic at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. In March of 1966, another lifetime event occurred for Ken, he married Donna Strickler at Saint James United Methodist Church in Coburn. After finishing his training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Ken was inducted into the United States Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia where he successfully completed the Airborne Course and received his diploma on July 22, 1966. In August 1966, Ken was sent to HHC, 2nd Battalion, 509th Infantry in Mainz, Germany. While in Germany, Ken made many airborne jumps. Some jumps were made at night and some during the day. Jumps were made in all types of weather and made in the sugar beet and hay fields as well as from C119 and C130 planes and a Helicopter 34 and a 141 jet. Ken attained the rank of SGT E-5 while in Germany. In October 1966, Ken was made a Heavy Truck Driver. When Lt. Six came to Germany, he was looking for a driver for himself. He wanted one from Pennsylvania because they knew how to drive in ice and snow. Ken was chosen for the
position. He drove for Lt. Six, (who later became a Major) until Maj. Six left for Korea. Later in October 1966, Ken became a vehicle commander and in September 1968, he was also made a track commander by Maj. Six. From time to time, the 509th would go to Baumholder, Germany to do infantry training. They would be gone anywhere from 30-45 days at a time. May 16-30, 1967, the 509th Infantry participated in the “Pathfinder Express”. This was a combined U.S./Spanish Field Exercise held in Spain. Troops from the 509th and Spanish troops jumped into Spain and completed an exercise with “Aggressor”. Equipment and supplies were also dropped out of the planes. The exercise took place near the Zaragoza Air Base, Spain. On October 7, 1967, Ken also made a jump into Turkey on a field exercise. After spending three years in Germany, on March 14, 1969, Ken went to Fort Eustis, VA, to learn Airframe Repair. After finishing his schooling, it was off to Fort Sill, OK, where he worked on CH47 and 54 helicopters. It was during this time that Ken’s rank changed from SGT E-5 to Specialist 5. On January 25, 1971, Ken was transferred to Corpus Christi Naval Base where the Army had personnel working on repairs to helicopters. While at Corpus Christi, Ken was sent to Vietnam to repair helicopters, boats and mike boats that were shot up. These repairs were done either on location where they were shot down or if possible, transferred to the USNS Corpus Christi Bay, which did the necessary repairs. By doing this, time was saved, and the equipment was able to get back in the fight, instead of sending them back to the United States for repair. In August 1972, Ken returned to Corpus Christi, TX, where he was honorably discharged. In May 1974, Ken became a member of the 318th Light Equipment Company until May 1975, when he received his 3rd honorable discharge. During Ken’s time in the U.S. Army, he earned many awards which included Paratrooper Wings (for when he was in an elite group on standby ready for deployment anywhere), Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, 1st and 2nd awards, Expert Rifle award, Sharpshooter M14, Good Conduct Medal, 1st and 2nd awards and many letter of Commendations. Upon Ken’s return home he was employed at Piper Aircraft, the Penns Valley High School and finally the former R.E. Breon and Sons Oil Company in Rebersburg where he retired from. Ken held many lifetime memberships which included, Smith Sweetwood VFW Post #9575 where he served as Jr. Vice Commander, Sr. Vice Commander and Commander, the Disabled Veterans, the Vietnam Disabled Veterans, Vietnam a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Burnham Chapter #791, the American Legion Keystone Post #444, the Centre County Fire Police Association where he served as the Vice President and President during that time and the Miles Township Fire Company for 60 years. He started out on the Forest Fire Crew run by Doug McNeal, also he was with the Fire Police, serving as Captain for many years. He also served as the Miles Township Constable in 1985 and 1991. In addition to his wife Donna, Ken is survived by one son, Daniel Miles Guisewite of Rebersburg and one daughter, Kendra Louise Hicks (Ed) of Houtzdale; three grandchildren, Kevin Hicks (Carly) of Ramey, Melinda Hicks of Winburne and Daniel Miles Guisewite, Jr or Rebersburg; one great grandson, Everett Hicks of Ramey; one sister, Marline Kennedy (William) of Chincoteague, VA and numerous nieces and nephews. Ken was preceded in death by two brothers, Larry Louis Guisewite and Rodney Eugene Guisewite and three sisters, Floretta Grace Miller, Veta Pauline Guisewite and Anna June Guisewite. A Celebration of Ken’s life was held on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at the Brush Valley New Life Church at 123 Madisonburg Pike in Madisonburg where military honors were accorded. In lieu of flowers, donations in
memory of Ken may be given to Smith-Sweetwood VFW Post #9575, 2903 Penns Valley Pike, Centre Hall, PA 16828 or to Miles Township Fire Company, POB 155, Rebersburg PA 16872.

ROBERT RALPH “Bob” GUSTIN – Died Monday, May 20, 2024 in Milford, Ohio at the age of 81. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 2, 1942 in Adams County, Ohio to the late Charles R. and Audrey (née Puckett) Gustin. Bob was the beloved husband of 50 years to the late Judith A. (née Hopkins) Gustin; loving father of Tony (Danielle) Gustin and David (Becky) Gustin; dear grandpa of Tyler Gustin and Caraline (Matt) Williams; great-grandpa of Nathan Justice and Henry Robert Williams. Along with his wife Judith and parents, Bob is preceded in death by his sister Virginia Gustin. Bob was a generous, kindhearted man, with a unique sense of humor. He never met a stranger and could light up any room he entered. Bob enjoyed gardening, landscaping, and he was a car enthusiast. As a proud United States Army Vietnam Veteran, Bob dedicated himself to serving his country with honor and bravery. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Columbus Chapter #649. Bob will be lovingly remembered and greatly missed. A visitation was held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at the Evans Funeral Home, 741 Center Street, Milford, OH. Funeral services began at 11:00 AM. The burial was at Graceland Memorial Gardens, 5989 Deerfield Road, Milford, OH. Memorial donations can be made in Bob's name to the Chapter #649 Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 426, Batavia, OH 45103.

RICHARD DALE “Rick” HAIRE, JR. - Died unexpectedly on Monday, June 24, 2024 in Jackson, Michigan at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. Rick was born in Jackson on April 17, 1949 to the late Richard Dale Haire, Sr. and Doris (née Hayner) Haire. He and Hilda were together for 41 years, of which they were married 24 years. Rick was a Vietnam War Veteran, serving our Country from 1968-1974. Rick worked for Kelsey Hayes for 30 + years before retiring. He enjoyed playing pool and golf, and hunting and fishing. He was proud of celebrating 16 years of sobriety. He volunteered at AA and was devoted to the Jackson Community, doing anything for anyone. Rick also volunteered on both the Jackson County American Legion Ritual Team and was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Jackson Chapter #109. Rick loved attending all of his children's and grandchildren's events through the years, and also enjoyed hosting many foreign exchange students over the years. Rick had a big heart, helping any and everyone who needed help he will be missed by all who knew him. Rick is survived by his sons Richard C. Haire and Edward Haire; stepchildren Gary (Debbie Emelander) Rokita, Steve (Wendy) Rokita, and Stacie (Rodney Corrigan) Rokita-Corrigan; grandchildren Meranda, Jordan, Alexis, Alyssa, Meleke, Krista, LeeAnn, Carter, Alyssa, Drew, Justin, Jaden, Jace, and Jazlyn; great grandchildren Aaliyah, Cameron, Tayanna, Ciara, Janaya, Kazimir, Gavin, Audrey, Riley, Jax, and Emmy; siblings Sandy,
Bill, and Jeff; and a host of nieces, nephews, and many wonderful friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Hilda, and daughter Jennifer Hards. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at 12:00 Noon at the Burden and Patience-Montgomery Funeral Home (1806 East Michigan Avenue). Visitation was held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 PM and from 6:00-8:00 PM at the funeral home. Rick was accorded Military Honors at Hillcrest Memorial Park Oak Chapel, where he was laid to rest next to his beloved wife, Hilda. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Haire family.

WILLIAM RAY HAIRE - Died peacefully Thursday, July 4, 2024 in Concord, Michigan at the age of 69. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 11, 1954 in Jackson, Michigan to the late Richard Dale Haire, Sr. and Doris Mae Haire. William lived a life full of love, adventure, and service. William was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Deborah Haire; his parents, Richard Dale Haire, Sr. and Doris Mae Haire; and his brother, Richard Dale Haire, Jr. He is survived by his sons, William Thomas Haire and Michael Anthony Haire; his cherished grandchildren, Connor Haire, Avery Haire, Illiandra Haire, and Hunter Haire; his siblings, Sandra Overton and Jeffrey Haire; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many dear friends who helped in his care. A proud veteran, William served his country honorably in the United States Air Force. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Jackson Chapter #109. He was a devout Christian and an active member of the CMA Motorcycle Church Club. His love for horses was evident as he frequently attended and participated in horse shows with his wife. William also had a passion for travel and cherished the moments spent with his family, especially his grandchildren. Known for his generosity and kind spirit, William touched the lives of many. In accordance with his wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held at Countryside Bible Church (1651 East Litchfield Road, Jonesville, MI) on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 11:00 AM with Pastor John Lillie officiating.

PAUL BRYAN HALL - Died Friday, June 28, 2024 at the Lawnwood Hospital in Fort Pierce Florida at the age of 74. He was a resident of Fort Pierce. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Paintsville, Kentucky to the late Lester and Mary Ruth (née Robinson). He was the beloved husband of Norma. Besides his wife Norma of 47 years, Paul is survived by his sons, David Matteson, Sean Matteson(Carol), Jason Hall(Kirsten) Amanda Brickley(Steve) his sister Donna Bryant(Chuck) and Mike Hall(Chris) his brother. 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Paul proudly served in the United States Air Force and the United States Navy. He was a Vietnam Veteran. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Middleburg.
Chapter #1059. The interment was handled by the Aycock Funeral Home and was at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery on August 2, 2024 at 1:00 PM with military honors.

Jerome C. Halmrast – Died Saturday, July 6, 2024 at Bethany Retirement Living in Fargo, North Dakota at the age of 81, surrounded by his family. He was a resident of Fargo. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Wyndmere, North Dakota on August 8, 1942 to the late Casper and Nora Halmrast. Jerome lived a life filled with dedication, service, and love. He attended school at Wyndmere High School graduating in 1961 and furthered his education at North Dakota State College of Science from 1961-1962. Jerome then got drafted and served honorably for the United States Army and until he was later honorably discharged. He then attended North Dakota State University from 1964-1965 where he received his degree. He met and married the love of his life Geraldine Schneider on September 12, 1970. Together they raised three children, Tina, Scott, and Cheri. Jerome worked his Tax Service business for over 50 years and also worked for the North Dakota State Department of Transportation and North Dakota Air National Guard. He also was a faithful Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Fargo Chapter #941, American Legion Post #2, and Bison Teamakers. He loved watching all sports including the Bison football, Red Hawks, Minnesota Vikings, and the list goes on. Most of all he loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Jerome’s love, kindness, and unwavering spirit will forever be cherished by his family, friends, and all those he touched throughout his incredible life. Jerome was survived by his wife, Geraldine; daughters, Tina (Tom) Barnes, Cheri (Kyle) Miller; son, Scott (Bernadette) Halmrast; grandchildren, Shauntel (Sean), Alex (Lacey), Kyra (Austin), Ashlee, Austin (Alyssa), Emilee (Braden); great-grandchildren, Kai, Braisyn, and baby girl Olson on the way. Jerome was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Duane (Clarice) Halmrast, Clayton (Virginia) Halmrast; nephew, Larry Halmrast; and parents in law, Rose and Pete Schneider.

Kermit Earl Harris (USAF, Lt.Col.-Ret.) - Died Tuesday, May 14, 2024, after a short illness at Maury Regional Medical Center in Columbia, Tennessee at the age of 73. He was a resident of Hohenwald, Tennessee and formerly of Chesterfield, Michigan. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 25, 1950 in Parkersburg, West "By God" Virginia to the late Kermit Hugh Harris and Tacy (née Garnet) Lynch-Harris, and later moved to Beckley, West Virginia, where he graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. He attended Beckley College, earning an associate of arts degree, West Virginia University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, and then Abilene Christian College, earning a Master of Science degree. Throughout his life, he had a variety of jobs: working in the coal mine, construction, driving trucks, and even running
moonshine. Kermit joined the United States Air Force in 1970, in which he served 38 years, 2 months, and 11 days, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. During his career, he was stationed at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas; Chanute AFB, Illinois; Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Lakenheath RAFB, England; Dyess AFB, Texas; and Selfridge ANGB, Michigan. Kermit received a Senatorial Proclamation for serving in our nation's conflicts from Vietnam until 2008. After retiring from the Air Force, he worked in the public sector as the Director of Veterans Services for Macomb County, Michigan. As Director, he implemented a new tracking procedure for veterans’ claims. The prior format used an antiquated numerical system, making it difficult to locate files. While converting the files to the new system, he obtained the approval of the county sheriff to utilize the assistance of county jail inmates in completing the project. He was instrumental in developing a pilot program with the MI Department of Health and Human Services, along with Senior Services, in assisting Veterans with getting all the benefits they were entitled to from all the departments. Kermit obtained accreditation with the Veterans Administration to represent Veterans and adjudicate their claims through the Court of Appeals. He found his niche here in Hohenwald, attending the Hohenwald United Methodist Church and becoming part of the Men's Group. He volunteered time for the County Food Bank, delivering Second Harvest supplies with Tony Kozlinski. He belonged to the Lewis County Veterans and American Legion. He attended many community activities like Rock the Block, Bingo at Lewis and Clark's, Family Feud and Trivia at Casa Grande, participating in the Memorial and Veterans events, and always went to the fair. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Clinton Township Chapter #154. Kermit is survived by his wife, Joy Lynette (née House) Harris, of Hohenwald. Children: Kermit J. Harris (Meaghan) of Grand Rapids, MI; Aundrea T. Peterson. Stepchildren: Ashley M. Kocovski (Petar) of Dearborn Heights, MI; Benjamin A. Roark (Miranda) of Chesterfield, MI; Carson M. Manning (Noel) of Chesterfield, MI; Jacob A. Dumire of Chesterfield, MI. Grandchildren: Kermit M. Harris (Angelyn) of Grand Rapids, MI; Lexie R. Harris of Grand Blanc, MI; Alexander M. Peterson of Fowlerville, MI. Step-grandchildren: Kyla R. Roark of Chesterfield, MI; Ivan and Lili Kocovski of Dearborn Heights, MI; Aurora G. and Ophelia J. Manning of Chesterfield, MI. Sister: Lelah Cunningham (Brian) of Nashville, TN. Stepmother: Ruth (Soto) Harris of Hermitage, TN. Close friends: Doug and Cathy Dewitt of Hohenwald, TN; John and Vonnie Whitworth of Shelby Township, MI; and Kathryn Ann Workman Kozlinski of Kimmins, TN. He was predeceased by both his parents and his first wife and mother of his children, Pamela (née Stark) Harris, and close friend Anthony E. Kozlinski. Visitation with friends and family was at 5:00 PM on Monday, May 20th with a pinning ceremony beginning at 6:45 PM and a Memorial Service at 7:00 PM. A private burial took place in the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. The family would like to thank all the staff at Maury Regional Health Center, NHC-Maury Regional Transitional Care Center, and Compassus for all the wonderful staff that showed Kermit nothing but respect, dignity, and love all through these last couple of months. You all are truly angels on this earth. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to a Veterans organization or charity of your choice. The McDonald Funeral Home was honored to serve the Harris family.
FRANK E. HARTMAN, JR. - Died Thursday, June 20, 2024 In Stratford, New Jersey at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Clementon, New Jersey on July 9, 1944. He was the beloved husband of Barbara (née Wilson) Hartment; devoted father of Melissa Chisholm (Mike) and Frank; loving "Pop" of Michael, Frank, and William; dear brother of Thomas Hartman, Barbara Whitman, and the late Margaret Chatburn, and; many surviving family and friends. Frank served in the United States Air Force and was a Combat Photographer which included his tour in Vietnam. Proud member of Local Union #322, retired, where he formed lasting friendships. "There was never an organization that Frank wouldn't join". Commander of the Rawls-Tait VFW Post #7334 and a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Somerdale Chapter #1068 where he and his fellow veterans formed an unbreakable bond. Lifetime member of the Stratford Fire Company, lifetime member of NJ State Firemen's Association, Stratford Ambulance, and President of Stratford Council. His love for his town was unmeasurable. He was a member the American Legion, Elks Club, and many more organizations. His true love was the beach. Especially driving his Jeep on the beach with his grandsons and fishing there. He also enjoyed wine making, golfing, and flying model airplanes. Frank never ran out of energy and we called him "our energizer bunny" always on the go! There was a viewing from 1:00 until 3:00 PM on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at the Gardner Funeral Home, Runnemed. The funeral service followed viewing. The interment was private at the request of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Frank's memory to Raws-Tait VFW Post #7334, 10 Kennedy Blvd, Somerdale, NJ 08083.

