

RECENT OBITUARY INFORMATION, Jan-Feb 2026

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

When you receive word of someone passing, with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google, using the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the internet, Paul Benedict will be glad to do the search. PLEASE SEND DEATH NOTICES AND OBITUARY INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO PAUL BENEDICT AT soilwarden@verizon.net. Always include the position or the spouse's position with SCS/NRCS.

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Adams	2025	Senior Conservationist and Honorary Member John Widner Adams (97) of Lyons, Georgia, passed away July 7, 2025, at his home in Lyons. John was born May 8, 1928, in Carrollton, Georgia, to Isaac Olin Adams and Mary Carolyn Widner Adams. He attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia, and played catcher on the baseball team. He transferred to the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, to complete his bachelor's degree in agronomy in 1950. Much to the dismay of his family, John was drafted into the United States Army in 1951. The Adams Family had already sacrificed one of their seven sons in service to the country – and there were five Adams sons concurrently serving in World War II. John and his battalion were captured by the Chinese in North Korea and held as Prisoners of War. John was released in August 1953 after 27 months of captivity, when the armistice was signed. Upon his return to the US and to his hometown of Carrollton, the city celebrated with a parade in his honor and awarded him keys to a brand new 1953 Ford sedan. He and Faye Davenport of Buchanan, Georgia, were married in First Baptist Church of Atlanta on June 6, 1954. John worked his career for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He retired as the District Conservationist in Lyons, Georgia, in 1994. John was a big volunteer in his community providing many hours of service to the Recreation Department, the Jaycees, the Lions Club and First Baptist Church of Lyons. When his beloved Faye's health began to suffer in 2010, and her level of needed care became such that she moved to assisted living, John was with her morning, noon, and night. Faye passed away in 2016. John loved to fish, hunt and garden and loved sharing his bounty. John is survived by his children Janet, Mark, and Alan; and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.
Austin	2025	Shirley R. Austin (90) of Morgantown, West Virginia, passed away on November 4, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Morgantown on January 12, 1935, a daughter of the late Ernest R. "Vic" and Nelle Shahan Reckart. She graduated from Morgantown High School in 1952, and Morgantown Business College in 1954. She worked for 10 years at West Virginia University, and 34 years from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service where she worked as a secretary. She retired in 1994. She loved camping with her family and friends, reading, needlework, and being with her grandchildren and family. She attended Goshen Baptist Church. She was a 4-H leader for 10 years and is a life member of the 4-H all stars. She served as secretary treasurer of the Monongalia County 4-H Foundation. She was a 68-year-member of the community education outreach services (CEOS). This was originally the farm women's club. She served on the Monongalia County council as Vice president 2 years, and council president for 4 years. She served as an elected member of the state council for 2 years. She served on educational committees in both the state and county. She was chosen outstanding club member in 1999–2002. She was preceded in death by her husband of 43 years, J. Dale Austin who died on January 10, 1999, her grandson Jacob Wood who died July 24, 2012. She is survived by her two children, Bonnie (Richard) Wood and their children, Jacob and Morgan Wood and her daughter America; Jeffrey (Cherie) Austin and their children, Katie and Elizabeth (Philip) Olivier and their sons, Parker and Elliot.
Bollman	2025	Senior Conservationist and Honorary Member Robert Verne "Bob" Bollman (98) of Greencastle, Indiana, passed away October 27, 2025, after suffering a fall the week before. Robert was born December 30th, 1927, to Cargile and Mable (Wilcox) Bollman at their farmhouse near Bloomfield, Iowa. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Iowa State University and a Master of Science in Agronomy from Purdue University. Bob married the love of his life, Carolyn "Jane" Whitsel on June 2nd, 1956. She passed away in 2018. He was employed by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for thirty-five years, fifteen in Iowa and twenty in Indiana. He retired in 1986 from the position of Deputy State Conservationist in Indiana. Bob had a deep love of soil and water conservation districts. He worked with Bob Eddleman, Charlie McKee and others to establish a firm foundation for the Indiana Conservation Partnership. He also worked four years for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources where he served as director of the State's Division of Soil Conservation. Bob was a fellow of the Soil Conservation Society of America and designated a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Robert D. Orr. He had served as an elder at Whitestone Christian Church and at Northview Christian Church. He was devoted to family, friends and his profession, which he described as "taking care of our God given natural resources." Survivors include his daughter, Mary Houser of Danville, Indiana; sons, Daniel (Karen) Bollman of Fillmore, Indiana, and Thomas Bollman of Greencastle; ten grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren; brothers, Steve Bollman of Manhattan, Kansas and Doran Bollman of Pulaski, Iowa and sister, Phyllis Wise of Oakley, California. In addition to his wife "Jane", he was preceded in death by son Patrick and daughters, Sally and Susan.