JAMES E. “Jim” HERBERT – Died Monday, January 1, 2024 at the age of 76 in his home in Canton, Michigan, after a rapid decline with frontotemporal dementia. He was born in Manchester, New Hampshire on July 16, 1947 to the late Gordon and Judith (née Fradd) Herbert. Jim spent most of his life living in Athol, Massachusetts. Jim graduated from Athol High School in 1965 where he was a beloved classmate and friend, and he went on to Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. There he met the love of his life, Barbara, on the first day of classes Freshman year. They were friends for years before Jim agreed to be the date for Barbara’s sister, who was visiting her, and it was then that Barbara realized she loved Jim after being jealous of her sister all night. Later, after they were engaged to be married, Jim was drafted into the United States Army during the Vietnam War, and they rushed to have their wedding before he left for training. Jim served as a records clerk while in Vietnam in 1971. He was well liked and respected in his unit, and was affectionately known as The Herb amongst his Army brothers. He became mildly famous in Athol in 1992 when word got out that he had spent one night on lookout duty with Al Gore during his time in Vietnam. When Jim returned from the war he was stationed at Fort Meade, MD, for the last year of his Army service. He and Barbara lived in Maryland for the next
9 years, where he earned a Master's degree in Early Childhood Development, and held various jobs working for the U.S. Government. In 1981 they moved back to Athol, MA, and Jim took over his father's business, Thompson Insurance Agency. In 1988 Thompson and Cetto Insurance merged to form Cornerstone Insurance Agency, where Jim was co-owner until his retirement in 2016. Jim was deeply involved in his community. Jim was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Athol Chapter #340. He was a proud member of the Athol Orange Rotary Club for 38 years, serving in multiple roles including president from 1989-91. Jim was involved in implementing the club’s Lifeline Project, which provides local elderly and homebound participants with a sense of safety when home alone. He also organized the Adopt a Highway program for the club for many years. Jim and Barbara participated in numerous vocational and fellowship exchanges with Rotary’s Group Study Exchange and the Bandy-Hefler British exchange, hosting many visitors from other countries. Jim epitomized a dedicated Rotarian, living the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," while serving his community with grace and dignity. Jim served on the board of directors for the Athol Credit Union for 27 years, and served on the board of Athol Area United Way. He was also a member of the Athol Congregational Church since childhood. Jim and Barbara spent over 53 years lovingly married, and they had one daughter, Bonnie. Jim was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, cousin, uncle, and friend. He was wonderfully kind and charismatic, and he had a magical way of gathering friends about him. Jim was a master at maintaining lifelong friendships in a way that very few can do. While he was kind and genteel, he was also a self-proclaimed curmudgeon, a term that ultimately led to his grandfatherly moniker, "Mudgie." He wore the term proudly, though only his closet friends ever saw this side of him. Jim had a wonderful sense of humor, lovingly picked on those he was closest to, and considered it an affront if he was not picked on in return. Jim enjoyed traveling with Barbara, and among their many memorable vacations was a special trip to Australia to visit long lost family members from Jim's family. He took a particular interest in genealogy and spent years doing extensive genealogical research of both his and Barbara's families. His love of ancestry is what reconnected the families across the world. Jim's love for, and knowledge of music was unrivaled by most, and music was in every part of his life. This love of music connected him with so many others and was the beginning of many a friendship. He enjoyed attending concerts big or small, and collected thousands of records over his lifetime. For years Jim participated in the Athol Theater Guild, and acted and sang in the plays Annie, Oliver, Fiddler on the Roof, and The Wizard of Oz. He had a wonderful voice, and Bonnie has fond memories of him singing lullabies to her as a child. Jim enjoyed bird watching since childhood, and was one of the founding members of the Athol Bird and Nature Club. He religiously put out food for the birds in rain, shine, or snow, and spent a good deal of time and money trying to thwart the local squirrels' theft of his birdseed. One can imagine his joy when his granddaughter's first word was "bird." He was a lover of the history of the Quabbin and enjoyed spending time walking there, binoculars in hand. Jim loved playing bridge, trivia games, reading fiction, good jokes, spoonerisms, a good beer, and gathering with friends at home and at the local pubs. Jim is survived by his wife, Barbara; their daughter, Bonnie (Aakash) Puntambekar; grandchildren Asha and Rohen; brothers Kirk (Pat) and Jeffrey; first cousins Jann, Cindy, Pamela, and Robert Jr; and many more beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Gordon, mother Judith (née Fradd), brother Gordon Jr, and cousin Rick. We will love you forever Jim/Dad/Mudgie, although we know if you could say it again you would reply, "I love you more. The end. I win." The burial was held at a
later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to: the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, via TheAFTD.org; Athol Orange Area Rotary Club, memo Foundation, P.O. Box 181, Athol, MA 01331; or Athol Congregational Endowment Fund, 1225 Chestnut Street, Athol, MA 01331. The Witty Funeral Home, 158 South Main Street, Orange assisted the family.

CHARLES C. HOFFMAN - Died Thursday, April 11, 2024 in Angeles City, Philippines at the age of 82. The cause of death was heart failure. He was born on December 15, 1941. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Angeles City Chapter #887.

JOHN HUSTON – Died recently in 202 in The Villages, Florida at the age of 89. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 23, 1934. He is survived by his wife. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Oxford Chapter #1036.

STEPHEN CHARLES “Steve” JAFFE – Died Wednesday, June 26, 2024 in Wilmington, North Carolina at the age of 82, in the presence of his wife and son after a brief illness. The cause of death is unknown. Steve was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 18, 1942 to the late Mimi Jaffe and Alfred Irving Jaffe. He grew up between Brooklyn and Cold Spring, New York. He was a graduate of the University of Delaware (B.S.), the University of Missouri-Columbia (M.S.), and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan (DVM). Prior to veterinary school, Steve served his country with honor as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy aboard both the U.S.S. Safeguard and a river patrol boat during the Vietnam War. Following his active military service, Steve served as assistant director of the William Land Park Zoo in Sacramento, California, and, after earning his DVM, as curator and veterinarian at the Philadelphia Zoological Garden. Then his family moved south, and by the early 1980s he’d found a home at Needham Animal Hospital, where he worked for nearly 40 years in Carolina Beach and Wilmington. Steve was a member of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association, a life member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and for 14 years the treasurer of the North Carolina Academy of Small Animal Medicine. Caring for animals was never just a job for Steve. From treating injured wildlife to lending a hand at the Stables at Poplar Grove, he was always generous with his time, always ready to help animals in need. Thus many creatures found themselves temporary or permanent residents of the Jaffe household over the years, including, in no particular order: innumerable stray cats; a coyote, a dingo, and a hound dog; a crow, an owl, several pelicans, and a chicken who laid only soft eggs; a couple of loggerhead sea turtles, a python, a raccoon, a squirrel, a grizzly bear (only a cub), and God only knows what else. Beyond his work as a veterinarian, Steve had an insatiable curiosity about science, nature, history, languages, culture, food … and the list goes on. Only a week before he went into the hospital, this 82-year-old had returned from a solo expedition to rural Illinois in search of the best, most
cacophonous spot to experience this year’s cicada broods hatching. That was quintessential Steve Jaffe. He was an active and enthusiastic member of too many organizations to count over the years. More recently they included Canines for Service, where he served on the board of directors, Brunswick Search and Rescue, the North Carolina Composting Council, and local chapters of the Navy League, a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Wilmington Chapter #885, the American Legion, and the Military Officers Association of America. And speaking of active, Steve for many years was a member of Cape Fear Lacrosse and Cape Fear Rugby, which he and his aching hips eventually transitioned out of in favor of darts, disc golf, and his beloved bocce. There’s much, much more that could be said about Steve. And there will be. But for now, just know this: He loved his family and friends. He loved animals and nature. And he loved his country. He was a good man, a truly unique man. A pathological punner, a crossword maven, an oyster-eating legend, an adventurer to the last. He will be missed dearly by family and friends near and far, by his colleagues at Needham Animal Hospital, by his bocce buddies, his Thursday Night Boys’ Club, his brothers and sisters in the veterans organizations mentioned above, and too many others to count. Steve was preceded in death by his mother, Mimi Jaffe, and father, Alfred Irving Jaffe. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Ingrid Danapel Jaffe, his son, Anthony Emile Bernard Jaffe (Elizabeth Anne Gregory Jaffe), his sister, Ronnie Sue Jaffe (Geoffrey Gibson), his brother-in-law Uwe Danapel (Tetiana Danapel), his sister-in-law Ute Danapel, and his beloved cats Kevin and Little Marie. A celebration of life was held in Wilmington on a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Steve’s name may be made to Canines for Service HERE, The Stables at Poplar Grove HERE, or any other organization dedicated to animals or veterans. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Wilmington Funeral and Cremation Service. Please leave condolence messages for Stephen’s family on his Tribute Wall at www.wilmingtoncares.com.

GARY PAUL JANSEN - Died peacefully Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at the Dennis and Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy in Hiawatha, Iowa at the age of 80. He was a resident of Davenport, Iowa. The cause of death is unknown. Gary was born on July 17, 1943 in Davenport to the late Harold and Charlotte (née Schulte) Jansen. He graduated from Assumption High School in 1961 and attended Saint Ambrose College. Gary proudly served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War earning the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, and Vietnam Campaign Medal (with device). He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Bettendorf Chapter #776. Gary was united in marriage to Carol Lehman on August 10, 1968 at Holy Family Catholic Church and they had six children born to this union. Gary began his career at J.I. Case and in car sales before transitioning to the insurance industry primarily with NY Life, Equitable Life, and John Deere Insurance. He later owned his own Allstate Insurance branch in Bettendorf. Gary loved to play the piano and had countless pieces of sheet music. He also enjoyed movies especially with popcorn and Diet Pepsi, and loved recording his family’s activities with his large handheld camcorder. In addition to being a history buff, he could name any car by sight due to his great love of classic cars. Gary
always regretted selling his 1964 ½ white Ford Mustang. He enjoyed making people laugh, had a way of lighting up the room with his contagious smile, and was known for his “dad jokes.” Gary also cherished his time with family and his lunches with lifelong friends. Those left to honor his memory are his children: Mark (Shannon) Jansen, Morehead City, North Carolina, Elizabeth (Benjamin) John, Madison, Wisconsin, Katherine (Ryan) Quamme, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, Peter (Pamela) Jansen, Ormond Beach, Florida, and Matthew (Megan) Jansen, Hiawatha, Iowa; daughter-in-law, Jamie Bennett, El Dorado, California; grandchildren: Amanda (Anthony) Bergamini and Lauren Jansen, Natalie, Davis, and Gable Jansen, Samuel and Emily Wright, Aidan and Dylan John, Beckham and Nolan Quamme, Abigail and Luke Jansen, and Clark, Benjamin, and Anthony Jansen; siblings: Rudy (Helen) Jansen, Gregg (Linda) Jansen, Mike (Beth) Jansen, and Richard (Mona) Jansen; many nieces and nephews, and his significant other, Denise Eilers, Davenport. Gary was preceded in death by his son, Paul Jansen, his parents, brother, Thomas Jansen, and nephews, Grant, Adam, and Richie. May they rest in peace. Visitation was held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 from 9:00–10:30 AM at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church, 4097 – 18th Street, Bettendorf. Mass was celebrated at 10:30 AM. The burial was at the Rock Island National Cemetery, Arsenal Island. A luncheon to celebrate Gary’s life was held at Saint John Vianney following the burial. We are incredibly thankful for the care he received at Good Samaritan, Genesis, and Oldorf Hospice House. Memorial donations are suggested to the Bettendorf Veterans Memorial.

EDGAR Joseph “Eddie” JENSEN, JR. - Died Friday, July 28, 2017, at Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte, North Carolina at the age of 70. He was a resident of Mooresville, North Carolina. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on August 29, 1946 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island to the late Edgar J. and Dorothy (née Packer) Jensen. Mr. Jensen worked as a State Marshal and was a United States Army Veteran. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Rhode Island. He was preceded in death by a sister, Ruthy Medeiros. Mr. Jensen is survived by his wife of 30 years, Maria Ferreira Santos; children, Debbie Shearon, Edgar Jensen III, Christopher Jensen and Molly Jensen; step-children, Sandra and Benvinda Santos; brother, Earl Jensen; sisters, Donna Beland, Debbie Andrade, Sandra Dumont and Lori Jensen; twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held at 12:00 Noon on Sunday, July 30, 2017 at the Cavin-Cook Funeral Home Chapel, Mooresville, with Deacon Joe Santen officiating. The family received friends from 10:00 AM– 12:00 Noon prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8517. The Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville was in charge of the funeral arrangements for the family of Mr. Jensen. Condolences may be made to the Jensen family at www.cavin-cook.com.

ROGER JODOIN – Died Friday, October 18, 2019 in Douglas, Massachusetts at the age of 76. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on May 17, 1947. He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member, Founding Member
CARL LEON JOHNSON - Died Saturday, May 18, 2024 in Spencerville, Ohio at the age of 76, surrounded by his family at home. The cause of death was cancer. Leon was born on December 8, 1947 in Lima, Ohio to the late Lewis Carl and Rita Jean (née Bible) Johnson. He graduated from Gomer High School in 1966. After graduation, Leon proceeded to attend college at the University of Toledo until he received his draft notice. He could have opted out of the service, but that was not him. He left school and headed to the United States Army. After his training, he left for Vietnam and was part of long-range reconnaissance missions which were 3-5 man groups. He was wounded three times and received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for valor. When he came home from Vietnam, he initially wasn’t welcomed into the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). His cousin Sam talked him into giving the Spencerville VFW a chance and Leon went to his first meeting and was elected Jr. Vice-Commander. As time went on, he became more involved and was elected Post Commander in 1998. In 2001 he became the District 2 Commander and then held the office of VFW State Commander in 2009-2010. As department commander, he earned All American Status. In 2003 he was involved with creating the VFW Ohio Charities. They formed this charity to help ensure that posts would be able to help support their local communities. Leon’s passion in the VFW was his role as Veteran and Military Support Chairman. In 2010, he really saw the need for a program that could help support Veterans and National Guard and Reservist who needed financial assistance. He set up the Ohio Military Assistance Program (MAP) within the department. This program has helped so many and truly created a bond within the State of Ohio between the VFW and the Ohio National Guard. Leon spent so many hours and miles on the road taking care of these members and their families. Leon has always made sure he took care of everyone else. It didn’t matter if it was his family, employees, VFW members and posts, veterans or military members and their families. Leon will definitely be missed, but his legacy will live on forever with those he touched. He was also a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Celina Chapter #783. On January 22, 2000, Leon was united in marriage to Robin Ann Ramler. Once he returned home from the service, he worked as a plumbing, heating, and electrical contractor. He began working for John P. Timmerman then started Quality Mechanical Comp. Aside from his pride and love for his time in the military and work with the VFW, Leon loved his family more than anything. He is survived by his mother, Rita Johnson of Wooster, OH; his wife, Robin Ann Johnson; three children, Michael Lee (Angela) Johnson of Wooster, OH; Craig Robert (Tammy) Wilburn of Grayson, KY; Sarah Jane (Jason) Algeria of Casa Grande, AZ; five grandchildren, Nathan Johnson, Garret Johnson, Jackson Wilburn, Georgia Wilburn, and Riley Algeria; and three siblings, Vickie Sue Young of London, OH, Linda (Rory) Reed of Wooster, and Peggy (Jim) Retzler of Wooster. Leon was preceded in death by his father, and siblings, David Johnson and Becky Woo. There was a visitation from 4:00-8:00 PM with a VFW
service starting at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at the Thomas E. Bayliff Funeral Home in Spencerville. Visitation continued from 10:00-11:00 AM followed by the funeral at 11:00 AM on Thursday, May 23, 2024, also at the funeral home with Pastor Terry Frazer officiating and with military honors provided by local veterans and the Army honor guard. Private family burial took at the Spencerville Cemetery. The Thomas E. Bayliff Funeral Home in Spencerville took care of the family for Leon. In lieu of flowers, preferred memorial may be given to the Bowersock Brothers VFW Post #6772 in Spencerville.

**HERBERT LEE “Herb” JOHNSON, JR.** - Died Saturday, February 10, 2024 in Shoreline, Washington at the age of 83. The cause of death was heart failure. Herbert was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on November 20, 1940. Herb had a distinguished 30-year career with the Navy then 26 years with the University of Washington Admissions office. He was a member of multiple organizations such as a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Edmonds Chapter #423* and Crestwood Board. He enjoyed watching the Seahawks and University of Washington Huskies. His favorite phrase was ‘Beam me up Scotty, I’m ready to go” which has finally happened. He is survived by his partner Jane Goodridge, his children Robert Johnson and wife, Patricia, Kristine Bumgardner and husband Harry and Debbie Johnson. Jane’s children Robin Parmelee, Russell Goodridge, Tracy Goodridge and grandchildren on both sides. A Celebration of Life was held on Friday, February 23 and 24 from 1:00- 3:30 PM at the Christwood Park Senior Living, 350 North 190th Street. Shoreline, WA. In lieu of flowers, donations in his name to American Heart Society or Veterans Administration.

**STANLEY V. “Rooster” KAMPWERTH** - Died Saturday, June 20, 2024 at his home in Bartelso, Illinois at the age of 76. The cause of death was cancer. He was born on August 31, 1947 in Breese, Illinois to the late Lawrence and Agnes (née Lammers) Kampwerth. Stanley married Donna (née Trame) Kampwerth on April 24, 1971 at Saint Anthony Catholic Church in Beckemeyer and she survives in Bartelso. Also surviving are his children, Tim (Carla) Kampwerth of Aviston, Tony Kampwerth of Breese, and Russ (Alyssa) Kampwerth of Aviston; grandchildren, Cameron and Maya Kampwerth and Logan and Kylie Kampwerth; sister, Helen (Vernon) Vahlkamp of Carlyle; mother-in-law, Loretta, nee Korte, Trame of Breese; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Judy (Jerry) Korte of Breese, Judy Kampwerth of Breese, Jane Kampwerth of Beckemeyer, Dr. Eldon (Dr. Anne Stewart) Trame, MD of Belleville, Michael (Dolores) Trame of Highland, Barb (Dave “Rip”) Glaub of Breese, and Steve (Angie) Trame of Champaign; and nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Stanley was preceded in death by a son, Edward Lawrence Kampwerth; brothers, Cyril Kampwerth, Leroy Kampwerth, Marcel (Joan) Kampwerth, Tom Kampwerth, and Lawrence “Turk” Kampwerth; father-in-law, Edwin Trame; and brother-in-
law, Lester Trame. Rooster was a proud graduate and steadfast supporter of Mater Dei Catholic High School. He served his country as a veteran of the United States Army during the Vietnam War. After his military service, Stanley pursued a career in carpentry, retiring in 2020 after many years with local construction companies. He was an active member of Saint Cecilia Catholic Church in Bartelso and served as past-president of the Bartelso Elementary School Board. Devoted to his fellow veterans, Stanley was deeply involved with and was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Breese Chapter #269. He dedicated himself to various initiatives within the VVA including military honors, building ramps for veterans, organizing golf tournaments and breakfasts, assisting with setting up several veteran memorials, and volunteering at Whispering Pines, enriching the lives of those around him. Beyond his community involvements, Rooster found joy in woodworking, fishing, gardening, and cherished every moment spent with his family, especially attending his grandchildren's sporting events and activities. The Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Saint Cecilia Catholic Church in Bartelso with Reverend Father. Thomas Lugge who presided at the I which took place at a later date. Visitations were held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 from 4:00–8:00 PM and again on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 from 9:00–10:45 AM at Saint Cecilia Catholic Church in Bartelso. In lieu of flowers, plants, and other gifts, memorials may be made to Mater Dei Catholic High School or Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #269 and will be received at the visitation or by mail, Moss Funeral Home, 535 North 5th Street, Breese, IL 62230 who served the family.

KENNETH WAYNE KEPHART (USA, CW4-Ret.) – Died Thursday, June 13, 2024 in Round Rock, Texas at the age of 80, following a brief illness. He was a resident of Killeen, Texas. The cause of death was multiple organ failure. Wayne, as he was known to his family and friends, was born on October 18, 1943 in Billings, Montana to the late Kenneth Isaac and Mabel Thelma (née Davis) Kephart. His younger years were spent growing up on the Campbell Farming Corporation where his parents worked and then a small farm in Ravalli, Montana. After his family moved to the Hardin, Montana area, Wayne became the first chair trumpet player in the Hardin Junior High and High School Bands. This talent led him to be called upon to play taps for many services at the Custer National Cemetery located at the Little Bighorn Battlefield. Following the loss of his parents, Wayne moved to Paradise Valley, Nevada, to live with his uncle and aunt, Rudolph and Blanche Schwartz. There he graduated from high school in Winnemucca, Nevada, in the spring of 1961. Wayne then moved back to Hardin, Montana, where he worked for the Campbell Farming Corporation and the Holly Sugar Factory. Wayne enlisted in United States Army in 1964. This enlistment led him to a 27-year military career seeing many parts of the world including Korea, the Vietnam War, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Germany, the Persian Gulf conflict as well as the USA. He was a Bronze Star recipient. Upon his retirement from the U.S. Army, Wayne obtained his Associates of Applied Sciences degree from Central Texas College in 1991 and
became a diesel instructor and curriculum writer for the Industrial Technology Department of Central Texas College allowing him to travel the state of Texas teaching at various TDOT locations. Wayne then retired from CTC and pursued his full time retirement. Wayne married Betty (née Salveson) on November 20, 1965, at the First Baptist Church in Hardin, Montana. They later had one daughter, Keri. Wayne enjoyed bowling, winning many trophies along the way, hunting, camping, researching his family tree, watching western movies, and rodeos. His number one hobby though was fishing, and he could be found out on the local lakes, in the Gulf of Mexico, Matagorda Bay, or along rivers and streams in Montana and Wyoming fishing with family and friends. He enjoyed having his morning coffee “meetings” with friends and fellow VFW members. He was also a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Harker Heights Chapter #1000. Wayne was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of almost 59 years, Betty, of Killeen, Texas and daughter, Keri, of Weatherford, Texas as well as his extended family and many, many friends. Services with Full Military Honors were held at the Central Texas Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Friday, June 28th at 11:00 AM.

JOHN MICHAEL KIERECK, SR. – Died unexpectedly Saturday, June 1, 2024 in Rochester, New York at the age of 82. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Rochester on March 15, 1942 to the late Edward Kiereck and Theodora Kiereck. John was also predeceased by his wife, Margaret “Peggy” Kiereck, sister Maria Kurycki (John), brother Thomas Kiereck, nephew Matthew Kiereck, and niece Dawn Kiereck. John is survived by his son, John Kiereck Jr (Alice), brothers James Kiereck and Joseph (Marcy) Kiereck, sisters Veronica Kiereck, Deborah Sunbeck (Phillip Profeta), Mary Rita (Robert) Kurycki, sister-in-law Mary (Rodney) Reisdorf, many cousins, nieces, nephews, and his special friend, Mary Skinner. He also leaves behind the light of his life, granddaughter Emma Kiereck. John was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force where he served as a missileer during the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He would often share stories of his time in the service, fondly remembering his time stationed in Kansas. Later in his life, John became an active Life Member of local and national veteran groups like the Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20 reconnecting with his Air Force roots. He was also a proud participant in the Rochester Honor Flight program, traveling with his son, John, to Washington, DC on Mission 60. An avid outdoorsman, John spent many happy weekends hunting at “the farm” with family and friends and fishing at Naples Creek. Even at home, John could often be found outside working in the yard or making sure the pool was ready for the next party. No leaf or twig was safe on his watch. Preserving memories was a passion for John. He was never far from his camera and always ready to capture the moment. He was always happy to look through photos and share stories of times gone by. Thanks to John, we’ll always be able to remember each special moment. Calling hours were held from 4:00-6:00 PM on Friday June 14th at the Farrell-Ryan Funeral Home in Greece, NY. A funeral mass was celebrated at Saint Charles Borromeo Church, also in Greece at 9:30 AM on Saturday June 15th followed by the interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #20, Rochester, NY or Honor Flight Rochester.
JOHN VAN KINDER - Died Friday, July 5, 2024 at Cornerstone Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas at the age of 76. He was a resident of Alexandria, Louisiana. The cause of death is unknown. John was born in Alexandria on January 24, 1948 to the late M.V. Kinder, Jr. and Melvine (née Pickett) Kinder. He was a graduate of Bolton High School and went on to attend Louisiana Polytechnical College in Ruston where he met and married the love of his life and then returned home to Alexandria to reside and raise his family. He did one tour overseas during Vietnam with the United States Navy and returned home to start his life-long career at the family business, Kinder Paint Company. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Alexandria Chapter #1131. During his life, he enjoyed collecting cars, bowling, gardening, and cheering on the kids, grandkids, and great-grand at countless events. He lived to help others and was a hopeless workaholic, it brought him joy to help others. He was preceded in death by his parents, M.V. and Melvine Pickett Kinder. Those left to cherish his memory include his beloved wife of 55 years, Gayle (née Simpson) Kinder of Alexandria; sons, Stephen Craig Kinder and wife Rebecca of Alexandria; James Martin Kinder and wife Jennifer of Portland, Oregon; daughter, Kimberly Kinder Tanner and husband Jason of Maumelle, Arkansas; brother, R. Bruce Kinder and wife Carol of Alexandria; sister, Barbara Kinder Bankson and husband Bobby of Friendswood, Texas; eleven grandchildren; one great-grandchild, and numerous other family and friends. Services were held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, July 27, 2024 in the Chapel of Hixson Brothers, Alexandria with Pastor Brad Webb officiating. The burial was in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Ball. The family requested that visitation be observed at the funeral home on Friday, July 26, 2024 from 5:00-8:00 PM and continued on Saturday from 8:00 AM until the time of the service. Special thanks to all the staff at Cornerstone Hospital in Little Rock for the care and compassion during his stay.

THOMAS G. “Tom” KIRBY – Died Saturday, June 8, 2024 in Cumming, Georgia at the age of 77, surrounded by family. The cause of death was Agent Orange-related pancreatic cancer and renal failure. He was born in Herrin, Illinois on August 18, 1946 to the late William and Mary Jean Kirby. Tom grew up with a spirit of adventure and compassion. His service in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War reflected his unwavering commitment to duty and honor. Following his service, he opened his clothing store, The Village Squire, with his former wife Sallie Barrett. Later in his life, he found his calling with missionary work in Africa. He was led there by his faith and this is where he met his current wife Marie-Jeanne. Once his work in Africa was complete, he moved back to Georgia and as he approached retirement he found his focus shifted back to people and he volunteered avidly and was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Cumming Chapter #1030. Tom will be remembered for his unwavering integrity, his boundless generosity, and his infectious laughter. He leaves behind a
legacy of love and resilience that will continue to inspire all who knew him Tom was preceded in death by his mother and father William and Mary Jean Kirby, and sons Thomas Grover Kirby, Jr and William (BJ) Earl Kirby. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 28 years, Marie-Jeanne Kirby, five children; Leah Rasori (Paul) of Alpharetta, GA; Andy Kirby (Christina) of Flower Mound, TX; Marie-Louise Kirby of Atlanta, GA; Ludovic Kirby of Atlanta, GA and Sam Kirby of Atlanta, GA. He also leaves behind four grandchildren: Jakob Roscoe, Los Angeles, CA; Sofia Roscoe, Kennesaw, GA; Olivia Kirby, Flower Mound, TX and Jack Kirby, Flower Mound, TX. A Celebration of Life was held for Tom Kirby on June 22 between 2:00 -4:00 PM at the American Legion, 201 Wills Road, Alpharetta, Georgia. Also, a memorial service was held on July 9th at 6:30 PM at Bennies, 309 North Market Street, Marion, IL 62959. For those wishing to honor Tom’s legacy through donation, please consider the Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter #1030, P.O. Box 3088, Cumming, Ga 30028.

IVAN CHARLES “Doc” KIRKPATRICK – Died Thursday, May 23, 2024 in Cassville, Missouri at the age of 81. He was formerly of Newark, Ohio. The cause of death is unknown. Ivan was born on May 22, 1943 in Newark, Ohio to the late William Edmund and Louise (née Davis) Kirkpatrick. He passed away on Thursday, May 23, 2024 (just a day after his birthday) at Mercy Hospital in Rogers, Arkansas. Ivan was a veteran of the United States Navy, faithfully serving his country from November 1964 to September 1968 during Vietnam. He attended college at both Park College and the Ohio State University-Newark and retired from the Newark Air Force Base where he had been employed for many years. Ivan was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Newark Chapter #55 and the NRA. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and loved his dogs, Ralph and Jeb, who meant the world to him. He is survived by a brother, William E. Kirkpatrick, Jr. of Nashport; sisters, Louella Kalbrier of Fayetteville, North Carolina and Barbara Ford of Zanesville; nieces and nephews, Terie Mulcare, Joseph Kirkpatrick, Katherine Kirkpatrick, Chris Kirkpatrick, Lisa Branston, and Glenda Smith; 15 great nieces and nephews; and special friends, Darrell and Melba Henson, the Mulford family, and Truman Berbridge. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Russell A. Kirkpatrick and sister-in-law Dorcas Annabelle Kirkpatrick. A funeral service celebrating his life was held at 8:00 PM on Friday, May 31st at the Criss Wagner Hoskinson Funeral Home. Military honors were accorded by the Licking County Veterans Alliance. The inurnment took place at a later date in Rocky Fork Cemetery.
Friends visited from 5:00-8:00 PM prior to the service at the funeral home, 179 Granville Street, Newark. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ohio Wildlife Center, 6131 Cook Road, Powell, OH 43065. The Criss Wagner Hoskinson Funeral was honored to care for Ivan and his family.

CHARLES L. “Charlie” KONDRAT, SR. - Died peacefully Saturday, May 25, 2024 at the Holyoke Veterans Home, Holyoke, Massachusetts at the age of 95. He was formerly a resident of Westfield, Massachusetts. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Westfield on March 5, 1929 to the late Frank and Margaret (née Margelony) Kondrat. He attended local schools and graduated from Westfield Vocational High School in 1947. After graduation Charlie enlisted in the United States Air Force serving for 20 years before retiring in 1968. Some of Charlie's overseas tours were Thule, Greenland, Trinidad, and Japan. Charlie also saw action in the Republic of Vietnam. After retiring from the Air Force, he went on to work at Hamilton Standard and Forish construction. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Westfield Chapter #219. Those who knew Charlie, knew he had hobbies for gardening, coin collecting, photography, and had a fascination for aircraft. He was an active member in the VFW for many years. Charlie leaves his children Charles, Jr., Pamela Kondrat, Robin Flynn and her husband Patrick. His grandchildren, Matthew, Timothy, his wife KerriAnn, Daniel, Anthony and Alyssa. He also leaves two great-grandchildren, A.J. and Ellowyn. Charlie is predeceased by his siblings, John, Peter, Frank Kondrat, Jr., Catherine Nazario, and Mary Cooper, Helen Petros and Anna Kondrat. Calling hours for Charlie were held on Saturday, June 1st from 10:00-11:00 AM in Firtion-Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad Street, Westfield, MA. The burial was in Saint Mary’s Cemetery, Westfield. www.firtionadams.com.

MARK G. LEDBETTER – Died Thursday, September 21, 2023 in Sierra Vista, Arizona at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born Hennepin, Minnesota on June17, 1949. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Sierra Vista Chapter #1093.

STEVEN R. LEGGETT – Died Monday, June 17, 2023 in Janesville, Wisconsin at the age of 69. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin on May 10, 1955. He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Whitewater Chapter #409.
NICHOLAS ROBERT “Nick” LERRO, SR. - Died Thursday, June 6, 2024 at home in Woodlyn, Pennsylvania at the age of 71, surrounded by family and loved ones. The cause of death was chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and kidney failure. He was born on January 7, 1953 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late Louis B. and Carmella G. (née Falsone) Lerro. He then became a resident of Delaware County, graduating from Ridley High School in 1972. Nick proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and spent his remaining lifetime saluting all who fought and continue to fight for our country. He was a volunteer at Holmes Fire Company (Station 43) and was a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, Peace Council and Cardinal Dougherty Assembly. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Media Chapter #67. He loved to travel with his wife exploring local and distant historical landmarks and planning large family trips to the Poconos and the Outer Banks, NC. Nick shared many hobbies with his son, twin brother, and friends, ranging from antique car restoration, amateur radio operations (W3NRL), and historic firearm restoration, to name a few. He was an active parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Church where he was appointed lead usher and council member. Nick is survived by his wife, Patricia (née Davis) Lerro; son, Nicholas (Heidi) Lerro, Jr.; four grandchildren, Nicholas III, Savannah, Lukas, and Levi Lerro; twin brother Dennis (Nancy) Lerro; niece Christina (John) Clausen; great-niece Mia Clausen. Friends and Relatives were invited to attend Nick’s viewing on Tuesday June 18, 2024 from 9:30 to 11:00 AM at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 1 Fatima Drive, Secane, PA. A Funeral Mass was celebrated immediately following at 11:00 AM. The interment with full military honors was at Holy Cross Cemetery in Yeadon, PA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Delaware County Chapter #67, P. O. Box 1220, Media, PA. Nick was a Chartered member with this chapter.

RICHARD JOHN “Rich” LINZMAIER – Died Friday, July 19, 2024 in Fort Worth, Texas at the age of 86. The cause of death was Alzheimer’s Disease. He was born on December 11, 1937 in Marshfield, Wisconsin to the late Peter F. and Julia (née Swetz) Linzmaier. Rich proudly served his country in both the United States Army and the United States Air Force. During his time in the service, he was stationed in Germany and traveled throughout Europe. After his discharge from the Air Force, he went to work for McDonnell Douglas/Boeing in Saint Louis. He retired after 35 years. He then became a handyman helping those in need especially the elderly or disabled people (He was older than some of them). He went on three different mission trips: one to Guatemala and two to Romania. He was proud to serve God on those trips and were high lights of his life. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Arizona. He is survived by his loving wife Janette “Jan” Linzmaier whom he married on 4/8/1978. He is also survived by his two daughters; Rebekah “Beka” Linzmaier (Matt Robinson) and Cheryl Linzmaier-
Woods (Kemal); grandsons Ahman Woods (Glenn) and Caron Woods; sisters Gladys Fleischman, Nancy Goodreau, Judy Hancock, Sharon Behning, and Karen Linzmaier (Ben Gentry); brothers Peter Linzmaier and Jerry Linzmaier. He is also survived by sisters-in-law Pat Bollinger and Skeeter Chapman; brothers-in-law Gilbert W Coulson, Robert (Linda) Coulson, and Mick (Sue) Coulson plus many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Peter and Julia Linzmaier, parents-in-law Gilbert "Tod" Coulson and Edna Coulson; sister Lucille Kralovetz; brothers Gene Linzmaier and Robert Linzmaier. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital or the Alzheimer's Association. His Celebration of Life was held on August 16th at 6:00 PM. It was held at the Parker County Cowboy Church, 5050 FM 5, Aledo, Texas.

LeeROY LEONARD “Jarhead” LUCERO – Died Thursday, February 29, 2024 in Las Lunas, New Mexico at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on April 10, 1946 to the late Genaro Lucero and Odelia (née Trujillo) Lucero. He was blessed to spend his last days surrounded by his wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandson, family and friends. LeeRoy, affectionately known as "Jarhead", loved his family, the United States Marine Corps and the Dallas Cowboys in just about that order; LeeRoy loved the outdoors, camping under the stars, and the thrill of big game hunting. LeeRoy spent over 40 years making the yearly pilgrimage with his family to the David Westphall Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire, NM. He enjoyed brotherhood at Tent City with his fellow veterans, going fishing, and sitting around a blazing campfire. Angel Fire has been a place of healing for many vets; sacred ground indeed. It is therefore fitting that this would be his final resting place. LeeRoy also found peace and healing in traditional ceremonies; dancing alongside other wounded warriors in the Blackfeet Gourd Society, Sundancing, and on memorial walks. In the 90's LeeRoy, alongside other brothers, went on the Walk of the Warriors, a journey from California to Washington, DC to dedicate the first ever Women's Vietnam Veterans Memorial. LeeRoy dedicated his life to helping other Veterans through ceremony, advocacy, counseling, and brotherhood. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – El Paso Chapter #574. LeeRoy took pride in his children's and grandchildren's accomplishments, acknowledging what they did and encouraging them to achieve even more. They were devoted to him, just as he was always there for them. Football season was another year of religiously watching the Cowboys. Knowing this was the year that they were going to win it all, and yet wondering at the end of the season, "What happened?" It will be difficult watching another game without him. His years in the Corps instilled in him the "Semper Fi" way of life -- get it done, do it right; always faithful to his family, to his fellow vets, and to his country. A couple of weeks ago he was honored for his service and advocacy for other Vets by the Combat Vet Motorcycle Association and the Moose Lodge Riders of Valencia County. Through the Purple Heart Association LeeRoy helped many veterans get their service-related benefits. His military citations attest to his bravery in the service, courageously living through years of sickness attest to his bravery in facing life. LeeRoy is preceded in death by his mother, Odelia Trujillo and father, Genaro Lucero. He is survived by his wife, Theresa M. Lucero of 50 years; sons LeeRoy Lucero, Jr. and wife, Eliza Marquez; and David Lucero. Daughters: Leah
Rice and husband Garrett; Monica Lucero and Arlo Starr (deceased). Sisters: Dora Torres and Floyd (deceased), Rita Chavez, Patricia Baldonado and husband Norbert and Susanna Orquiz and husband, Noel. Grandchildren: Katrina Lucero, Ishmael Lucero, Brock Rice, Arianna Lucero and great-grandson, Ezra Gutierrez. A Rosary was recited on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 9:30 A at San Clemente Church in Los Lunas followed by Holy Mass. The interment took place at the Angel Fire State Veteran Cemetery, Angel Fire, NM on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 12:00 Noon. The pallbearers were Tony Brito, Garrett Rice, Carlos Narvaez, Carlos Piro, Angelina Montano, and Eddie Chavez. The Honorary Pallbearers were Porfie Moreno, Ishmael Lucero, Nickolas Baca and Arianna Lucero. The Godchildren were Suzanna Asborne, Angelina Montano, Victor Montano Jr., and Nickolas Baca. Our heartfelt thanks for the love, prayers and kindness given to LeeRoy.