Christian	2025	James E. "Jimmy" Christian (76) of Lewisburg, Kentucky, passed away on October 24, 2025, at Med Center Health-Russellville in Russellville, Kentucky. Jimmy was born July 30, 1949, the son of the late Elvis Christian and the late Ruthell Henderson Christian. He was the husband of Sheila Harris Christian of Lewisburg, who survives. He was a proud United States Army Veteran, having honorably served his country during the Vietnam War. Jimmy spent over thirty years as a Soil Conservation Technician for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and was proud to help the farmers of Logan County and the surrounding area. His son Nick is the current District Conservationist in Elkton, Kentucky. He was a faithful member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, where he spent over twenty years as a Sunday School teacher. In addition to his wife, Jimmy is survived by his daughter, Christie (Travis) Chick of Russellville; two sons, Trevor (Emily) Christian of Lewisburg and Nick (Stephanie) Christian of Lewisburg; three granddaughters, Gracie Christian, Reagan Christian, Whitney Christian; six grandsons, Jordan (Faith) Chick, Peyton Chick, Corbin Chick, Isaac Christian, Blanton Christian, Remington Christian; and two great granddaughters, Laurel Chick and Elaina Chick.
Cole	2025	Helen Annette (Pollard) Cole (92) of Stillwater, Oklahoma, passed away on November 17, 2025. She was the wife of the late Everette L. Cole, who worked as a soil scientist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Helen was born September 14, 1933, in Dunlap, New Mexico. She married her High School sweetheart, Everett Lee Cole, on October 6, 1951. Helen worked in banking much of her life. She and Everett lived and worked in Nevada before moving to Oklahoma. She is survived by her children: Debra Field, of Sand Springs, Oklahoma; Ricky and Etheline Cole; Lapu Lapu, Philippines; Kim and Gerry Cole of Stillwater, and Cindra and Bill Smith of Glencoe, Oklahoma; Grandchildren: Patrick

		Briscoe and Gina Ferrell of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Joshua and Amanda Briscoe, Sand Springs, Kevin and Ki Cole of Morrison, Oklahoma, Angela and John Karr of Bixby, Oklahoma, Will and Rhia Smith Stillwater; Lisa and James Morrow of Glencoe, Oklahoma; Kara and Ashby Kirkendall Morrison, Oklahoma; Joe and Samantha Smith Glencoe, Oklahoma; step-grandson Matt Trigosa, Lapu Lapu, Philippines; Great Grands: Dawson and Sawyer Briscoe, Jeshurun and Ruthie Cole, Kanade and Liam Smith, Ayden Morrow, Eli and Asher Kirkendall, Isador and Seamus Smith.
Droege	2025	Marcia E. Droege (72) of Wadesville, Indiana, passed away on August 21, 2025, at her home. Marcia was born on November 19, 1952, in St. Johns, Michigan. She was the daughter of the late Michael and Maxine (Miller) Galvach. Marcia worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist. She loved the outdoors and worked with local wildlife officials to help restore the Bald Eagle population at Hovey Lake. She was a longtime member of Zion Lippe United Church of Christ, where she sang in the church choir. Marcia was outgoing and talkative; she enjoyed sewing and made many of her daughter's Halloween and ballet costumes. Surviving Marcia are her daughter, Laura Droege; sisters-in-law, Carol Jo Droege, Rose Hasty and Ruth (Tom) Wintczak; a niece, Christine (Tyler) Watson and nephews, Zane (Stephanie) Galvach, Sam (Leslie) Lawrence and Michael Droege; great nieces and great nephews. Marcia was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Droege in 2018.