JOHN BAPTIST “Jack” MARTOCCI, JR. - Died peacefully Monday, May 20, 2024 in Knoxville, Tennessee at the age of 83. He was a resident of Morristown, Tennessee. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 20, 1940 in Chicago, Illinois to the late John and Jean (Stitt) Martocci. He grew up and attended school in Milwaukee, WI. graduating from Marquette HS in 1958. Jack continued his education at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, earning a degree Electrical Engineering. He later earned his MBA from Rockford College. John met Susan Mary Muench at Saint Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Milwaukee during CYO activities and 4 years later were wed on September 12, 1964. They started their married life stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, where he served as a Captain in the United States Army. There they welcomed their two eldest children Daniel and Debra. They returned stateside and resided in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, where they were blessed with two more children; William and Angela. It was there that Jack started his 25-year career with Falk/Sundstrand Corporation. His career moved them to Ames, IA and then Rockford, IL where they resided for 45 years. Jack had a second career as an insurance and financial planner with New York Life until retirement. In 2021 Jack and Susan moved to Morristown, TN to be closer to their adult children. Jack was a great family man with a love of music, theatre, dancing, and traveling. He shared his love of traveling with his family which included camping across 47 states over the years. His joy of music and dancing led Jack to many years of square dancing and traveling as a caller. Jack enjoyed many hours coaching his kid’s teams and as a referee for soccer and basketball. Jack was also a great supporter of his grandchildren’s education and their biggest sports fan. His faith and community service were very important in Jack’s life. He was recognized for his work in Rockford supporting the Boys and Girls Club of America and was an active member of Holy Family Catholic Church while there. He continued his faith journey at Saint Patrick’s Catholic Church in Morristown, TN where he recently became a member of Knights of Columbus. He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Tennessee. Jack was preceded in death by his parents John and Jean Martocci; brothers James and Jeffrey Martocci. Survivors include his wife; Susan of 59 years; daughters, Debra (Jody) Dado and Angela (Donte) Dado; sons, Daniel (Jan) Martocci and William Martocci; Grandchildren, Joseph Dado, Matthew Dado, Taylor Martocci, Jacob (Reagan)
Martocci, Brianna Dado, and Noah Dado; brother Jerald (Kathy) Martocci; sister, Janet Wein (Dennis Pomeroy); and sister-in-law, Mary Carini. In lieu of flowers please make donations in Jack’s name to Saint Jude Children’s Hospital. The family received friends on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at Saint Patrick Catholic Church from 10:00–11:00 AM. A funeral mass was celebrated at 11:00 AM. A military service was accorded at the columbarium. The arrangements were made by the Stetzer-Bales Funeral Home.

JOHN MAYER – Died peacefully Friday, June 21, 2024 in Jamestown, North Dakota at the age of 78, after battling cancer. John was born on July 5, 1945 in Edgeley, North Dakota to the late Ludwig and Alvina (née Morlock) Mayer. John was baptized on August 19, 1945 at the Neudorf Lutheran Church in Neudorf Township. He was confirmed on 22 May, 1960 at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Gackle, ND. He received his elementary education in the local Neudorf Township country school and graduated from Gackle High School in 1963. After graduation John continued to help his parents on the family farm. In 1968, John enlisted in the United States Army for 2 years. He spent 1 year in Vietnam serving in the infantry for 10 months and as the Colonel’s driver for the final 2 months. He was awarded 2 Bronze Stars and brought back a Chinese SKS rifle on the plane. John was a life member of the American Legion, VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Mayville Chapter #374. He was a past commander of the Gackle American Legion Post and Chaplain for the Jamestown VFW for 10 years. After his service, John returned to the family farm, purchasing it from his parents in 1975. After selling the farm in 2003, John worked as a knife sharpener at Cavendish Farms until 2008 when he retired and moved to Jamestown. John was a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church. He stayed busy delivering Meals on Wheels for 14 years, delivering commodities and helped take care of the VFW park in Jamestown until his 3rd bout with cancer returned in 2023. He also was a “ticket taker” for local school events. John is survived by his brother-in-law Lloyd Elsner, nephews Dirk and Kevin Elsner, his niece Renae Devaul and 2 grandnieces Nicole and Jessica. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters – Lillian Mayer and Darlene Elsner. John asked that, in lieu of flowers, any memorials be sent to the Gackle American Legion, C/O Dean Entzminger, PO Box 257, Gackle, ND 58442.

ROBERT WILLIAM “Bob” McCLOUD – Died Friday, May 24, 2024 in Fairhope, Alabama at the age of 80, surrounded by his loving family. He was a resident of Daphne, Alabama. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on December 16, 1943 in Logansport, Indiana to the late Homer McCloud and Georgia (née Chrisman) McCloud. Bob’s life journey was marked by dedication and service. He honorably served his country in the United States Army for four years before embarking on a distinguished career in the United States Coast Guard, where he
served with unwavering commitment for over sixteen years, retiring in 1982 with a total of twenty-one years. During his tenure in the Coast Guard, Bob served aboard several notable vessels including the ice breaker USCGC Burton Island out of Long Beach, California; buoy tender USCGC Sorrel out of Seward, Alaska; endurance cutter USCGC Dependable out of Panama City, Florida; ice breaker USCGC Northwind out of Wilmington, North Carolina, and buoy tender USCGC Ironwood out of Kodiak, Alaska, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues. On July 15, 1966, Bob exchanged vows with Angel in Cairo, Georgia, at the courthouse, embarking on a loving and devoted marriage that spanned an incredible 57 years. After retiring from the Coast Guard, Bob continued to serve his community by driving semi-trucks for nearly two decades before dedicating his time to volunteering at a local hospital, embodying his lifelong commitment to service and kindness. Bob's interests were as varied as they were passionate. He found joy in bowling, camaraderie among fellow veterans, woodworking, spending time with family, engaging in conversations about the weather, doting on his beloved Yorkie puppies, indulging in cross-stitching, and embracing the outdoors. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Robertsdale Chapter #864. Preceding him in death are his parents, Homer McCloud and Georgia Chrisman McCloud, his older sister Constance (Connie) Friddle, and his younger brother Ronald (Ronnie) McCloud. Bob's legacy lives on through his devoted family. He is survived by his loving wife, Sarah (Angel) McCloud of Daphne, AL; his son, Robert (Mason) McCloud, Jr. and wife Julia McCloud of Sierra Vista, AZ; his daughter, Jill McCloud of Marlborough, MA; his grandchildren, Biana Manifold, Brittni McCloud, Alycia McCloud, Ravyn Hassan, Robert (Will) McCloud III, and Aidan McCloud as well as great-grandchildren, Aubree McCloud, Matthew Riordan, Athena Hernandez, Zaniyah Zoidis, and Tefik Hassan; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. Bob McCloud will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to his country, his steadfast love for his family, and his generous spirit towards all whom he encountered. His presence will be deeply missed, but his legacy of love, service, and joy will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know him. Rest in peace, Bob. Your light will forever shine brightly in our hearts. No services were planned. The Hughes Funeral Home, 26209 Pollard Road, Daphne, AL assisted the family.

NEIL DANIEL McCracken - Died Monday, April 22, 2024 at his home in Clearfield, Pennsylvania at the age of 69, after a lengthy illness and surrounded by his family. The cause of death was cancer. He was born on October 29, 1954 in Clearfield to the late Orville and Hulda (née Rodeen) McCracken. Neil served in the United States Army serving three tours in the Army and then serving in the Army National Guard. Upon returning home from the military, Neil worked alongside his father and brothers in the family business, McCracken & Sons Construction for five years. He then was employed by Community Action in Clearfield where he worked as a carpenter, retiring in 2017. Upon retirement, he became a school bus driver for the Clearfield School District. Neil enjoyed gardening, wood working, and roofing. He also enjoyed being a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 812, American Legion Post #6, and the VFW Post
#1785, all of Clearfield. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Clearfield Chapter #974. He was Methodist by faith. Neil shared his life with his lifetime partner, the former Janet L. Graham who survives him along with their five children, Teresa Martin of Clearfield, Mandy Martin and her companion, Brandon of Curwensville, Lisa McCracken of Arabi, Louisiana, Daniel McCracken and his wife, Emily of Hyde, and Bryan McCracken and his companion, Kasey, also of Hyde. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Joseph, Johnathan, Madison, Noah, Regan, Damian; two great-grandchildren, Parker and Tyren; and two special children close to his heart, Beau and Peyton. Also surviving are two brothers, Eric McCracken and Alan McCracken and his wife, Teresa, all of Clearfield; and numerous nieces and nephews. Neil is preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Mark McCracken. Friends were received at the Bennett and Houser Funeral Home, Inc., 312 East Locust Street, Clearfield, PA on Friday, April 26th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Funeral services were held in the funeral home at 1:00 PM with Reverend John White officiating. The interment was in the Bradford E.U.B. Cemetery, Woodland. Memorial contributions in memory of Neil may be given to the American Cancer Society, 108R North 2nd Street, Clearfield, PA 16830 or the Salvation Army, 119 Byers Street, Clearfield, PA 16830. To place online tributes please go to www.bennettandhouser.com.

**B. J. McGEE** – Died Tuesday, May 21, 2024 in Centennial, Colorado at the age of 77. The cause of death was neurological disease. He was born on June 28, 1946. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and was discharged in 1969. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Aurora Chapter #1106.

**MARY DOROTHY "Dottie" McGuirk (USAF, Maj-RET.)** - Died peacefully Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at a skilled nursing facility for veterans in Scarborough, Maine at the age of 95. She was a resident of Westbrook, Maine. The cause of death is unknown. She was born on December 26, 1928, the daughter of the late Alex Chaissen and Mildred (née Doucette) Chaissen. She was educated in French and English by nuns at Saint Hyacinth School in Westbrook and graduated from Westbrook High School in 1947 where she was a member of the Girl's State Championship Basketball team. She entered the Mercy School of Nursing graduating in 1950. Dottie worked at Mercy and the Veterans Administration Hospital before joining the United States Air Force in 1954. Dottie was stationed at Vance Air Force Base Hospital in Oklahoma where she met and married her first husband, Captain Gerald Johnson in 1955. They were transferred to MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida where Gerald was killed in a plane crash caused by excessive wing fatigue and thunderstorm turbulence in April 1958. She proceeded to her first overseas assignment in England two years later. She went on to earn her Flight Nursing and Aerospace Medicine specialties and was assigned as an Air Force Nurse Recruiter for the western United States. As the Vietnam War escalated in the mid-Sixties, Dottie was promoted to Major and transferred to Hawaii as a flight nurse. She and her second husband, Major, Laurence McGuirk were married at the Base Chapel in May 1966 in Hawaii. At the time, she and her husband were a rare couple drawing hazardous duty and combat flight pay. Her husband and adopted son were stationed in the Philippines while Dottie was stationed in Hawaii for the first 9 months of the marriage. The Air Force transferred her to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines to meet the
demands of the busiest operating rooms up until February 1968. Dottie's career ended abruptly in 1968 when she became pregnant and was Honorably Discharged from service after 15 years of exemplary contributions to patient and wounded care. Her youngest son, Kevin, was born in Maine in June 1968 and the family was transferred to Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. Tragedy struck again at Minot when her husband was killed in a B-52 accident, leaving her a widow for the second time and a single mother to her oldest, adopted son and youngest infant son. This tragedy had a glass barrier breaking consequence: from 1968 to 1971 Dottie wrote countless Senators, Congressman and the Secretary of the Air Force to be reinstated as an Air Force Nurse and complete 5 additional years of service for her Air Force pension. Air Force Secretary Robert Seamans, Jr. agreed, ordered her immediately back to duty, and Captain Loretta Chaisson swore her big sister Dottie back into the Air Force in 1971: setting the career precedent for women to serve in uniform and have a career without sacrificing a family. Dottie became the first mother serving in the American military with two dependent children under 18. She was stationed at Wilford Hall in San Antonio on the wards, before being ordered to the Thai jungle for an isolated year tour. She was the Chief Nurse supporting the 56th Special Operations Wing and Combined Air Operations Center. Her final assignment was at Pope Air Force Base, NC as Chief Nurse where she retired in June 1978. Moving back to Maine, Dottie became active in her Church, teaching Sunday School, organizing Church Christmas Fairs, helping build affordable homes as a volunteer board member on the Westbrook Housing Authority, being active in the Society of Air Force Nurses, the Military Officers Association, American Legion Posts 62 and 197, Military Order of World Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Travis Mills Foundation, raising her family, and caring for her elderly mother. She was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Maine. Her post-retirement achievements have been recognized locally and internationally. She has a street, "Dottie's Way," named for her in one of the Westbrook Senior Citizen's developments, a Bronze Plaque for fundraising for Post 62 during her tenure as one of the first Maine female American Legion Post Commanders and earning the Mercy School of Nursing Alumni's "Sister Consuela Award of Excellence" for 67 years of nursing. She was recognized and lauded by multiple generations of male and female veterans throughout the United States and served as an Honor Flight Maine Ambassador presenting a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery in 2017. His Eminence, Sean Cardinal O'Malley, invested Dottie into the Papal Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem during the Pontificate of Pope Saint John Paul the Great. She attended a Holy Week / Easter Grand pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome in 2006. Her final rank of Dame Grand Cross in the Order was bestowed a few years ago as her health began to deteriorate. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre is organized directly under the Papal Household and supports the Latin Christian presence in the Holy Land. Dottie is predeceased by her parents, her two husbands, her siblings Mary Edna, Joseph Amédée, Mary Margaret, in-laws Thomas Gieringer, Sr., Clifford "Sonny" Beane, and Daniel Hughes, daughter in-law Lynda McGuirk, granddaughter, Margaret Norred, and nephews Robert Gieringer and David Chaisson. Surviving her are her adopted son Laurence McGuirk III, son Kevin and his wife Charlotte McGuirk, granddaughter Savannah McGuirk, and her great granddaughters Mailey, Kyra, and Charis, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews. The family gratefully thanks the staff of the Veterans Administration, and Maine Veterans home for providing her with world class care, dignity, and compassionate comfort during her final years. Visiting Hours were held on Wednesday, June 5th from 4:00-7:00 PM at the Dolby-Blais-Segee
Funeral Chapel, 35 Church Street, Westbrook. The solemn Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated
Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, 268 Brown Street, Westbrook on Thursday June 6th at 10:00 AM.
The interment was at Saint Hyacinth Cemetery. Lunch followed at the American Legion Hall, 17
Dunn Street in Westbrook. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Mary’s name
to the following organizations, The Travis Mills Foundation https://travismillsfoundation.org/waystogive/ or Honor Flight Maine https://www.honorflightmaine.org/donations.

MELVIN JACKSON McLEMORE (USA, COL-Ret.) - Died Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville, Alabama at the age of 85. He was a resident of Madison, Alabama. The cause of death is unknown. Col. McLemore was born on October 29, 1938 in Athens, Alabama to the late Grady and Ruby (née Pugh) McLemore. His 30-year military career as a United States Active Duty Air Force Officer consisted of time in the Signal, Aviation, and Air Traffic Control Services. His civilian service following military retirement includes 15 years with Defense Industry with Allied Signal and SAIC. He also served approximately 10 years as Treasurer and Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Lester Chapter #511. In this capacity, his service was recognized by the National Vietnam War Museum in 2024. Col. McLemore is survived by his wife of 63 years, Wanda (née Crow) McLemore; daughters Stormy Sandi McLemore Ripley (Jim) and Deborah Ann McLemore McClendon (Bryan); and grandchildren Shane, Christina, Brandon, and Catherine. He is preceded in death by his parents, Grady and Ruby McLemore. Funeral services for Col. McLemore were on Friday, June 14, 2024 at 2:00 PM at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. Visitation hours were held on Friday from 12:00 Noon-1:50 PM at the funeral home. The burial was at the Roselawn Cemetery. The pallbearers were Jim Ripley, Bryan McClendon, Shane Ripley, James Burch, Austin Crews, and Jack Massengill. Following the burial, a reception dinner with the family was held at the Alabama Veteran’s Museum. The family requested patriotic colors be worn for the service. Families can either send flowers to Limestone Chapel Funeral Home, or make donations in Col. McLemore’s memory to the Alabama Veteran’s Museum, located at 114 Pryor Street, Athens AL 35611.

ROBERT J. “Bob” McTIGHE - Died Friday, June 14, 2024 in Buffalo, New York at the age of 78. The cause of death is unknown. Bob was born in Buffalo on January 19, 1946 to the late Thomas and Ann (née Lawless) McTighe. He is survived by his sister, Ann (Joseph) Karb, nephews Michael (Rebecca) Karb, David Karb, Paul Karb, and great nephews and niece Matthew, Michaela and Braeden Karb. Bob was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force including deployment in Vietnam. Following his service, he was employed by National Fuel Gas in Tonawanda, where he also served as an IBEW Union representative. In retirement, Bob’s dedicated service continued as a volunteer director of the Disabled American Veterans’
transportation program. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Tonawanda Chapter #77. Relatives and friends were invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Joseph University Parish, 3269 Main Street, Buffalo NY, on Friday, June 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM. The interment was at Mount Olivet Cemetery, 4000 Elmwood Avenue, Kenmore, NY following the Mass.

WAYNE F. MILLER – Died Wednesday, May 29, 2024 in Webster, New York at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on August 16, 1950 in Rochester, New York. He served in the United State Navy from August 30, 1970 to August 29, 1972. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20.

DONALD FRANK MILLIMAN – Died Monday, April 29, 2024 in Batavia, New York at the age of 71. The cause of death is unknown. Donald was born on Tuesday, May 6, 1952 in Pembroke, New York to the late Frank and Grace Milliman. He was a graduate of Pembroke High School and served his country as part of the United States Air Force. He dedicated his career as a custodial worker at the Batavia VA Medical Center. Donald was a beloved father to, Amanda (William) Crandall, Ashley Milliman, and Justin (Melissa) Hackett; six grandchildren, Madelyn Hackett, Matthew Burns, Jaxyn Milliman, Kolbi Crandall, Jaxyn Crandall, and Tobias Crandall; brothers, Floyd (Lilly) Milliman and Stephen (Sharon) Milliman; friend and partner in crime, Alice Chapell, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Grace Milliman; brother, William Cole, and sisters, Wilma Ikeler and Barb Rynkowski. Donald was actively involved in the community as a member of the Lions Club and a part of Tim Hortons Club. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Warsaw Chapter #193. He volunteered at the VA Hospital and the Muck Dogs Games. In his free time, he enjoyed bowling, golfing, carnivals, chicken BBQ's, vacationing, and cheering on the Buffalo Bills and Muck Dogs Games. Family and friends were invited to calling hours for Donald on Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at H.E. Turner and Company, Inc., 403 East Main Street, Batavia, New York. The interment took place on Friday, June 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Western New York National Cemetery in Corfu, New York. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Donald's memory to the Batavia VA Hospital. He will forever be remembered for his dedication to his community and his love for his family. Rest in peace, Donald.
JILL ANN MISHKELL - Died Thursday, March 28, 2024 in Portsmouth, Virginia at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. She was born on July 15, 1949 to the late Theodore and Genevieve Mishkell. She was also predeceased by her sister, Jacqueline Mishkell. Jill is survived by her brothers William Mishkel, Mark (Sissy) Mishkel and sister, Michele Mishkel and nephews, Christian (Rachel) McGlynn and Raymond McGlynn, William and Matthew Mishkel, and Gary Eddy; nieces, Kim (Kevin) Gray, Alexa Mishkel, and Angelina Malone; as well as great-nieces, Lilah McGlynn, Katherine Gray, and; great-nephew James Gray. Jill served as a United States Army Nurse in 1970-1971 with the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh, Vietnam, and was honored by the Army for her “Exemplary Service.” Jill was an advocate for Veterans and notably served as Chairman of the State Women Veterans Task Force in 1986 while living in Connecticut. Her efforts helped to amend a bill to include much-needed aid for female Veterans. Jill was one of six American Women who served in Vietnam” published in 1997. Jill continued to be involved with Veterans causes participating in Vietnam Veterans of America – Virginia Beach Chapter #969 as a Life Member. Jill was a Nurse Practitioner studying at the University of Hartford and receiving her Master’s Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. A celebration of her life was held on July 20, 2024, when she was looking forward to celebrating her 75th birthday. For more information on the Celebration of Life, contact Christian McGlynn at cmpecos@duck.com.

JEROME J. "Jerry" MONDT - Died Friday, July 19, 2024 at HSHS Saint Elizabeth’s Hospital in O’Fallon, Missouri at the age of 78. He was a resident of Aviston, Illinois. The cause of death was a heart attack and a stroke. He was born on January 14, 1946 in Breese, Illinois to the late Edward and Sophia (née Renschen) Mondt. Jerry was preceded in death by his sister, Ruth Ann Langhauser, his brother, Andrew Mondt, and brother-in-law, Bob (Shirley) Gruender. Jerry is survived by his beloved wife, Anna Marie (née Gruender) Mondt of Aviston, whom he married on April 4, 1988, in Saint Louis, Missouri. He is also survived by his children: Amy (Jim) Moss of Trenton, Jen (Steve) Dilley of Shiloh, and Jeff (Jenny) Mondt of Aviston; step-children: Joann (fiancé, Mike Rimar) Patrick of St. Charles, MO, and Deann (Heather Arcand) Hughes of Janesville, WI; grandchildren: Noah Moss, Jordan Mondt (special friend, Tedd Weissner), Walker Mondt, Sophia Mondt, Harrison Mondt, Kirsten (Jamie) Nowicki, Rob Patrick, Michelle (Cha McDonald) Dunn, and Kelsey (Victoria) Harris; great-grandchildren: Gracie and Kamryn Dunn, and Abigail Nowicki; siblings: Julie (Tom) Holtmann of Breese and Edward (JoAnn) Mondt of Kansas City, MO; brother-in-law, Ralph Langhauser of Breese; as well as nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. Jerry proudly served his country as a veteran of the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He dedicated his life to farming, driving school buses for Central Community High School and Aviston Grade School, and later retired from Central Community
High School where he worked in maintenance. He was a faithful member of St., Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Aviston, a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Highland Chapter #269, the Mondt-Lampe American Legion Post #1239 in Aviston, and a former volunteer for the Aviston Fire Department. Jerry enjoyed his time on the farm, golfing, playing pinochle, and cheering on the Saint Louis Cardinals, but his greatest joy was found in spending time with his family. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, July 27, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Aviston with Reverend Father Von Deeke presiding. The interment with full military honors was at Saint Francis Cemetery, Aviston. Visitation was held on Friday, July 26, 2024 from 5:00-7:00 PM at the Moss Funeral Home in Breese and again on Saturday, July 27, 2024 from 9:00-10:45 AM at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Aviston. In lieu of flowers, plants, and other gifts, memorials may be made to Saint Jude Children’s Research Hospital or Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and will be received at the visitation or by mail, Moss Funeral Home, 535 North 5th Street, Breese, IL 62230, who served the family.

JOHN EDWARD “Jack” MULLINS - Died Tuesday, May 21, 2024 in Oxford, Michigan at the age of 81, after a long struggle with cancer and also from a broken heart after the recent death of his beloved wife, Debbie. John, who was called Jack by his close family, was born in Detroit on January 20, 1943 to the late Dalton Mullins and Marion (née Sliter) Mullins. John graduated from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Oklahoma City in 1961, and then he enlisted in the United States Army. He was stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas for a year where he was part of the Infantry Communication Support Team. After that, he was stationed in Okinawa during the Vietnam War and was part of a team that would carry out missions in South East Asia. After his military service, John returned to Detroit where he studied at Lawrence Technological University and then Walsh College, eventually earning his CPA license. His first job was with Deloitte and Touche where he learned the ropes of business and also discovered that he had a passionate entrepreneurial spirit. He would later go on to become a Certified Financial Planner and start several successful businesses throughout his career. A lifelong learner, John always was reading and learning new skills. He was a musician, a pilot, a sailor, a master photographer, a golfer, and a bicycle enthusiast. He had a black belt in karate, and he taught himself French later in life. In 2004, at the age of 61, he earned his Bachelor of Business Administration, and two years later, he completed his Master of Business Administration degree. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Detroit Chapter #9. Through the years, he dedicated himself to many organizations and causes that he believed in. He was most proud of his work with Search for Common Ground, his brotherhood with the Detroit chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, where he guided efforts to establish scholarship programs for descendants of Vietnam veterans and graduates from Detroit Public Schools, and his volunteer service with Civil Air Patrol. John is preceded in death by his parents Dalton and Marion Mullins, his uncle and aunt, Cleatis and Catherine Mullins, and his wife Debra Mullins. He is survived by his daughters, Lisa Dvorin and Nicole (Russ) Hewson, brother Charles (Dan) Mullins, stepsons Alex and Evan (Olivia) Zemaitis, brother-in-law Jon (Patti) Stowell, cousins Don (Rita) Mullins, Sandra (Floyd) Brown, Paul (Tonda) Mullins, grandchildren August, Darian, Easton, Ian, Sam, Tatum, Torin and Zoe, and his sweet dog Chloe. He will be deeply missed by his family who will cherish memories of his goofy dances, his
spirited and creative birthday songs, and his daily "I love you" texts to his family. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Detroit chapter of Vietnam Veterans: VVA #9 – Detroit, c/o Mark Spooner, 39869 Duluth Street, Harrison Township, MI 48045-1511.

RALPH EDWARD MYERS – Died Saturday, June 15, 2024 in Iowa, Louisiana at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on August 7, 1947. He is survived by his wife, Juanita. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Lake Charles Chapter #1098.

VIRGINIA MAE NASTIUK - Died Wednesday, May 8, 2024 in Stanwood, Washington at the age of 101. The cause of death is unknown. She was born on January 28, 1923. She was a Life Member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Edmonds Chapter #423. A graveside for Virginia was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at the Purdy and Walters at Floral Hills, 409 Filbert Road, Lynnwood, WA.

GERALD LEROY NICHOLS, SR. – Died Friday, March 22, 2024 in Cement City, Michigan at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Jackson, Michigan on July 9, 1949 to the late Garold and Flora Nichols. He is survived by his children Dawn Nichols and Gerald Nichols, Jr; granddaughters, Samantha Moog and Savana; grandsons, Devin and Dakota Nichols; sisters, Sharron (Art) Carnes and Julie (Rex, Sr.) Dubois; significant other, Sherry Sussex; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; and grandson, Damion Moog. Gerald loved bowling, bingo, going to the casino, and trap shooting. He was very active in the community clubs including Brooklyn Moose Lodge 2651, American Legion Posts #29 and #109. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Jackson Chapter #109. He served in the United States Navy on the USS Kearsarge during the Vietnam War. Honoring his wishes, cremation has taken place and a memorial service was scheduled for a future date. The interment with military honors took place at Roseland Memorial Gardens.

TOMMIE WAYNE NORTON - Died Sunday, April 14, 2024 in a local hospice facility near Texarkana, Texas at the age of 77. He was a resident of Texarkana, Texas. The cause of death is unknown. Mr. Norton was born on May 5, 1946 in Prescott, Arkansas. He was a truck driver, a member of the Methodist Church and a United States Air Force veteran having served during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Texarkana Chapter #278. He is survived by his wife, Jereta Smith Norton of Texarkana, Texas; two sons and daughters-in-law Mike and Suzy Norton of
Texarkana, Texas and Jerod and Kelli Norton of New Boston, Texas; two daughters and one son-in-law, Camille Norton of Texarkana, Texas, Lori and John Brian of Texarkana, Arkansas; two brothers, Glen Norton and wife Connie of San Antonio, Texas and Ricky Norton and wife Janice of Texarkana, Texas; one sister, Kim Webster and husband Ricky of Simms, Texas; seventeen grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at the Chapelwood Funeral Home Chapel. The burial was in the Chapelwood Memorial Gardens. The family received friends at the funeral home Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

GREGORY MARK PARADIS - Died Monday, June 3, 2024 in Hiawassee, Georgia at the age of 70. He was formerly of Flowery Branch, Georgia. The cause of death was dementia. He was born on December 20, 1953 in Fort Kent, Maine to the late Aurelle and Geraldine Paradis. He retired from ABF Freight where he was a truck driver. Mr. Paradis was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Gainesville, Chapter #772. Mr. Paradis is survived by his wife, Wendy Paradis of Flowery Branch; sons and daughters-in-law, Lance Gregory and Danelle Paradis of Canton, Mark Gregory and Tonia Paradis of Hiawassee; grandchildren, Aden Gregory Paradis of Canton, Sierra Marie Paradis of Canton, Alana Noel Paradis of Hiawassee, Lily Denae Paradis of Hiawassee, Naomi Grace Paradis of Hiawassee; Greg’s sisters, Judy (Robert) Kaiser, Donna Gamache and many other relatives. The family received friends at Memorial Park Funeral Home on Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 5:00 until 8:00 PM. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 21, 2024 in the Chapel of Memorial Park Funeral Home. Pastor Mike Youngblood and his son, Mark Paradis co-officiated. The interment was in the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA at 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers please make contributions to http://www.rogerhoagland.com/. The Memorial Park Funeral Home, 2030 Memorial Park Road, Gainesville, GA was in charge of the arrangements.

MICHAEL THOMAS PEPPERS - Died Monday, July 15, 2024 in Davenport, Iowa at the age of 81. The cause of death is unknown. Michael was born on January 24, 1943 in Des Moines, Iowa to the late Thomas and Leona (née Nagle) Peppers. He was united in marriage to Cathie Propst in 1968. They later divorced. Michael was in the first graduating class of West High School. He was a proud United States Army Veteran during Vietnam. He started volunteering as Santa Claus during his time in Vietnam and continued doing so his whole life. Michael was an avid car collector and restorer, including his creations the short-timer and the Santamobile. Mike was the owner and operator of Sgt. Peppers Auto Shop in Davenport, Iowa for 45 years, and owed many drag race cars and stock cars. He was the founder of River City Nomad Club. He was also a member of Friends of Credit Island, Downtown Davenport Association, Davenport Jaycees, River Valley Car Club and was Santa for the Festival of Trees. As Santa he rode in his Santamobile and
listened to the wishes of children. He worked alongside Joe Whitty providing a Holiday Party for special needs children. Michael received many awards for community service including the community service award from the Scott County Sheriff's Department and a key to the City of Davenport from the mayor. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Bettendorf Chapter #776. Those left to honor his memory include his daughter Nikki (Scott) Schletz; grandson Avi Goel; siblings Robert (Sharon) Peppers, Thomas (Charlene) Peppers, Patricia (Jerry) Hatch and Arthur Peppers; brother-in-law Steve Daily; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Leona; sister Anna Daily and sister-in-law Holly Peppers. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:00 AM on Friday, July 19, 2024 at Holy Family Catholic Church. Visitation was held from 4:00–7:00 PM on Thursday, July 18, 2024 at the Halligan-McCabe-DeVries Funeral Home, Davenport. The burial was in Mount Calvary Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Davenport Jaycees Foundation for Jaycees Santa Project.

**GARY LEE “Gair” PORTER** - Died quietly Friday, June 7, 2024 at home in Muncie, Indiana at the age of 80. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Anderson, Indiana on April 4, 1944 to the late Taylor and Betty (née Spangler) Porter. Gary was affectionately known as “Gair” to those who knew and loved him. Gair was the oldest of three children born to Taylor and Betty (Spangler) Porter. Gair was born and raised in Anderson, Indiana, where he later shared with others that he played “cowboys and Indians.” This foundation would serve him well as a future warrior serving with the United States Army Rangers. Gair graduated from Anderson High School then followed his uncles’ footsteps of serving their country. He had five uncles who served in World War II and another who was killed in Korea; most of which returned to the farmlands of Indiana to work at General Motors. Gair joined the Indiana National Guard in 1966 at the height of the Vietnam War. In 1967, the Department of Defense decided to “experiment” by using National Guardsmen in combat. So, 216 Indiana Guardsmen were chosen and activated to the regular Army. Gair became a proud 151 Co D Ranger (Airborne), often called the “Indiana Rangers.” Gair proudly and honorably served his country with the Rangers during the Vietnam War from 1968-1969. In February 1969, his first assignment in Vietnam was as point man on a five-person Ranger team. Though the life expectancy of a point man was three missions, Gair completed a total of 33 missions during his tour of duty. Gair was awarded the Combat Air Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Bronze Star with a V device among others. In 2021 the unit was awarded the distinction of the most highly decorated unit serving in the Vietnam War. Before deployment to Vietnam, Gair married Marsha (née Brennon) Porter. Upon his return, they had a son, Matthew T. Porter. Marsha was killed in an automobile accident while traveling with Matthew on vacation. Gair married Pam L. (Harrison), expanding his family with the addition of another son, Shawn, and daughter, Shelly Harrison. While working for GM, Gair started to assist other Veterans in dealing with the impact of war as a union representative and committeeman. This sparked a lifelong dedication to serving other Veterans. Gair attended Ball State University and received his master’s in counseling psychology. He went on to establish The Madison Clinic, which expanded to five locations and was one of the only Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare
Organizing (JCAHO) accredited as a for-profit outpatient mental health clinic. The Madison Clinic held the longest contract services with the Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Counseling program run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It was often called the “The Vet Center” program and provided assessment and treatment of combat Veterans with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Governor Robert Orr appointed Gair to the Agent Orange Advisory Committee for the State of Indiana in 1986. In 1987, Gair created and implemented an Adolescent inpatient treatment unit in partnership with The Anderson Center. He also designed and directed the inpatient treatment track for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder at Arbor Hospital. Sadly, after 16 years of marriage, Gair lost the love of his life, Pam, to lung cancer. It was a life-changing event for this warrior. Gair believed battles could be won if you planned and worked hard and long enough. After losing Pam, Gair decided he had enough of life and its challenges. He had lived, served, and loved. It wasn’t about being suicidal. He was just exhausted by everything God put in his path. However, God had other plans; in April 1991, Gair, sponsored by Arbor Hospital, took seven busloads of Vietnam combat Veterans to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington. On the trip, he met Pamela (Garrett), one of the trauma specialists hired to support the Veterans. This was the beginning of 33 years of shared life filled with love, family, and service to others, especially Veterans. As son Matthew liked to share, “Pamela came home with us to take a nap and just never left.” Gair and Pamela married within 90 days of meeting. Friends and family had to choose a “yes” or “no” button to attend the wedding reception. Clearly, the “yes” won. Gair was a Life Member and became a certified Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawrence Chapter #295 service officer and provided pro bono services to assist veterans in filing claims for service connection with the Department of Veterans Affairs. In 1995, Governor Evan Bayh awarded Gair the “Sagamore of the Wabash” Award for his lifelong service to Veterans. In 1998, Gair cofounded two not-for-profit organizations. The first, Vietnam Veterans Assistance Program, to better serve Veterans in filing claims with the VA and helped to cover the living costs for younger Veterans. The second The Reluctant Warrior Program focused on the assessment and treatment of trauma related disorders. Gair received “The Jefferson Award” by Governor Evan Bayh in 1989. Gair was a founder of the Indiana Rolling Thunder Chapter#1 and participated in the Memorial Day demonstration ride in Washington, D.C. for ten years. Gair loved to golf and scuba dive; he also became an incredibly skilled woodworker and was awarded the distinction of “Masters Award” by the Marc Adams school of woodworking. He made full kitchen cabinets, hutches, and other wood crafts. Gair was committed to a life of learning. Gair leaves many to celebrate his life and carry his memory; his wife, Pamela Porter; sons, Shawn(Susan) Harrison of Tampa, Florida, and Breydn (Katlyn) Weston-Porter of Muncie, Indiana; daughters, Shelly (Todd) Hartman of Fishers, Indiana, and Jessica (Ryan) Caldwell of Muncie, Indiana; two special “adopted” sons, Andy (Juli) Jonas of Muncie, Indiana, and Landon Wages of Muncie, Indiana; and a special “adopted” daughter, Julia (Mike) Timmons of Indianapolis, Indiana; eleven grandchildren, SarahCate, Ethan, Cade, Carly, Camryn, Garrett, Lucas, Brylee, Kashton, Hadleigh, (arriving in October), Breydn Jr.; sister, Joyce (Jerry) Brown-Pfeffer; mother-in-law, Marveline Garrett; sisters-in-laws, Connie Garrett and Cindy (Scott) Linn; numerous nieces and nephews; his 151 Co D Ranger brothers; Don “Vic” Viccaro; and golfing buddies, Rick Kirk, and Rick King; and his fur buddy, Groot. In 2018, Gair and his family were devastated by the loss son Matthew. In addition to both of his parents, Gair was preceded in death by a brother, Daniel Porter; a sister-in-law, Kim Porter; his father-in-law, Ray T. Garrett; and his fur buddy, Chewy. Memorial services with Military Rites were held.
on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 1:30 PM at the 911 Memorial located at Elm Ridge Memorial Park, 4600 West Kilgore Avenue, Muncie, Indiana 47304. Following services, family and friends were invited to a celebration of life held at Knights of Columbus from 2:00–6:00 PM located at 3600 West Purdue Avenue, Muncie, IN 47304. https://kofcmuncieindiana.com.