Gaskell	2025	Senior Conservationist and Honorary Member Luther James "Jim" Gaskell (97), of Derby, Kansas (formerly of Chanute, Kansas), passed away peacefully on June 10, 2025, at Derby Assisted Living. Jim was born May 25, 1928, near Cameron, Missouri, to Garfield L. and Lorena (Owens) Gaskell. He earned a degree in Agriculture from Kansas State University in 1950. He married Lorraine Piper on August 13, 1950, in Overbrook, Kansas, and they settled on a farm east of Altamont, Kansas. His service to his country included a stint as a Guided Missile Repairman in the Armed Services from 1955 to 1957. Following his military service, Jim dedicated over 37 years to the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, working in Effingham, Altamont, and Chanute, Kansas. His 23 years as Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator in Southeastern Kansas showcased his dedication to his community. After his retirement in April 1994, Jim remained active, working part-time for the Public Wholesale Water Supply District #11 and the SEE-KAN Resource Conservation and Development Project, and even contributing his time to Penwell-Gabel Funeral Homes. A was a devoted member of Westview Southern Baptist Church in Chanute since 1971, Jim served tirelessly as a trustee, deacon, chair of the 2003-2004 Church Building Committee, Sunday School teacher, choir member, and on numerous other committees. His faith was a cornerstone of his life. He was also an active member of the National Active and Retired Employees Association (NARFE), and ARCSE, holding several officer positions, including editor of their newsletter. In his leisure time, he enjoyed woodworking, tending his yard, and photography. He is survived by his children, Barbara Kay Parker and Daniel Kent; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren, along with many nieces and nephews.
George	2025	John "Jack" Alvin George (95) of Davis, California, passed away peacefully on November 19, 2025, at Sutter Davis Hospital. Jack was born in Damascus, Georgia, on October 15, 1930, to Grady Isaiah and Bessie Mae. He graduated from the University of Georgia (UGA) with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Knowing he would soon be drafted; he enlisted in the United States Air Force and consequently missed his last final exam at UGA — though with no lasting harm. Hostilities in the Korean War were suspended prior to his deployment, and he was able to complete his service without seeing combat. Upon his release from active duty, Jack began his career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He relocated to Redding, California and thoroughly enjoyed his early career making field visits to farmers and ranchers in Shasta, Siskiyou and other Northern California counties, helping them develop plans to irrigate their crops and rangeland. In 1961, he met and married Janet, and together they began their family. They moved from Redding to Red Bluff, California, and finally settled in Davis when Jack's career brought him to the SCS State Office. A highlight of his career was leading the federal funding program for emergency flood recovery efforts in Los Angeles in 1978 (prior to the establishment of FEMA). He retired after more than 30 years with the Soil Conservation Service. Jack enjoyed a full and active retirement, traveling locally with their travel trailer as well as on numerous trips to Europe, Mexico and Hawaii. He was a member of University Covenant Church since the 1970s. Jack is survived by his beloved wife, Janet; their children Jennifer Michael (Fred) and Jim (Wanda); grandchildren Kevin Babcock (Jen), Tiffany Eschbach (Mark), Jeff Michael (Heather), Andrew George and Beth Brooke (Trevor); and 10 great-grandchildren. A graveside service at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery will take place January 22, 2026, followed by a reception.
Gray	2023	Senior Conservationist and Honorary Member Ralph Earl Gray (98) of Willoughby, Ohio (formerly of Troy, Ohio), passed away November 11, 2023. Ralph was born in Warren, Ohio on November 12, 1924. He met the love of his life, Betty in Cortland, Ohio. He attended The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, majoring in agriculture but his education was broken up by World War II. He served in the United States Navy stationed at the Panama Canal. He worked his entire career for the USDA-Soil Conservation Agency in Findlay, Kenton, and Troy, Ohio, where he was the District Conservationist. He retired in 1985. Ralph was a lifelong volunteer at the First Methodist Church, Sertoma, and the hospital during his working years in Troy and for the past 14 years in Cleveland, Ohio. Most notably he volunteered in many capacities at Breckenridge Village (BV) where he and Betty resided, spending his Tuesday afternoons with his friend Dick working on the BV model railroad layout and sharing it with visitors. He spent many years as a volunteer for the Cuyahoga rail system. In 2019 he earned the honor of Volunteer of the Year, amassing over 5000 volunteer hours. Ralph leaves behind his beloved wife of 76 years Betty, his three children Marvin Gray (Joy), Linda West (Claude), and Ann Hesselbacher (Robert); grandchildren Daniel Gray (Sarah) and Matthew Gray (Rachel); and great grandchildren Lottie, Hattie, Jack, and Jasper Gray and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by granddaughters Eleanor Anne and Rebecca Diane Hesselbacher.