WALTER E. RAYSICK, SR. (USN, MCPO-Ret.) – Died Tuesday, January 9, 2024 in Valrico, Florida at the age of 84. The cause of death is unknown. Walter was born on August 26, 1939. He was a remarkable man who lived a life filled with love, service, and dedication. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Maryann Raysick, with whom he shared 58 beautiful years of marriage. Walter leaves behind a legacy of love and family. He is survived by his cherished sons, Dominick Anthony and W. Eugene, Jr., and their wives Janet H. Raysick and Christina C. Raysick. These sons were a source of pride and joy for Walter, and he took great pleasure in watching them grow into the remarkable individuals they are today. Additionally, Walter was a doting grandfather to his granddaughters, Olivia and Selah Raysick, who brought immeasurable happiness to his life. Walter's commitment to serving his country was unwavering. He dedicated thirty years of his life to the United States Navy, from 1959 to 1989. During his distinguished military career, Walter demonstrated immense bravery and courage. He served his nation with honor, including a deployment to Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. During this time, he served aboard the hospital ship Sanctuary and also in country at Da Nang. Walter's selflessness and dedication to his fellow servicemen were a testament to his character. Beyond his military service, Walter was deeply involved in his community. He was an active volunteer with the Olney Lions Club, Veterans Council of Hillsborough County, and Marine Corps League, Riverview detachment 1226. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Riverview Chapter #787. Through these organizations, he made a significant impact on the lives of others, lending a helping hand and providing support to those in need. Walter's dedication to service extended beyond his military duties, and he found great fulfillment in giving back to his community. A memorial service to honor Walter E. Raysick Sr. was held on May 24th at 11:00 AM at Serenity Meadows in Riverview, FL. This serene location provided a fitting setting to celebrate his life and bid him farewell. Following the service, a reception was held at the American Legion in Riverview, Florida. This gathering gave family, friends, and all those whose lives were touched by Walter an opportunity to come together, share stories, and find solace in each other's company. Walter E. Raysick, Sr. will forever be remembered for his kind heart, unwavering dedication, and love for his family and community. His presence will be deeply missed, but his spirit will continue to inspire all those who had the privilege of knowing him. May his soul find eternal peace, and may his memory live on in the hearts of all who loved him.
GARY LYN ROBINSON – Died Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at his residence in Texarkana, Arkansas at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. Mr. Robinson was born on October 4, 1946 in Texarkana, Arkansas and lived in the area most of his life. Gary served in the United States Army and was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Texarkana Chapter #278. He was an official member of the Kenpo Karate School of Self Defense and reached the Shodan- Black belt level. He was a proud member and supporter of the NRA. He worked at International Paper Domino Mill and was an active member of the Union for over thirty years. Gary was a devoted hunter and the Vice President of M&M Hunting Club. He loved to read, solve crossword puzzles and spend time outdoors at the deer lease. He was an incredible storyteller, teacher of life skills and amazing “Dad Joke Teller”. He is preceded in death by his parents, Hoyt and Mary Robinson. He is survived by his two daughters and son-in-law, Bree and Craig LeGrand, Andrea Robinson; one granddaughter, Kylie Perillo; two great grandsons, Tobin Robinson, and Jaxon Moreau and a number of other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at the Texarkana Funeral Home, Arkansas Chapel with Reverend Jaimie Alexander officiating. The burial was in the Holly Springs Cemetery. The family received friends at the funeral home on Thursday from 1:00 PM until service time.

GEORGE DANIEL “Dan” ROSS, SR. - Died Saturday, July 6, 2024 in Tucson, Arizona at the age of 80. The cause of death is unknown. He was Born in Malta, Ohio on November 13, 1943 to the late William F. Ross and Sylvia C. (née Kansas) Ross. Dan is survived by his wife, Betty, son Dan, Jr. (Tracie), Jerry Ivy, Darrell Ivy, and son William Clark, daughters Sandy (Jerry), Jessica (Cody Eichinger); Grandchildren Ryan, Aaron, Trevor, Becca, Chris Jr, Hanna Ross, Glenn Ivy, Shannon (Keith), Kyla, Kaden; Great-grandchildren Tanner, Logan, and Nixon. He is preceded in death by his parents William F Ross, Sylvia C (Kansas); siblings William, Anna, Richard, Hilma, Lillian, and James; son Christopher Franklin, and Grandson Garrett Dean. Dan served during Vietnam in the United States Air Force from October 16, 1963 to October 13, 1967 as an Administrative Specialist for four years and was discharged as a Tech Sergeant. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Tucson Chapter #106. He enjoyed assisting Vets in getting the benefits they deserved after serving in the military. In 2009 Dan, an accredited Veterans Service Officer, established a VVA Veterans Service Office at the Tucson VA Medical Center where he has volunteered thousands of hours helping veterans. A lifetime member of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Dan served VVA Tucson Chapter #106, as Secretary, Vice-President, President, and Chaplain over the past six years. Dan’s Arizona adventures have included directing the Exodus Program whose volunteers greet Fort Huachuca soldiers traversing Tucson International Airport, and helping to organize NamJam, the annual city-wide festival that brings together veterans of all ages and the entire community to educate, celebrate, and raise funds to assist veterans and their families. He was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2022, one of the
The proudest moments in his life. Dan is missed by his family and those who knew him best. Love you Dad, until we meet again. A visitation for Dan was held on Monday, July 15, 2024 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM at Adair Dodge Chapel, 1050 North Dodge Boulevard, Tucson, AZ. A funeral service was held on Monday, July 15, 2024 from 9:00 to 10:30 AM at 1050 North Dodge Boulevard, Tucson, AZ. A committal with military honors was held on Monday, July 15, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the South Lawn Cemetery, 5401 South Park Avenue, Tucson, Arizona. Dan was laid to rest in South Lawn Cemetery, 5401 South Park Avenue, Tucson, AZ. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Dan’s memory may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America Tucson Chapter #106, PO Box 40903, Tucson, Arizona 85717-0903 US, www.VVA106.org.

KEITH RUDLASS – Died Thursday, June 20, 2024 in Smyrna, Tennessee at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Pontiac, Michigan on December 15, 1950. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Murfreesboro Chapter #1089.

LEE AUTHUR SANDS, JR. – Died Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at his home in New Boston, Texas at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. Lee was born on November 8, 1948 in Commerce, Texas to the late Lee Authur Sands, Sr. and Nannie Pearl Shirley Sands. He was retired from the United States Army and from Red River Army Depot. He was a member of The Chapel of Light — New Boston, Texas. Lee served his county for twenty-two years in the United States Army where he served in both Vietnam and Desert Storm. He loved his nation. Lee retired from Red River Army Depot after thirty-seven years. Lee loved people, his community, and New Boston altogether! He helped to establish, coach, and umpire soccer, as well as coach Pony League Baseball. Lee was an axillary policeman, a Boy Scout Leader, and a 4-H Shooting Sports Coach. He also helped to establish the Optimist Club. Lee was a member of the New Boston Evening Lions Club and the Disabled Veterans Association in New Boston. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Texarkana Chapter #278. His greatest love of all, next to God, was his love for his family. He was proceeded in death by his father and his mother; two sisters, Shirley Brown, and Peggy Ketner; three brothers, John Sands, Owen Sands, and Kenneth Sands. Lee is survived by the love of his life of fifty-three years, Jerrie (née Shaver) Sands; his daughter and son-in-law, Melissa and John Cawyer; his son and daughter-in-law, Russell and Rose Sands; his grandchildren, Tyler Sands (Sarah), Samantha Laborde (DC), Hunter Sands (TaNia), Herica Bandieri; one brother, Jackie Sands and wife Linda; one sister, Judy Potts; several sweet nieces and nephews; and many friends. Funeral Services were held on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 2:00 PM at the Bates-Rolf Funeral Home — New Boston, Texas with Brother A.M. Adams and Brother Jimmy Ramsey co-officiating. Visitation was held on Friday, February 16, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00
PM the day before the service at Bates-Rolf Funeral Home. The interment was in the Old Union Cemetery – Simms, Texas under the direction of Bates-Rolf Funeral Home – New Boston, Texas.

**JAMES L. SARACCO** - Died Monday, July 8, 2019 at the Kent County Hospital in Warwick at the age of 74. He was a resident of Coventry, Rhode Island. He was born in New York City, New York on May 13, 1945 to the late James V. and Theresa Saracco. He was the beloved husband of Marsha L. (née Hartley) Saracco. He was an electrician for Electric Boat. Mr. Saracco was a United States Marine Vietnam Veteran serving three tours in Vietnam. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of *Vietnam Veterans of America – Rhode Island*. Besides his wife, he is survived by his stepdaughter, Melissa Hartley, and two grandchildren, Alexander and Andreas Filippou. A committal service with military honors was held on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 11:00 AM in the Rhode Island State Veteran Cemetery in, Exeter, Rhode Island.

**KENNETH RAY “Ken” SELLERS** - Died Tuesday evening, May 7, 2024 in Kannapolis, North Carolina at the age of 80, following a period of declining health. The cause of death was a stroke. Affectionately known as Ken, he was born in Rowan County, North Carolina on May 6, 1944 to the late Duncan and Gladys (née Young) Sellers. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death two brothers, Thomas and Chris Sellers and a sister, Vickie Faggart. Family members left are his son, Chantz (Brenda) Sellers; two daughters, Angie (Micky) Walker and Alison (Michael) Dixon of GA; four grandchildren, Austin Walker, Taylor Dixon, Claudia and Apollo Sellers; two brothers, Calvin "Bugs" Sellers and Wayne Sellers; his sisters, Carolyn Sellers and Sylvia Sellers; and several nephews and nieces. Ken had honorably served his country with United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He had worked and retired after 36 years of service with NC SESC, working and helping to get Veterans employment. He was *Charter Member, Life Member* and *Vice-President* of *Vietnam Veterans of America – Concord Chapter #909*. A memorial graveside service was held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at the National Cemetery in Salisbury NC. with military rites conducted by the Cabarrus County Veterans Honor Guard and the US Navy Honor Guard. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to VVA #909 Concord, NC. Attn: Jerry Feitch, Secretary.

**GERALD A. “Jerry” SERHIENKO** - Died Thursday, June 18, 2024 in Mandan, North Dakota at the age of 76, following a short battle with cancer. Serhienko was born in his family home in Killdeer, North Dakota on November. 18, 1947 to the late John and Katherine (née Kukla) Serhienko. He graduated high school from Killdeer in 1965, then enlisted in the United States Navy during the Vietnam war, where he served a short stint on a submarine, before transferring to the U.S.S. Finch. He was honorably discharged in 1967. Serhienko met his wife-to-be Connie Petersen (Washburn, N.D.) during the historic Zip-to-Zap event in 1969. The couple married Sept.
6, 1969, in Washburn, N.D., and made their home in Mandan, N.D., for all of their married life. The couple raised two children, Nikki Laine (Serhienko) Zinke, 53, and David Serhienko, 52. Professionally, Serhienko worked in the accounting field for most of his adult life, retiring in November 2009 from his position with the North Dakota Child Support Enforcement Unit, Bismarck, N.D. He had earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from Mary College, Bismarck, N.D. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Bismarck Chapter #150. In addition to his lifelong involvement as a guitarist, singer and performer in numerous area bands, including the Melody Knights, Mark IV, and Tapestry, among others, Serhienko is best known for his work as a long-time community activist, promoting music and the arts in the Mandan-Bismarck area. Some of his many service projects and initiatives included: teaching free guitar lessons; serving as a Mandan City Commissioner; fundraising for and founding the Vern Cermak Bandshell in Dykshoorn Park, downtown Mandan; and founding Mandan’s premiere annual live entertainment events Buggies-n-Blues and Kaleidoscope. He was an active member of the Plainsmen Shrine, Al’s Big Band, the Musicians Union Local 229 and later Musicians Association, as well as numerous other community groups and events. Serhienko collected stamps and coins; loved old houses and woodworking, and was particularly proud of the custom wrap-a-round porch he built by hand as an add-on to his Fifth Avenue N.W. Mandan home. He enjoyed camping and fishing, holidays (especially Halloween and Christmas), and was a die-hard Minnesota Vikings fan. He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings Deloris Schutts, Richard, and William. Survivors include his wife Connie: daughter Nikki, Fingal, N.D.; son David, Valley City, N.D.; grand-daughter Alexa (Seth Rosenberg) Zinke, Medford, Mass.; and his Lhaso Apso Tom and Yorkshire Terrier Ben. A Celebration of Life service honoring Gerald “Jerry” Serhienko was held on Friday, June 28, 2024, at the Vern Cermak Bandshell in Dykshoorn Park, downtown Mandan, as well as the adjoining Community Room and patio of the Mandan-Morton Public Library. The gathering will include live music. Attending friends and family were asked to dress casually and bring lawn chairs. The remembrance service and celebration started at 3:00 PM. A private interment service was held later at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery, on Monday, July 1, 2024.

SAM SERNA, JR. (USA, 1SG- Ret.) – Died Friday, March 1, 2024 in his home in Las Cruces, New Mexico at the age of 89. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Grants, New Mexico on December 15, 1934 and was one of seven children of the late Sam Serna, Sr. and Matilde Serna. He also survived the loss of his beloved wife, Donna Lou Lange and two children, Jeffrey Scott and Valerie and one granddaughter, Alia. He is survived by his son, Greggry, six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Sam was born in Grants, NM and spent his early childhood in San Rafael, NM before moving to Vallejo, California where his father died when Sam was 13. At the age of 16, Sam joined the Army after lying about his age. Once his misrepresentation was discovered, he was allowed to stay in the Army, accomplishing his goal of supporting his mother. Sam served in the Army with distinction for twenty years, retiring as a
First Sergeant. His career took him to many places including Germany, Korea, Panama and two tours in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, he was cited for his heroism several times. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with three (3) Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with Valor and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Upon retirement, Sam began a second career in financial services starting with the company that help him transition from the Army to the civilian world. Eventually, he and a partner started a company, Gold Cypress Financial Services, in Salinas California. After they sold the company, Sam went into the auto repair business, setting up shop as Sam’s Old Volks Home, which he ran until it was time to retire again. Sam and Donna moved to Las Cruces, NM. Sam stated that one of the fondest memories of his life was when he went to Washington D.C. with Honor Flight of southern NM and El Paso. Here he visited the Memorials built to honor the selfless service of Veterans. He stated that the trip finally gave him closure on issues he had been dealing with since his time in Vietnam. John Poland was proud to be Sam’s sponsor on this trip. Sam is a Past Exalted Ruler of Elks Lodge 1119 in Las Cruces and also served as the State President of the New Mexico Elks. He was an active member of the Service Corps of Retired Executives. He was also a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America Post – Masilla Park Chapter #431 and a life member of American Legion Post #10, as well as the Elks.

JOHN P. SMEEKENS – Died Tuesday, July 2, 2024 in Clinton Township, Michigan at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on June 28, 1948. John led a life marked by service, devotion, and a steadfast commitment to his family and fellow veterans. He was the devoted husband of the late Donna for 55 years, a partnership that stood as a testament to their enduring love and commitment. Together, they built a family and shared countless cherished memories. A proud and honorable Vietnam veteran, John served in the United States Army, specifically in the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry Regiment, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, and the 23rd Infantry Americal Division. His service was marked by bravery and sacrifice, culminating in a life-threatening injury sustained in action. For his valor, he was awarded the Commendation Medal and the Purple Heart. John's dedication to his fellow veterans continued long after his military service ended. He was a fierce advocate for the APWU and the Michigan Postal Workers Union, serving as the Veterans Director for the APWU 480-481 and the MSPB representative for the state board. His commitment to veterans' causes was further exemplified by his role as a National APWU Veterans Guard and Reservist Information Specialist and his active Life Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America – Clinton Township Chapter #154. Professionally, John was an automotive technician at VerHoven Chevrolet before joining the United States Postal Service, where he eventually retired. He was known for his hard work, expertise, and dedication in every role he undertook. John found joy in simple pleasures, such as spending time at his cabin in Roscommon and tending to his vegetable garden. He was also a true Detroit Lions fan, holding season tickets for many years and cheering on his team with unwavering loyalty. Above all, John was a devoted family man. He cherished every moment with his children and his beloved wife, Donna. His kindness extended to strangers, especially fellow veterans, whom he always greeted
with a heartfelt, "Welcome home. Thank you for your service." John's legacy is one of courage, dedication, and love. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who were touched by his remarkable life. John was the loving husband of the late Donna Smeekens. The beloved father of Lisa (Brent) Johnson, Angela (Antonio) Principato, and Janet (Anthony) Galuszka. He was the cherished grandfather of Tiffany (Jerry), Heather, Kerrigan, Matthew, Sophia, Victor, Jake, Delaney, and Treyton. He was the caring great-grandfather of McKenna and Colton. He was the dear brother-in-law of Martha (Pat) Craska, Ignazio Aleardi, and Carmelina Biscarner. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. John was preceded in death by his parents Jack and Marie Smeekens and his brothers-in-law Adolfo Aleardi, Al Aleardi, and sisters-in-law Geraldine Finazzo, and Agnes Aleardi.

Visitation for John took place on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 from 2:00 to 9:00 PM at Resurrection Funeral Home, 40800 Hayes Road in Clinton Township. Military honors and rosary were at 7:00 PM. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 9:30 AM at Saint Michael Catholic Church, 40501 Hayes Road in Sterling Heights. Friends were able to visit the church on Thursday beginning at 9:00 AM. John and his wife Donna were placed at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan at a later date.

JOHN HOWELL SMITH - Died Sunday, April 7, 2024 in Wautoma, Wisconsin at the age of 74. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Chicago, Illinois on June 30, 1949. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Mauston Chapter #729. Graveside services with Military Honors were held at the Central Wisconsin Veteran's Cemetery, King, WI at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 20th.

MARLENE KAY (née Anderson) SMITH - Died Friday, January 19, 2024 in New Town, North Dakota at the age of 67. The cause of death was a heart attack. She was born in Alexandria, Minnesota on September 14, 1956 to the late Orville and Darlene (née Chayer) Anderson. She attended school in Evansville, MN, where she grew up with her sisters Peggy and Laurie and brother Michael. After high school, she graduated with a dental assistant degree. Marlene married Joel Kolle on July 6, 1974. They happily welcomed two boys in this union: Ryan and Adam. The family moved from Moorhead, MN to Williston, ND, in the early 90s. There, Marlene worked as a dental assistant for Dr. Anderson. She always enjoyed talking with patients and meeting new people. While in Williston she spent her time following her boys around in their many activities, cooking and baking, and socializing whenever possible. Marlene married Robert Smith in 2002 in Williston, ND. They later divorced. In the last years of her life, she met her partner, Dave Hilleren, and moved to New Town, ND. She and Dave had many adventures together, from cruises in Alaska and the Caribbean to vacations in Mexico. She enjoyed her outings with friends and would always have new stories to tell when she would visit her family. She was a Life Member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – New Town Chapter #487. Marlene’s greatest joy in life was her two sons. She would do anything for Ryan and Adam (including making them each a pan of caramel rolls each visit). She also enjoyed following her grandchildren’s activities of hockey, baseball, and gymnastics throughout the year. She loved
watching videos of games and meets and was so proud of their accomplishments. She may have been known to brag a little about each of them on occasion. Her family will miss her love of life, her laugh, and her jokes. Most of all, they will miss her hugs and hearing the words “I love you”. Marlene is survived by her life partner Dave Hilleren; son, Ryan(Jocelyn) Kolle and their children, Carson, Kenadi, and son, Adam Kolle; sisters, Peggy(Jim) Sauer, Laurie Johnson; sister-in-law, Madeline Anderson; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Orville and Darlene Anderson; her brother, Michael; and an infant brother, Jon.

**Sampie Ward Smith** – Died Thursday, June 27, 2024 in Hinesville, Georgia at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. Sampie was born in Douglas, Georgia on August 10, 1947 to the late Sampie T. and Geneva (née Ward) Smith. When he was one-year-old, his dad decided to own a general store in Denton. Clerking in his dad’s store from his youth, he learned to be industrious. Sampie was educated at Brooker-Denton Elementary then went on to graduate from Jeff Davis County High with honors and then on to South Georgia and Georgia Southern. He majored in history and minored in political science. Upon graduation from Southern, Sampie followed in the footsteps of several family members including his father and sister. On July 3, 1969 he joined the United States Army and after being trained in combat and combat engineering, he went to OCS. In May of 1970 he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant as a military intelligence officer. After additional training in Baltimore, he was sent to his duty station at Fort Stewart. He was a 1st Lieutenant when he left active duty but he was asked to return to service by the Georgia National Guard. Sampie served as an artillery officer in Savannah and did summer camps at Stewart as an observation/safety officer. Sampie found further education necessary and obtained his Master of Arts Degree in Education and a Juris Doctorate degree. Once more he was called for military service and became a Transportation Officer in the U. S. Army Reserve in Waycross where he eventually became the company commander and after a few years as a Captain he was promoted to Major and sent to Jacksonville’s 67th Transportation Group. When it was reformed, Sampie returned to his love, teaching. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Hinesville Chapter #789. Upon leaving active duty permanently Sampie went to Savannah and pounded the streets and attended interviews but it was only the next week when Udell Wilcox, Assistant County School Superintendent of Liberty County, called Sampie and asked him to come teach in Hinesville. At first Sampie declined the invitation because he had seen how much work his mother put into teaching for decades. He was then asked to come see Mr. Edwards who was not a man easy to say no to. Mr. Edwards told him he had a sixth grade teacher leaving and that he would be perfect for the position. Needless to say, Sampie began preparing classes in English, Math, Science, Music and Art. He fell deeply in love with teaching and rather than staying at the elementary level, he went to the brand new Bradwell Institute High School to teach American Government to seniors and U.S. History to juniors. Sampie prided himself in seeing what his students accomplished in their later years. Two attorneys, a geologist, nurses, graduates from West Point, the U.S. Air Force, the Naval Academy,
and a 3 Star General, just to name a few. Sampie received a number of accolades from his peers and former students in the form of STAR Teacher and Teacher of the Year. Smith retired in 2000 and decided to go into politics. He served as a county commissioner for two terms. Sampie also was a member of the State of Georgia’s Electoral College, and was a delegate of the National Republican Convention in Philadelphia. Sampie was also a member of First Presbyterian Church where he accepted a position as Elder. Sampie loved to travel and visit exotic locations all over the world. Some of the places he visited are Chile, Iceland, Ireland, Mexico, England, Scotland, Egypt, Brazil, China, Germany, Bosnia, Hawaii, Alaska, and many other destinations. He enjoyed partaking in dining on various foods in various locations. Sampie enjoyed eating goat by the Sea of Galilee, feasting on conger eel while in Chile, and indulging at a feast of guanaco in Peru. Sampie leaves behind to remember his memories, his wife, LingJing Rao Smith; two grandsons, Ethan and Edison and their parents, Yiming Yang and Tia. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sister, Marian Smith. His family would like to extend their appreciation to the staff of Georgia Hospice Care, Merritt & Grinstead Law group and to Tommy and Kim Carter of Thomas L. Carter Funeral Home & Crematory for their patience and support throughout Sampie’s illness. Sampie’s final resting place was at Lone Hill Methodist Church Cemetery in Coffee County. The Thomas L. Carter Funeral Home and Crematory, Flemington were in charge of the arrangements.

ROY ALLEN SMRKOVSKY - Died Wednesday, May 22, 2024 in Schulenburg, Texas at the age of 79. The cause of death was cancer. Roy was born in Schulenburg on November 14, 1944 to the late Rudy and Louise Smrkovsky. Roy attended Schulenburg High School where he participated in numerous activities such as FFA, football, and track and field. Roy and his siblings, Mary Smrkovsky Carlton and Bobby Smrkovsky, grew up on the family farm where they raised cattle and other livestock. Roy was a cattleman at heart and loved roping and trail rides.

Upon graduation, Roy attended Texas A&M University, became a member of the Corps of Cadets, and received a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture Education in 1967. Roy took a commission into the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant and served from 1967 to 1969, most of which was spent in Vietnam. After returning home, Roy took a job selling steel for United Steel in Tyler, Texas. Living in Tyler, Roy spent much of his free time fishing on Lake Tyler and Lake Palestine, tying custom rods and making fishing lures. In 1980, Roy reconnected with his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Carolyn Niesner. Roy and Carolyn moved back to their hometown of Schulenburg in 1981 and were married in 1982. Roy took over his family business, City Meat Market, from his parents and continued as second-generation owner alongside his father Rudy Smrkovsky. In 1985, Roy and Carolyn had a son named Lukas. After graduating from Texas A&M in 2008, Lukas and his wife Bethany Pesek Smrkovsky moved to Houston to begin their careers. It wasn’t long until the desire to move home and take over the family business set in, and Lukas and Bethany moved back home to Schulenburg in 2014. They have three children, Gage, Wyatt and Abigail Smrkovsky, all of whom were Roy’s pride and joy. Roy enjoyed taking his grandchildren fishing, riding around looking for deer, or just hanging out asking they how their school day went. Roy was a member of the American Legion, a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans
of America - Schulenburg Chapter #870, Masonic Lodge, and Shriners, and was also very involved in the Schulenburg Junior Livestock show. He had a passion for helping children, especially when it came to livestock projects. Roy is survived by his wife Carolyn Smrkovsky; son, Lukas Smrkovsky and wife Bethany; sister, Mary Carlton and husband Raymond; grandsons, Gage and Wyatt Smrkovsky; and granddaughter, Abigail Smrkovsky; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rudy and Louise Smrkovsky; and brother, Bobby Smrkovsky. Memorial services were held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at the First Methodist Church in Schulenburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School or the Schulenburg Junior Livestock Show.

DOUGLAS MARTIN “Doug” SORENSEN - Died at 11:15 AM on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at Mercy Health-Saint Rita’s in Lima, Ohio at the age of 80. He was a resident Wapakoneta, Ohio. The cause of death was congestive heart failure and diabetes. He was born on December 25, 1943 in Cleveland, Ohio to the late Martin Sorensen and Dorothy (née Seitz) Koepke. On November 24, 1967 he married Faye Wendt who survives in Wapakoneta. Survivors include 2 children Chris (Yvonne) Sorensen of Wapakoneta, Jill (Mike) Sparks of Sidney; 3 grandchildren Harrison, Stephanie Sorensen, Kirsten Sparks; siblings Chad Sorensen, Janet Harder, Galen Koepke, Randy (Debbie) Koepke, Keith (Rhonda) Koepke, Kathy (Barry) Cochran. Douglas was preceded in death by stepfather Grayson Koepke. Doug was a 1962 graduate from Elmore-Harris High School in Elmore, Ohio. He proudly served the United States Army during the Vietnam War from 1965-1967 where he was awarded the Purple Heart twice. After returning he began working as a Field Engineer for Northern Ohio Telephone Company of Port Clinton, and General Telephone Company in Bellevue, OH. In 1978 he and Faye moved to Wapakoneta to take over the family business of selling crop insurance and creating Sorensen Insurance Agency where their son, daughter and grandson continue the legacy of working there today. He was member of Saint Mark’s Lutheran Church, VFW Post #8445, a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Wapakoneta Chapter #1126 and the Eagles #691. Doug loved collecting cars and woodworking where he made a variety of things. He also enjoyed collecting and restoring antiques along with making leather clothing. As an artist, Doug was very talented and you could always find his doodles anywhere on a sheet of paper. Funeral services were at 10:30 AM on Monday, July 1, 2024 at Saint Mark’s Lutheran Church, Wapakoneta with Pastor Doug Pretorius officiating. The burial was at the Greenlawn Cemetery with military rites performed by the VFW Post #8445. Family and friends visited from 1:00-4:00 PM on Sunday, June 30, 2024 at the Schlosser Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Wapakoneta and also one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorial contributions may be directed to Saint Mark’s Lutheran Church or Auglaize County Humane Society. Condolences may be expressed at www.schlosserfuneralhome.com.
CHARLES RUSSELL “Russ” SPICHER (USAF, LtCol-Ret.) – Died Wednesday, May 8, 2024 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Albuquerque on October 14, 1944 to the late Charles and Sue Spicher. He graduated from New Mexico State University and then received a master’s degree from Pepperdine University. Russ went on the serve his country in the United States Air Force in Vietnam, Germany, Hawaii and several bases in the continental US. He retired from the Air Force with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Russ didn’t let retirement stop his community service. He was active in the VFW Post #401, Crime Stoppers USA, Citizens Police Academy, and served at the Veteran’s Memorial. He was an at-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – New Mexico. Russ was also a board member of A Peaceful Habitation organization, member of Masonic lodge #6 and Ballut Abyad Shrine. Russ was an active member of Hoffmantown church, but his greatest joy was traveling to Uganda to serve the people through AMG International (Advancing the Ministry of the Gospel). He was able to make seven trips to Uganda assisting in building an orphanage & school, visiting homes and prisons then helping in the medical clinic at the College of Nursing and Midwifery with his wife Mary. Russ is survived by his wife, Mary, sister Brenda Risenhoover (Fort Worth TX); daughter Kim Shurley(Billy) (Little Rock, AR); sons Aaron Johnson (Linda) and Ian Spicher (Sarah) of Albuquerque. Russ and Mary have four grandchildren (Morgan Gardner, Trey & Madelyn Shurley, Dahlia Spicher) and three great-grandchildren (Delilah, Cheyenne and Mia) plus several nieces and nephews. A celebration of Russ’s life was held on Tuesday May 21st at 10:00 AM at Hoffmantown Church. The interment was in the National Cemetery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In Lieu of flowers donations can be made to AMG International, 6615 Standifer Gap Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421 or https://amginternational.org/campaign/10639/nursing-school-in-uganda-1.

JAMES HERBERT “Jim” STITH – Died Friday, April 26, 2024 in Leominster, Massachusetts at the age of 80. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky on December 26, 1943. He was known affectionately as Jim to his friends and family, lived a remarkable life. Born in the bucolic countryside of Kentucky, Jim’s journey was one of dedication, humor, profound kindness, and just a touch of mischief. Jim is survived by his loving family, extended family, and three grandchildren. He shared a life rich in laughter and mutual respect with his beloved wife Arline. Together they raised two sons, Jake and Alec who were imparted with his spirit of integrity and kindness. He welcomed his daughters-in-law Abby and Lori into his house as family and he cherished the time he was able to spend with his three grandchildren Emerson, Avery, and James. He was also the dear brother of Eleanor Friel, whose shared memories are a testament to the unbreakable bonds of family. He was preceded in death by his adopted sister Maryanne Gross. Jim’s life was one marked by service and excellence. A proud Veteran of the United States Air Force, he served his country with courage, honor, and
distinction, most notably during his deployment in Vietnam. His commitment to his fellow servicemen and women continued long after his military career ended, he was active in his local VFW Post and served as its Commander for a term and was instrumental in the creation and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. He was also a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Leominster Chapter #116. His dedication to service was matched only by his skill as a craftsman, a vocation through which he crafted not only objects of beauty and function but also lasting friendships. Jim’s academic pursuits led him to Harvard University, where he earned a B.A. in Economics. This education laid the foundation for a life filled with intellectual curiosity. He was an avid reader whose interests ran the gamut from existential to world history. He was able to recall facts and anecdotes for any situation he found himself in. He also found an outlet for his problem solving and creative abilities in the world of computer programming. Those who knew Jim would describe him as intelligent, funny, gentle, and a man of faith. His intelligence shone through in his insightful conversations and quick wit. His sense of humor was a source of joy for all around him, and his gentle nature made him a confidant and friend to many. Jim lived his life with a quiet strength and a kind heart, guiding his family with wisdom and love. As we remember Jim, we are reminded of the words of John Donne, “Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind”. So too does the passing of our dear Jim, leaving a void in the hearts of those who knew him. Yet, we shall not dwell in the shadow of sorrow, for he would have us remember the light of his laughter and the warmth of his wisdom. As we pay tribute to James H. Stith, we celebrate a life well-lived, a path well-traveled, and a man well-loved. Jim’s story does not end here; it is carried forward in the stories we share, the values we uphold, and the love we continue to give. Rest in eternal glory, until we meet again in New Jerusalem where stories never end.

LEE SULLIVAN, JR. - Died Monday June 3, 2024 at Jefferson City Health and Rehabilitation Center Jefferson City, Tennessee at the age of 75, after a brief battle with cancer. He was a resident of Morristown, Tennessee. He was born in Morristown on June 28, 1948 to the late T. Lee Sullivan, Sr. and Vergie (née Young) Sullivan. He was a committed member of Calvary Baptist Church and enjoyed spending time with his church family. He was a 1967 graduate of Morristown Hamblen High School and a 1978 graduate of East Tennessee University. He proudly served as a United States Marine Corps member from 1967-1974, having achieved the rank of Corporal and was honorably discharged as a Vietnam Veteran. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Morristown Chapter #1073. He was preceded in death by his father and mother T. Lee Sullivan, Sr. and Vergie (née Young) Sullivan and Uncle James (Jim) Young. He is survived by Aunt Mary Young, cousins Betty Cook, Barbara Horton, Doris Collier, Lynn Sullivan, Dan Sullivan and Linda Williams. Special Friends Lowell (“Buzz”) Hale, Damon Morgan, Pastor Larry Parrott, and special caretaker Amanda Kitts, whom he adored. A celebration of life service was held on Sunday June 9, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Calvary Baptist Church in Morristown, TN. Semper Fi!
JOHN GLENN SWARTZENBERG – Died Monday, April 15, 2024 in Hamlin, New York at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Rochester, New York on September 21, 1946. John is predeceased by his siblings Bill Swartzenberg and Janet Kane; sister Dianne Fairthorne. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Laura Swartzenberg; children Jennifer, Eric and Kimberly Swartzenberg; grandchildren Felicia, Leo and Luke; brothers Ed (Kathy) and Joe (Mary Ellen) Swartzenberg; sister-in-law Barb D’Ambra; brother-in-law Don (Heather) Fairthorne; loving pets Stevie, Abby and Sophie; a large extended family and many friends. John was a Vietnam Veteran who was proud to serve in the United States Marine Corps. He was also a member of the Hamlin Fire Department, Holley Hell Hounds Marine Corps League, lifetime member of the Hamlin VFW, and long-time member of Grace Church of the Nazarene. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20. He had a passion for fishing and hunting and loved the outdoors. He cherished his family and friends, and he enjoyed bringing laughter and joy to them. He was a selfless man who was always willing to help anyone in need. Friends were invited to a Funeral Service on Saturday, May 18, 2024 beginning at 11:00 AM at Grace Church of the Nazarene, 2924 South Union Street, Rochester, NY. The interment took place in White Haven Memorial Park on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM. Kindly consider a donation to Grace Church of the Nazarene or Toys for Tots in John’s memory.