Henson	2025	Odos Gene Henson (93) of Stillwater, Oklahoma, passed away on December 13, 2025. Odos was born on September 28, 1932, in Lindsay, Oklahoma, to James Arthur Henson and Sarah Gladys Henson. On December 9, 1959, Odos married Claudia Dianne Coffey at Buffalo Baptist Church in Beckham County, Oklahoma. Their marriage of over 66 years stands as a testament to their devotion to faith and family. Odos earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from Oklahoma A&M. He built a distinguished career as a soil scientist and agronomist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, work that reflected both his respect for the land and his commitment to public service. A longtime member of Stillwater Bible Church, Odos's faith was an important foundation throughout his life. Outside of work, he found great joy in fishing, hunting, gardening, and collecting artifacts and arrowheads-interests that reflected his love of the outdoors and appreciation for Oklahoma's natural history. Odos was preceded in death by his grandson, Isaac Henson. He is survived by his beloved wife, Dianne; his sisters, Betty Robbins and Mary Beckham; his children, Kim Hall (Vance); Mark Henson

		(Monica), and his grandchildren, Sophia Henson, Autumn (Mark) Allred, Anna Robbins, and Vance Hall (Kaitlin); and his great-grandchildren, Sophia and Madeline Hall.
Higginbotham	2025	Rudy K. Higginbotham (79) of Columbia, Kentucky, passed away December 5, 2025, at the Veterans Administration Hospice Cottages in Lexington, Kentucky. Rudy was born in Ono, Kentucky on January 24, 1946, to the late Raymond and Erress Flanagan Higginbotham. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving in the United States Army. He worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist and then District Conservationist, retiring in 2001. Rudy was a member of the Columbia Christian Church, formerly serving as an Elder and Deacon. Rudy was an active member of the community. He served as a former board member of the Adair County Water District and Airport Board. He enjoyed restoring antique farm equipment and spending time with his family and friends, especially his grandchildren. Survivors include his wife Rebecca, son Patrick (Erica) Higginbotham of Lexington; and three grandchildren Elliot, Aubrey and Evelyn Higginbotham.
Kiger	2024	Luana Ellen Glidewell Kiger (78) of Boise, Idaho, passed away October 9, 2024, surrounded by her loving family in Idaho. Luana was born September 8, 1946, to her father James Maston Glidewell and her mother Geraldine Price. Luana received a master's degree in public policy and public administration, and a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy, from California State University. She worked most of her career for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in various field, state, and regional positions. She finished her NRCS career as Special Assistant to the State Conservationist in Davis, California. This included a two-year detail to establish a statewide water conservation program for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in conjunction with CALFED (CALFED Bay-Delta Program). At DWR she led the development of the statewide taskforce on use of recycled water and the first statewide taskforce on encouraging the use of desalinated water. She was a founding member of the Environmental Farming Science Advisory Panel. She spent most of her career striving to benefit farming and water conservation in a host of ways. She Retired in 2017. Luana enjoyed reading, enjoying the peace of the outdoors and spending time with her son and his family. She is survived by brother James (Parvina), Sister Linda (James), stepsister Dorothy (the late Danny) son Nathan (Kirshna), her beloved grandson Eli and a host of nieces and nephews. All of whom remember her fondly and will dearly miss her.
Lemon	2025	Wilma Jean Lemon (96) of McMinnville, Oregon passed away on July 5, 2025. Wilma was born in Osawatomie, Kansas on November 2, 1928. She was the widow of Chuck Lemon, who was the West National Technology Center Director for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1984. Chuck passed away in 2012. Information on her life and survivors was not available in her obituary.
Lindsey	2025	Ralph Donald "Don" Lindsey (93) of Hanover, Pennsylvania, passed away on November 24, 2025 after 4 days on hospice care at Homewood. Don was born in Washington, DC on October 2, 1932, the son of Ralph and Elizabeth (Cox) Lindsey. Don graduated from the University of Maryland in 1954 as an Animal Husbandry major. During his college years he played for the Washington Redskins band (trombone). He was drafted and served in the United States Army at Fort Rucker Alabama from 1955 to 1957, eventually trading in his Browning Automatic Rifle for the trombone when reassigned to the post band. He was the husband of Shirley (Smith) Lindsey- they shared 71 years of loving marriage. Don and his wife Shirley bought a farm in Adams County where they lived briefly, then rented it out for many years as his job with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service took them all over the state. They moved to Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, in 1963 and made a home there until 1987, making friends wherever they went. Don worked with farmers to improve soil and water quality, and on rural abandoned strip-mine improvement. His final post brought them back to Adams County as the District Conservationist, and back to that first farm. Don's survivors include his wife Shirley, sons Scott (Joyce) and Bruce (Doris), daughter Julie (Ed), 10 grandchildren (Katie, Colin (Liz), Caleb (Yoshimi), Josh, Ross (Emily), Logan, Quinn, Christopher (Kera), Kurt (Abbie), and Emily (Ben)) and 11 great grandchildren.
Maddux	2025	Member Clarence "Owen" Maddux (84) of El Dorado, Kansas, passed away on November 20, 2025. Owen was born on April 11, 1941, in Watonga, Oklahoma the son of Roy A. and Dorothy Elmira (Edsall) Maddux. He attended Oklahoma State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering. On December 29, 1962, Owen was united in marriage to the love of his life, Marjorie Carroll Ensminger, in Watonga, Oklahoma. Owen dedicated his career to the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, working as a construction and project engineer in Eastern Kansas. His efforts in flood prevention and land stewardship left a positive and lasting impact on communities across the region. A man of many passions, Owen was a true vintage car enthusiast. He proudly owned two 1926 Model T's and a 1930 Model A, and he loved participating in parades as a member of the Bluestem Vintage Auto Car Club. His appreciation for older country music, tractors, RV traveling, family reunions, genealogy, and carpentry reflected a life lived with curiosity, craftsmanship, and heart. Owen is survived by his wife, Marjorie; daughter, Tracey Ziemann; sons, Tony (Kelly) Maddux and Mark (Anita Sullivan) Maddux; grandchildren, Jacob, Ava, Ella, and Sophia Maddux; brothers, Larry (Judy) Maddux and Vernon (Sheryl) Maddux; sister, Joyce (Greg) Rogers; and many treasured nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Wayne Maddux, and Don Maddux.
Miller	2025	Leona Mae Miller (85) of Clinton, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on November 14, 2025, in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Leona was born near Indianola, Oklahoma, to Herbert and Minnie Lucas on September 9, 1940. She married Claude "Buddy" Miller in 1962 at the Presbyterian Church of Burns Flat, Oklahoma. She attended school at Carnegie, Oklahoma; Vernon, Texas, and graduated from Shamrock High School in Shamrock, Texas in 1958. She retired in 2004 from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, where she worked as a Clerk/Typist. She was preceded by the death of her husband Claude in 2018, her parents, and three siblings. She is survived by her son Justyn Miller and his spouse Tammy. She will be resting in the Miller family plot in the Clinton Cemetery.
Nelson	2025	Dana Frazer Nelson (81) of Ellsworth, Maine, passed away from leukemia on November 19, 2025, in Portland, Maine surrounded by the love of his family. He was born January 26, 1944, to George Carl and Maud Lena (Rugan) Nelson in Caribou, Maine. In 1968 he graduated from Ricker College with a degree in geology and minors in mathematics and soil science. He then entered the United States Army and served in Vietnam where he became a sergeant in charge of an 8-inch and a 175 mm self-propelled artillery gun crew. He received Army commendation medals for his role in the 1969 March Offensive on the D.M.Z. and for his role in supervising construction of a new Artillery Battery Area. After military service, in 1970, he was employed as a soil scientist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Waldo County Maine for 8 years; as a soil conservationist in the St. John Valley, Maine for 5 years; as district conservationist in Washington County, Maine for 2 years; as district conservationist in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, for 3 years; and as a Resource

		Conservation and Development Coordinator for Down East Maine Resource Conservation and Development for 12 years. He retired in 1999 after 30 years of government service. In 1970, he met fellow soil scientist, Sandra Jean Field of Bangor, and in October 1971 they were married. Survivors include four children and their families, George Carl Nelson (Rosalynn) of Trenton, Maine, Louise Nelson Hamelin (Marc) of Waterville, Maine, Emily Maud Nelson (Chaitanya Saha), and Anna Jean DeLuca (Christian) all of Portland; five grandsons, Joseph and Benjamin Hamelin, Rugan DeLuca, George and Robert Nelson; and one granddaughter, Estella Lucia DeLuca.
Peterson	2025	Dennis Martin Peterson (85) of Ankeny, Iowa, passed away peacefully on November 23, 2025. He was born February 17, 1940, to Harold Peterson and his Doris (Christenson) Peterson. Dennis married the love of his life, Gerri Warner, and they went on to spend 64 beautiful years together. Dennis served in the United States Army for 18 months. Dennis worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Draftsman in the State Office Design Section. His precision, artistry, and work ethic earned him admiration and trust from colleagues through the years. For 25 years, Dennis also worked part-time for a patent attorney. His dedication to his community was just as strong. At Longfellow Elementary, Dennis volunteered teaching children to read, helping parents learn to read, even dressing up as Clifford the Big Red Dog. His generosity, enthusiasm, and heart earned him the Des Moines Education Association Volunteer of the Year Award for his service in the Des Moines public schools, but what mattered most to him were the relationships he built and the people he helped. He loved church, loved singing, and especially loved being part of choirs. He is survived by his wife, Gerri Peterson; his sister, Deb Smith; and his half-brother, Bill Leech. Dennis is also survived by his son, Steve Peterson (Sherri Peterson); his grandchildren, Austin Peterson Sr. (Brittany Peterson), TJ Peterson (Kelsey Peterson), and Rondi Ballard (Ben Ballard); and his 8 beloved great-grandchildren, Austin Peterson Jr., Colton Peterson, Elias Peterson, Pearl Peterson, Emmy Peterson, Addy Ballard, Aubrey Ballard, and Mike Ballard.
Plumb	2025	Connie M. Plumb (85) of Council Bluffs, Iowa, passed away October 24, 2025, at Primrose Assisted Living. Connie was the wife of the late Marion K. Plumb, who worked as a Civil Engineering Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Connie was born April 15, 1940, in Griswold, Iowa, to the late John and Catherine "Caroline" (Lawson) Weston. She graduated from Griswold High School in 1957. Connie married Marion on June 6, 1959. She worked for Council Bluffs Community Schools and Iowa School for the Deaf retiring in 1993. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the over 50 Walking Club at Henry Doorly Zoo. Connie enjoyed baking and sewing, motorcycling, and dancing. Connie was preceded in death by her husband, Marion in 2024 and son-in-law, Lynn Bertelsen. She is survived by her daughters, Lezli (Steve) Root of Lawrence, Kansas, Trisha (Nick) McGrain of Lenexa, Kansas, Sheila (Gary Bales) Bertelsen of Des Moines, Iowa, Rhonda (Robert) Casson of McClelland, Iowa; 8 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.
Reybold	2023	Life Member William Umstead Reybold III "Bill" (90) of Easton, Maryland, passed away unexpectedly on March 9, 2023. Bill was born April 8, 1932, to William U. and Rosalie (nee Steel) Reybold of Newark Delaware. graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from the University of Delaware. He was a superb Blue Hen athlete on both the track and swim teams, receiving the Outstanding Athlete Award of 1954. In 2007 he was inducted into the University of Delaware Sports Hall of Fame. Bill also graduated with a commission as Army 2nd Lieutenant, serving 2 years as an artillery officer with the 5th Infantry Division and 11th Airborne Division in Munich, Germany and Fort Ord, California. After active service, he remained in the Army Reserve as a recruiter for West Point. He retired as a Colonel in 1992. He went on from college to become a prominent soil scientist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service with his career beginning in Talbot County, Maryland. He spent the bulk of his career in Washington DC, trailblazing the digitization of soil surveys across the nation in the 1970's. As National Leader for Soil Geography, he travelled globally, sharing his extensive knowledge of soil mapping systems. He was Associate Editor of Soil Survey Horizons for 12 years. Upon retiring in 1989, Bill and Nancy returned to Talbot County where they happily spent the last years of their lives. During these years, Bill served on the Boards of the Waterfowl Festival, Pickering Creek Audubon Center and Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage. Other volunteer work included The Nature Conservancy, the Eastern Shore Conservancy and Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. He was a member of the Tidewater Farm Club and served as secretary of the Easton Ruritan Club for 12 years. He enjoyed helping his artist wife hang shows in the local galleries and sailing competitively at the "Wednesday Night Races" in Annapolis. He was preceded in death by his devoted wife of 57 years Nancy South Reybold in 2016. Survivors include six children: Will (Julie) Reybold, Larry (Katie) Reybold, Nathan Reybold, Tom (Mary) Reybold, Jack Reybold (Mary Ann Sorra), and Abe Reybold (Ernie) Nolan; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.
Runyon	2025	Patti Ann "Pat" (Coulter) Runyon (70) of West Baden Springs, Indiana, passed away on October 5, 2025, at Indiana University Health Hospice House in Bloomington, Indiana, surrounded by the love of her family and friends. She was the wife of retired Engineering Technician Jerry Runyon who worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Patti was born December 13, 1954, in Salem, Indiana to the late William Lester Coulter and Marie (Luttrell) Coulter. She graduated Paoli High School and attended Indiana University. She worked at the B+B Shoe Factory and later made a career out of working for Orange County Bank, from which she retired. Pat and Jerry were married for 50 years. They both loved traveling and made many trips out west. Pat had a heart for animals; especially those who were injured or abandoned. She and Jerry took in countless strays over the years. She is survived by her husband Jerry, her brother Jack (Barb) Coulter; 3 Brother-In-Laws Jan (Brenda) Runyon, Lawrence Robbins, and James Beatty Jasper; and many nieces and nephews.
Shook	2025	Roy Arthur Shook, Jr. (85) of Coventry, Connecticut, passed away on October 15, 2025. Roy was born February 26, 1940, in Bangor Pennsylvania, to the late Roy A. Shook, Sr. and Sarah (Parsons) Shook. Roy worked much of his career as a soil scientist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He started his SCS career in New Jersey. When Roy left the agency, he was an Assistant State Soil Scientist in Connecticut. Our ARCSE Georgia State Representative, Edward Ealy, credits Roy with getting his SCS career started when he was assigned to work on Roy's Soil Survey crew in Sullivan County New Hampshire. Roy did the extra to make Edward, a black kid from Florida, feel welcome and accepted in New Hampshire. Roy is survived by his wife Orian (Handelong) Shook, his daughters, Laura Barnett (David) and Shelly Seymour (Ronald; grandchildren Joshua Barnett, Sarah Barnett, Ian Seymour, Roan Seymour, Fiona Seymour, Kiera Seymour and his great grandchildren, Jace and Mia Rivera and his sister Nancy Savercool. Roy's family would also like to express their gratitude to the staff at Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation for their compassionate care of Roy while he was in their care.

Spitz	2025	Senior Conservationist and Life Member James Howard Spitz (94) of Daleville, Virginia, passed away on August 24, 2025. Jim was born in Rochester, New York on May 15, 1931, the son of the late Joseph W. and Ellen J. (Yarker) Spitz. He grew up on a small farm bordering Keuka Lake in New York; was a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio; and was a United States Army veteran of the Korean Conflict serving between 1954-1956. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service 36 years, serving in New York State, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Indiana and Washington, DC. A Congressional Fellow in 1983-84, he served the last six years of his career in the Office of the Secretary as a Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Since retirement in 1989 he has volunteered to Smith Mountain Lake Association as president; to Resurrection Catholic Church in Moneta; to the Tri-County Lake Administrative Commission; to the Virginia Lakes and Watershed Association; the Upper Roanoke River Table; and several citizen committees established by the Commonwealth. Jim and Hilde moved to The Glebe (a retirement community in Botetourt County) in 2016. Shortly thereafter, Jim joined the Troutville Volunteer Fire Department. and participated in establishing their first annual Golf Tournament as a fundraising event. Jim is survived by his loving wife, Brunhilde (Hilde); son James Albert of Bedford, Virginia; and daughter Susan Elaine (Spitz) Jamison of Roanoke, Virginia.
Steinhardt	2025	Professor Gary Carl Steinhardt (81) of West Lafayette, Indiana, passed away on December 12, 2025. He was born September 13, 1944, in Lansing, Michigan to Carl Frank Steinhardt and Doris Alzina Steinhardt (Sibley). He grew up on the family farm in Olive Township, Clinton County, Michigan. He attended Michigan State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and a master's degree in Soil Science. Gary enrolled in graduate school at Purdue University in 1971. He received his Ph.D. in Agronomy in 1976. During his graduate education, he formed and headed the Purdue Soil Survey Laboratory. Whiteside. While at Michigan State he enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps and with his degree he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers in the United States Army Reserve. He served for two years on active duty from 1968 to 1970 including a tour of duty in Vietnam. He served in the Second Civil Affairs Company assigned to Military Assistance Command Vietnam Advisory Team 98 in Tan Uyen District, Bien Hoa Province. He was assigned to a unit in the United States Army Reserve upon his return to the United States. He completed his service obligation but continued serving in the Army Reserve in a variety of command and staff positions. He served a second period of active duty when he commanded the 480th Military Intelligence Detachment when it was mobilized in 1990 to support Desert Shield/Storm. He retired as a Colonel in 1996 with thirty years of service. Colonel Steinhardt was an Outstanding Graduate of the Associate Studies Program of the Air War College. His decorations include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Defense Meritorious Service Medals. He was inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame in 2019. In 1973, he married Nguyen Thi Thinh at Faith Presbyterian Church in West Lafayette, Indiana. His wife Nguyen passed away earlier this year in May. Gary was a dedicated soil scientist, agronomist, educator, Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Fellow, and conservation leader. Professor Steinhardt devoted his career to advancing soil and water conservation and sustainable agricultural practices. As a long-time member of SWCS, he authored numerous articles published in the Society's journal, served on the Board of Directors for nine years, and was twice elected president. He inspired many with his passion for the land and its stewardship, and his contributions to soil mapping, water conservation, and educating future generations of scientists will continue to impact our communities and the environment for years to come. Dr. Steinhardt enjoyed extensive involvement in veterans' groups including the American Legion Post 38, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1154, La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux, the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, the Tippecanoe County Veterans Council, Disabled American Veterans Mary T. Klinker Chapter, and the Military Officers Association of America. He was a member of the Military Intelligence Corps Association and received the Knowlton Award in 1999. He has two daughters, Dr. Angela A. Steinhardt, MD (husband: Jonathan Sobieski) of Milton, Massachusetts, and Dr. Sarah Steinhardt Reiger, PharmD, JD, MS (husband: Curtis) of Martinsville, Indiana and four grandchildren, Jolie Aimee Sobieski, Jacqueline Nguyen Sobieski, Jonathan Edward Sobieski Jr, and Joel Steinhardt Sobieski. His complete obituary is at https://www.fisherfuneralchapel.com/.../Gary-Carl .
Wachel	2025	Larry Joe Wachel (73) of Morgan's Point Resort, Texas, passed away on October 31, 2025, in Temple, Texas. He was born on August 1, 1952, to Floyd Paul and Helen (Sypniewski) Wachel. He married Carolyn (Wilganowski) Wachel on April 17, 1977, in Marlin, Texas. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School, Bremond High School, and McLennan Community College, later earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Baylor University. Larry dedicated over 34 years of service to the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service as a civil engineering technician and GIS Specialist. He lived and worked in several Texas communities over the years, including Bremond, Marlin, Waco, Houston, Burleson, and Temple. Larry was also a real estate agent. Larry cherished time spent with his family, loved working in the yard, cooking, and visiting with friends. Above all, he treasured every moment with his beloved granddaughter. Larry is survived by his wife, Carolyn Wachel of Morgan's Point Resort; his children, Lindsey Barton (Ben) and Kevin Wachel (partner Jeremy Walder); his brother, Tim Wachel (Pam); and his granddaughter, Kinsley Rae Barton.
Walter	2025	Elizabeth Jeanne Walter , "Jeanne" (88) of Tucson, Arizona, passed away peacefully, with her best friend and partner John Colvin by her side, on November 4, 2025, at Famiglia Amore Assisted Living. Jeanne was born on July 28, 1937, in San Francisco, California, the daughter of Willard and Amy (Bunselmeier) Sargent. Because of her father's employment with the U.S. Army, Jeanne was raised in California, Washington, South Dakota, New Mexico, Nebraska, Germany, and Belgium. She attended Lassen Jr. College in Susanville, California and Chico State College in Chico, California. Jeanne was employed by the United States Army at Sioux Ordnance Depot, Sidney, Nebraska, Stead Air Force Base, Reno, Nevada and the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Phoenix, Arizona, where she worked as a Personnel Assistant on the Human Resources staff. She retired in December 1987. Jeanne had a lifelong passion for travel, which she pursued full-time in her motor home. In 2003, she purchased an RV lot in Kamiah, Idaho, where she enjoyed spending her summers. While in Kamiah, she volunteered at Loving Hands Thrift and More and frequently attended The Life Center church. Jeanne is preceded in death by her late husband, Robert Walter, who worked for SCS as a Watershed Engineer. Jeanne is survived by 6 nieces and nephews, Christi (Arthur) Wise, Cheryl (Dick) Woodward, Sally (Scott Taylor) Pittsenbarger, Erin (Mark) Ellison, Lawrence (Lisa) Rager, and Michael (Elizabeth) Rager; 9 great nieces and nephews; and 4 great-nephews.