HAROLD McPHEE TEAL (USAF, SMSGT- Ret.) – Died recently in 2024 in Boyce, Louisiana at the age of 92. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on August 8, 1931 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. He served in United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and retired at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant (E-8). He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Alexandria Chapter #1131.

RODNEY DELMAR TOMBLIN – Died Friday, June 21, 2024 in Bolivar, Ohio at the age of 83. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Orlando, West Virginia on July 21, 1940. He served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – New Philadelphia Chapter #857. He retired in 1998 from the Timken Company after 36 years. Survived by his wife Nancy (née Seward) Tomblin and two sons Stacy (Shelley) Tomblin and Eric (Kelli) Tomblin; five grandchildren and a great-grandson. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Lebold-Smith Funeral Home in Bolivar. Friends visited on Monday from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the funeral home. To view a complete obituary, please visit the funeral home’s web site. The Lebold-Smith Funeral Home in Bolivar was in charge of all the arrangements.
JAMES CHESTER TURNAGE, JR. - Died Monday, July 1, 2024 at FirstHealth Hospice House in Pinehurst, North Carolina at the age of 77. He was a resident of West End, North Carolina. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 23, 1946, in Fayetteville, North Carolina to the late James C. Turnage, Sr. and Jeanette (née Frye) Baldwin-Turnage. James was a faithful member of Victory Community Baptist Church. He loved his church, his country and his family. He proudly served in the United States Army with two tours in the Vietnam War, where he received a Purple Heart. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – West End Chapter #966. He enjoyed time with family and meeting new people everywhere he went. He loved trips to the beach, fishing, camping, gardening, cooking, puzzles and spreading his love of the Lord to others. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Dennis Grooms; and sister, Gayle Williams. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Nancy Turnage; children, Crystal Roberts, Chris Grooms, Tracy Riley and Betsy Turnage; four grandchildren, Zackeri and Mackenzie Roberts, Hailey Grooms and Max Turnage; two great-grandchildren, Addie and Bryce Roberts; nephew, Lee Williams; also survived by his beloved grand “dog,” Skylar Blue. A memorial service was held on Sunday, July 7th at 2:00 PM at the Victory Community Baptist Church in Carthage. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Online condolences may be left at www.bolesfuneralhome.com.

LARRY NORMAN VILLAREAL – Died Wednesday, December 13, 2023 in Corpus Christi, Texas at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on March 30, 1950 in Corpus Christi to the late Manuel Villareal and Mary (née Gonzales) Villareal. Larry was a graduate of Miller High School and Del Mar Junior College. He retired from CCISD after 30 years as an elementary, physical education teacher/ coach. Larry was a drummer for different numerous Tejano bands with the majority of his volunteer efforts for the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Corpus Christi Chapter #910. Larry was married to Grace (née Delgado) Villareal on June 27, 1992 and together they became foster parents for approximately 32 children. Larry was a devoted husband and father who was known to many as “coach”. Larry is preceded in death by his parents, Manuel Villareal and Mary Gonzales-Villareal, his sister, Irma Villareal-Elizondo, and his brother-in-law Johnny Elizondo, his two brothers, Oscar Villareal (Irma Villareal) and Ruben Villareal. Larry is survived by his wife, Grace Delgado Villareal and his daughter, Adriana Grace Villarreal and a loving family. Larry will be remembered as a loving and devoted husband, father, coach and a friend to all. Visitation services were held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at the Funeraria Del Angel- Memorial Holly on 3442 Holly Road, Corpus Christi, TX from 9:00-11:00 AM. A mass and rosary was celebrated Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church.
on 710 South 19th Street, Corpus Christi, Texas at 12:00 Noon. Family and friends were welcome to gather for Lunch at the at the U&I restaurant on 309 South Water Street, Corpus Christi, Texas.

**MICHAEL WAYNE “Mike” WEBB** (USA, SSG-Ret.) - Died Saturday, March 30, 2024, while on a motorcycle ride with the Tulsa H.O.G. Chapter. He was 70 years of age and a resident of Kellyville, Oklahoma. Michael was born on June 17, 1953 in San Diego, California to the late Harold and Myrna (née Bulter) Webb. Mike was a preemie at under three pounds. His mom called him her shoe box baby. When he was strong enough, they moved to Kansas, where both mom and dad were from. They moved a lot while the boys were growing up, settling in Cañon City Colorado, where Mike graduated from high school. Following high school, Mike joined the United States Army earning the rank of (RT) SSG E-6. He served 20 years. While in the Army he worked on, flew, and crashed helicopters, not necessarily in that order. (He loved saying this.) Mike also taught helicopter repair and maintenance in the year or so before his retirement. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Sapulpa Chapter #1132. While stationed in Washington, Mike had a son, Chris. Mike later met and married Ann and they had two daughters, Janet, and Theresa. After retiring from the Army, Mike went overseas to teach helicopter repair and maintenance. Returning to the States, he was grandfathered in with a CDL (Commercial Driver’s License), where he begins his truck driving years. On January 27, 1999, Mike accepted the Lord as his savior. While driving for Arrow Trucking, he met and married Edith, they celebrated 23 years of marriage in March 2024. For the past five years Mike has driven a school bus for Sapulpa Public Schools. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, reloading his own bullets, and riding his motorcycle. Mike never met a stranger, and you could always hear him before you saw him. Mike is preceded in death by his father, his grandparents, and his mother-in-law Kate Ralston. He is survived by his wife Edith; children Chris Donahue of Jacksonville, Florida, Janet Hickman and husband Lewis of Roanoke, VA. Theresa Piosek and Damian of Sanford, NC., Clinton Warnock and April of Kellyville, William Warnock and Wendi, of Bristow and AJ Jackson of Kellyville; grandchildren Gideon, Nathan, Benjamin, Amerleena, Patrick, Breanna, Olympia, Hunter, Noah, Brandon, Dasha, Gabby, Chet, Kamber and Cory; mother Myrna of Canon City, CO; brothers Steve Webb and Larry Webb and wife, Marolynne of Canyon City and a host of other relatives and friends. A Memorial Service was held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at the Traditions Funeral Home Chapel. Following the service guests were invited to join the family and friends at the Webb home at 525 East Allen Street, Kellyville for burgers and hotdogs! The funeral arrangements were under the direction of Traditions Funeral and Cremation Services 35 South Main in Kellyville, OK.
CECILIA ANNE “Cookie” (née McMonigal) WHITE - Died Friday, May 17, 2024 in Franktown, Colorado at the age of 84. The cause of death is unknown. She was born in the small coal mining town of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania on March 28, 1940 to the late Violet McMonigal. Cecilia earned the nickname Cookie when she was four years old and for an entire year would only eat cookies, at the encouragement of her imaginary friend, Offty. When Offty finally moved on, Cookie returned to eating normal meals with her family but the name, and her love of cookies, stuck. Cookie’s mother, Violet McMonigal, raised her and her beloved sister, Joey, and the three McMonigal girls were inseparable. Cookie was a devout Catholic, faithfully attending Mass, attending Catholic school, serving her community, and joyfully accepting the call to religious life. Immediately following high school, Cookie entered the convent and became Sister Marian Joanne in the order of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For 10 years she served Jesus through a teaching ministry. When Christ called her for a different vocation, Cookie left the convent and pursued further education, continuing her teaching career. Several years later, while living in Atlantic City, New Jersey, with her mom and sister, a chance encounter at the Cumberland Farms convenience store would change her life forever. A handsome Coast Guardsman said hello when she was buying milk, and that was the beginning of a 53-year blessed marriage with her devoted husband, Lee. When Lee left the military and began a career in the building materials business, he and Cookie spent their marriage moving from coast to coast, traveling the world, and building a life together. Daughter Wendy joined the family and then there were “three peas in the pod.” Cookie was committed to education, teaching students across the country for more than 40 years. From first through eighth grades, art, music and everything in between, Cookie’s love for developing young minds never wavered. She spent the last 15 years of her career teaching third and fourth grades at Franktown Elementary School in Franktown, Colorado. Cookie’s kindness and infectious smile could soften even the hardest hearts, and her impact on everyone she met was immeasurable. She welcomed everyone with open arms and a warm hug and made sure everyone who visited her home was nourished, both in tummy and in spirit. She loved God’s creation and would always look up at the sky and comment on its beauty, often finding special shapes in the billowy clouds. Cookie was also an avid Denver Broncos fan, recognized by The Denver Post as the “Most Outrageous Broncos Fan” in 2004. She often used football as a way to excite her students about learning and would assign watching the Broncos as homework when they played on Monday Night Football. While the pain from osteoarthritis limited her mobility following her retirement in 2005, Cookie was happy reading, catalog shopping, watching Westerns, and spending time with her family at home in Franktown. More than anything, Cookie was devoted to her faith, family, friends and students. She touched so many lives and will always be remembered for her genuine loving nature. She was a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Aurora Chapter #1106. Cookie is survived by her loving husband, Lee White, and daughter, Wendy White. She was preceded in death by her mother, Violet McMonigal, and sister, Joanne Sorrentino. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Cecilia “Cookie” White to Camilla Hall Nursing Home in care of IHM Mission Advancement, 230 IHM Drive, Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355.
ARTHUR L. WILLIAMS – Died Saturday, June 1, 2024 in Upper Chichester, Pennsylvania at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 24, 1946. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Media Chapter #67. Visitation was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 AM at the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church West with the service following at 10:00 AM. The interment was in the Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH WALTER WILLIAMS - Died Monday, March 18, 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the age of 72. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Indianapolis on Sunday, July 8, 1951 to the late Richard and Patricia Williams. He is survived by his brothers, Richard (Penny) Williams, John Paul Williams; sisters, Janet Sweeney, Judith Williams, Theresa Williams; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Patricia Williams; and sisters, Mary Beth Frank, Annette Kelly. Joseph served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a sponsor in various addiction recovery programs for the past 42 years. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawrence Chapter #295. He grew up in Saint Joan of Arc Parish and also attended Saint Christopher Catholic Church. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church, followed by entombment at Crown Hill Cemetery. Visitation was held from 4:00-8:00 PM on Friday, March 22, 2024 at the Usher Funeral Home. Online condolences may be offered at usherfuneralhome.com. Joseph will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. May he rest in peace. Memorial contributions may be made to Alcoholics Anonymous, IndyHumane or the Disabled American Veterans.

EUGENE WNEK (USA, SGM-Ret.) - Died Friday, May 10, 2024 in Killeen, Texas at the age of 87. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on February 3, 1937 in Glogoczow, Poland to the late Adam and Agnes Wnek. He proudly served in the United States Army for 27 years, retiring as a Sergeant Major (E-9). He was an At-Large Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Texas. Eugene was preceded in death by his parents and father and mother-in-law, Karl and Erna Breidenstein. Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 61 1/2 years, Christa, a daughter, Angela E. Zettlemoyer and husband, Walter, a son, Eugene Wnek, a sister, Wanda Juste and family, brother-in-law, Erwin Breidenstein and family, sister-in-law, Ursula Emmel and family, grandchildren, Ryan and Jacob Zettlemoyer, and relatives in Poland, including Antoni Zarski and family. A private Celebration of Life will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to
Saint Jude Children's Hospital. A special thank you to the 4th floor ICU doctors and nursing staff of Advent Health Hospital in Killeen for all your care and support of Mr. Wnek. Words of comfort may be made to the Wnek family at www.CrawfordBowersFuneralHome.com.

GUY WOLFENBARGER – Died Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at home in Columbus, Ohio at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 4, 1946 on Grener Road on the west side of Columbus, Guy exhibited an indomitable spirit from an early age. After completing his freshman year at Mount Olivet Nazarene College, he joined the United States Marine Corps, where he served with distinction as a tanker during the Vietnam War. Guy’s bravery and dedication earned him numerous commendations, including a Purple Heart and the lifelong respect of his fellow Marines. He was a Vietnam War veteran, successful entrepreneur, property developer, mentor, husband, and friend to many. Upon returning from Vietnam, Guy channeled his relentless drive and work ethic into the business world. Starting with a small roofing company he purchased from his father, he founded a series of successful enterprises that spanned various industries and grew in scope. He became a prominent property developer, resulting in one of Ohio's largest privately owned warehousing firms. He also pioneered e-waste and heavy metals recycling and always retained interest in commodities trading. Guy's keen business acumen and integrity made him a self-made man and a respected figure in the business community. His distinct personality marked his journey. He was not just a successful businessman, a quintessential entrepreneur, a deep-sea fisherman, an urban farmer, and a friend to many, but he was a true original. His uncommon ability to turn ideas into realities in any circumstance was a testament to his exceptional character. Guy was a man of immense ambition and unyielding determination, leaving an indelible mark on the business world. His accomplishments were a testament to his astuteness and problem-solving skills. His ability to navigate the complexities of the business world with finesse was unparalleled, inspiring those around him to strive to achieve their potential. He was a true self-made man, building his business world from the ground up through sheer grit and relentless drive. His legacy as a shrewd businessman and visionary entrepreneur is well-established. He had an unquenchable curiosity and a storehouse of knowledge and experience that he was always eager to share. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Guy was a man who, in his own way, showed us the value of perseverance and resilience. Despite facing numerous challenges, he always pursued his dreams. His actions spoke louder than words, demonstrating the importance of these qualities in life and inspiring those around him to never give up. He balanced his business interests with fishing, travel, fine wine, and staying in touch with his Vietnam veterans. Guy was a passionate deep-sea fisherman. He found solace and adventure in the open waters, often sharing stories of his maritime exploits with friends and family. His love for the sea was a testament to his adventurous spirit and appreciation for nature's beauty. In many aspects of his life, Guy had a keen eye for detail and an unwavering commitment to accomplishing his goals and motivating people to help him. While his methods may have been unconventional at times, there is no denying his impact on those around him. He pushed others
to reach his goals and, in so doing, challenged them to reach new heights and exceed their expectations. He made lasting friendships in all walks of life. Guy's quiet strength and resilience served him well throughout his life. He was as comfortable eating lunch at the American Legion Hall or Hyde Park for dinner. Although his industrial properties served the needs of countless businesses, he set aside acres of prime real estate for his vegetable garden, a home for his herd of goats, and a pen for two donkeys. He also provided homes for employees and relatives and contributed to educational programs, the arts, and veterans’ organizations. He’s survived by a large extended family. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Columbus Chapter #670. He partnered with his wife of 40 years, Carol, to deal with the challenges of an independent business person and enjoy the rewards of his extraordinary achievements. Together, they accomplished a great deal. One example is their pursuit of Carol’s interests and professional career as an educator and PhD in Children’s Literature to establish a large private collection of children’s books featuring the brilliance of countless artists and illustrators, a collection bequeathed to Kent State University. Ultimately, Guy's legacy is not just about the buildings he erected or the businesses he built; it is about the lives he touched. Rest in peace, Guy. Your spirit will live on in the hearts and minds of all those who knew you. The family and friends welcomed visits at the Graumlich Funeral Home at 1351 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, Carol and Guy would appreciate donations to the Columbus Museum of Art or to the Cat Welfare Association. To leave an online condolence please visit www.graumlichfuneralhome.com.

RAYMOND LEO ZAWACKI - Died peacefully, but unexpectedly Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at the RWJ University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey at the age of 77. He was a resident of Fords, New Jersey. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Ridgeway, Pennsylvania on November 16, 1946 to the late Leo and Julia Zawacki. He was formerly of Edison, New Jersey and had resided in Fords for the last 54 years. He proudly served his country as a Vietnam Veteran in the United States Navy on board the USS Ticonderoga. He retired after forty years with the American Legion where he was a Service Officer and then as Adjutant. He was then appointed to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Military and Veterans Affairs for the State of NJ for which he served an additional ten years. Raymond belonged to many organizations, including the Naval Order of the US, Anavicus Purple Hat of the American Legion, served as secretary of the NJ Boys State, was a member of the Masonic Lodge # 8 of Trenton, a life member of the American Legion Clara Barton Post # 324 and Sons of the American Legion, was an American Legion Insurance Trustee, and a member of the Big T Association, USS Ticonderoga. He was also a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – New Brunswick Chapter #233. He was predeceased by his parents, Leo and Julia Zawacki, and his siblings, Leo Zawacki, Jr. and Donna Marie Zawacki. Raymond leaves behind his beloved wife of 55 years, Joanna (née Gosk) Zawacki, his beloved daughter, Michelle Koenig (and Matthew) of East Stroudsburg, PA, and son, Shaun Zawacki of Fords, and his two cherished grandchildren, Gage Matthew and Isabella Faith. Visitation was held on Thursday May 16, 2024 from 3:00-7:00 PM at the Flynn and Son Funeral Home, 23 Ford
Avenue, Fords NJ. A graveside service took place on Friday, May 17, 2024 at 12:30 PM at the Brigadier General William C Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Arneytown, North Hanover Township, NJ. If desired, in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to: Autism Speaks or to St. Jude.org.

CHARLES BURGESS “Chuck” ZOBAC – Died unexpectedly of a heart attack on Friday, October 6, 2023 at his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the age of 80. He was born on June 8, 1944. His shocked and saddened family members include his wife, Carol Rose, daughters Lauren Zobac, Whitney (Chelsea) Zobac-Owyeung, Courtney (Alicia) Zobac, grandson Bradford James Owyeung, stepsons Kevin (Bonnie) and Russ (Shannon) Sanford, 6 step-grandchildren, sister Becky (Dick) Mauch and their children. A well-known United States Army veteran of the Vietnam War, Chuck lived 30 years in the Bay Area after returning from serving, where he was married and raised 3 daughters and enjoyed sailing, swimming and roller-blading with his daughters. He had a passion for learning, attending college off and on for years, finally proudly receiving his BS degree in 2009 from the College of Santa Fe. He loved reading, cooking for others, helping other veterans, and was an active member of AA, proud of his 34 years in recovery. He was a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Santa Fe Chapter #996 and also could be found almost daily bargain hunting at garage sales, thrift stores and estate sale. He was a larger than life guy and will be missed by many. Visitation began at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at the Rivera Kiva Chapel, 417 East Rodeo Road, Santa Fe where the Memorial Service was held at 12:30 PM on Tuesday. The interment with full military honors was at 2:30 PM at the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD! AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM! MAY THEY REST IN PEACE! AMEN! MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE!