

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Barker	2025	Senior Conservationist Warner Ray Barker (93) of Elliott County, Kentucky passed away June 11, 2025, at Community Hospice Care Center in Ashland, Kentucky. Ray was born December 01, 1931, in Elliott County, Kentucky a son of the late Thomas Everett and Lucy Music Barker. Ray was a born again Christian and of the Baptist faith and visited different churches. He was retired from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service where he worked several years as a Soil Conservation Technician. He was also a farmer. He loved visiting church family, his flowers, raking hay, bush hogging, and listening to bluegrass music. Ray was preceded in death by his spouse; Edna Ellen Skaggs Barker in 2005. He is survived by his children and their spouses; Dean (Wanda) Barker, Wayne (Rhea) Barker, Joey and Mandy Barker, Jimmy Barker (Karen Morgan), Lucy Dickerson, Regina (Larry) Waddell, and Robin Porter, eleven grandchildren and several great grandchildren.
Bogusch	2026	Henry Bogusch (82) of Cleburne, Texas, passed away on March 7, 2026, in Fort Worth, Texas. Henry was born on December 2, 1943, in Mason, Texas to Henry Charles, Sr. and Beatrice (Lange) Bogusch. He married DeeAnna McClesky on January 23, 1966 in Abilene, Texas. Henry was a retired agronomist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He loved to paint with pastels, mostly nature. He was a Master Naturalist Club Member and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and horses. Above all else, he was a devout Christian who loved the Lord and his family. Survivors include his beloved wife of 60 years, DeeAnna Bogusch; sons, Charles Bogusch (Kari) and Trent Bogusch (Shay); grandchildren, McKena Cuellar (Richard), Jessica Aguirre (Nathan); Owen Craven, Allison Craven, Aleya Bogusch and Zachary Bogusch; and one great-grandchild due in August; sister, Charlene Taylor; several other extended family; and many friends. An oral history interview with Henry Bogusch was recorded on April 19, 2016 by the Southwest Special Collections Library and is available Here: https://swco-ir.tdl.org/items/82b8eec7-5f56-485f-bf50-517815e1f43c
Burton	2026	Durl Ray "Wimpy" Burton (91) of Alex, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully at home on March 31, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of faith, family, dedication and laughter. He was born on April 30, 1934, in Alex, Oklahoma, to Hugh and Viola Burton, and was raised in the Alex community he always called home. On July 18, 1953, Durl married the love of his life, Loretta Cox, at Hawkins Freewill Baptist Church. Durl worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Conservation Technician. Durl had a lifelong passion for farming, often talking about his farming career beginning at just two years old alongside his father. After retiring he dedicated himself to caring for his father and the family farm. Alongside his wife, he also raised and raced horses for many years, traveling across the country and making cherished memories along the way. He was a devout Christian. He was preceded in death by his wife, Loretta Burton in 2023 and his son Steven Burton, Sr. in 2024. He is survived by his sons David Burton and Barry Burton (Leigh Ann), daughter-in-law Robin Burton; and his grandchildren: Jennifer Burton, Linsey Reynolds (Bert); Ashley Foster (Garrett); Whitney Sikes (Jeff); Steven Burton, Jr. (Sheri); Courtney Burton; Veronica Roberts and Ronald Roberts. He is also survived by his great-grandchildren: Mallory and Ella Burton; Samuel Sikes; Zane and Briggs Burton; Emmerson, Creed and Sloane Foster and Liam Owings.
Casper	2026	Sheryl Lynn Casper (73) of Wellington, Colorado passed away February 25, 2026, after a brief illness. She was born on May 25, 1952, in North Platte, Nebraska, daughter of the late George Esper Casper and Nellie Jean Park Casper. For over 38 years, Sheryl served the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Federal Government as an IT Specialist Information Security Officer. She knew everything and was always there to help anyone. She held several awards for her service with USDA. She loved every moment with her family she made there. Through her journey of a short 73 years, she touched many lives with her playful sense of humor, her unapologetic, fearless attitude, and her unforgettable laugh - especially her laugh. It was the best part of her. Sheryl is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer Brattain and Andrew Brattain, and her grandchildren Ethan Brattain and Kennedi Brattain of Wellington, Colorado. She is also survived by her sister, Karen Casper of Indianapolis, Indiana.
Ceolla	2025	Dale John Ceolla (72) of Urbandale, Iowa, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on July 19, 2025. He was born June 25, 1953, to Robert and Shirley Ceolla. On February 25, 1978, Dale married the love of his life Kathy, with whom he shared decades of partnership, laughter, and devotion. Dale was a man of deep dedication—to his family and his career. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point, Dale went on to build a distinguished career with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation, retiring as the Assistant State Soil Scientist, where his expertise and commitment made a lasting impact on conservation and agricultural stewardship in Iowa. Dale's life was enriched by the outdoors. He found joy in cooking, fishing, boating, and spending time in nature. A lifelong Green Bay Packers fan, Dale could often be found cheering on his team with passion and loyalty. Whether casting a line on a quiet lake or sharing stories, he found peace and connection in the natural world. Dale is survived by his wife Kathy; children Christopher (Marissa Kuiken) Ceolla, Jonathan (Katie) Ceolla, and Nicholas Ceolla; and grandchildren Charlotte and Jackson Ceolla, whose presence filled his heart with pride and joy.
Chapman	2026	Senior Conservationist Eldon Wayne Chapman (93) of Paris, Texas, passed away on April 2, 2026. Wayne was born on October 28, 1932. He was an honors graduate of East Texas State University. Wayne dedicated 34 years to the United States Army National Guard and 35 years to the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. His meaningful career took his family from Texas to Montana, Alabama, and Washington, D.C. In retirement, he and Pat moved back to Paris, Texas and traveled extensively, from Alaska to the Rio Grande Valley, where he and his wife Pat wintered for many years and enjoyed square dancing, round dancing, and dear friendships. What he was most proud of having done was raising funds for childhood cancer research. Following the loss of their son, David, Wayne and Pat began organizing St. Baldrick's events in 2009. He personally raised more than \$123,000, shaving for the 17th time this past November, and the events he and his friends started raised hundreds of thousands and helped to save lives. A devout Christian and lover of the outdoors, Wayne found joy in fishing, gardening and mowing, genealogy, his nightly games and ice cream, and being with friends and family. He was loved and respected by all, had a mischievous sense of humor, and made a mountain of memories. One of the last things he said was, "It's been a wonderful life." Wayne is survived by his beloved wife, Pat; daughters, Becky Weaver (Wayne), and Tammy Ratliff (Steven); cherished grandchildren, Faith Chapman (and her mom Karen Chapman), Kate Ratliff, and Thomas Ratliff; his sister, Wanda Thorpe and brother, Jimmy Chapman (Jan), and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, David Chapman.
Chouinard	2026	Dori Lynn (Wolf) Chouinard (66) of Lakeville Minnesota, passed away March 17, 2026, at home surrounded by a group of friends and family. Dori fought a courageous battle with ovarian cancer, just shy of five years. She was born September 18, 1959, to Nicholas R Wolf and Gloria M Wolf, and raised in Minnesota. Dori attended and graduated from Faribault school for the Deaf. There she met future husband (Bob) Chouinard at a homecoming football game between Devalan

		School for the Deaf in Wisconsin where Bob attended school and Faribault school for the Deaf. Being introduced by friends. They were married Oct 6, 1990, until her passing. Bob took his vows seriously "In sickness and in health". He was always by Dori's side throughout her illness, tending to her every need. Dori worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 34 years as a mail clerk in the Minnesota State Office. A lifetime at the same job meant a lot to her. Although they never had children, Dori was always delighted to play with the kids of friends and family. She would be over-the-moon happy when the kids would pick up on learning bits of sign language. She was always willing to teach them and thrilled when they signed back to her. Dori and husband Bob were deeply rooted in the deaf community activities. They took cruises, snowmobiled, camped, along with many more activities of which the list is long. All geared for the hearing impaired. Dori was proceeded in death by brothers Dean Wolf, Neil Wolf and father Nicholas R Wolf; in-laws Peter Preussner; Charles Chouinard, Betty Chouinard; and Don Chouinard. She is survived by husband Robert (Bob) Chouinard; Mother – Gloria M Wolf; Sister - Debra Preussner; Brother – Nick Wolf; Nieces- Carrie Preussner, Katlyn Wolf; Nephews – Christopher Preussner, Keegan Wolf.
Clardy	2026	Glynda Rose Nichols Clardy (68) of Mendenhall, Mississippi, passed away at her home on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, after a long battle with cancer. Glynda was born on February 18, 1958, in Houston, Mississippi, to Kenneth Murl Nichols and Rose Smith Nichols. Glynda graduated from Houston High School with honors in 1976. She went on to attend Mississippi University for Women and Mississippi State University, where she earned her degree in Wildlife and Fisheries. After earning her degree, she worked with the Mississippi Extension Service in Plant Pathology. After a short time, she returned to school to earn her master's degree in Ag Economics. On July 29, 1978, she married the love of her life, Boyce Edward (Eddie) Clardy Jr. In 1985, she began working for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Jackson, Mississippi. She remained with the Federal Agency as their wildlife biologist until her retirement in 2020. She loved her job, especially the part that involved working with animals. The outdoors was her favorite place to be. She loved all of God's creatures and plants. Glynda also loved gardening and canning. She loved giving her canned items to others. She was a devoted wife who supported her husband in all of his horse adventures. Her voice at shows is heard not only on videos of Eddie but also on many others. Her faith was very important to her. She thought you should live your life in such a way that someone could tell you believe in Jesus Christ without saying anything. Glynda leaves behind her husband of forty-seven years, Eddie; two children, Erin (William) and Trey (Abney); grandchildren, Oliver, Monty, and Cord; parents, Kenneth and Rose Nichols; siblings, Clipper Nichols (Jenna), Carol Faulkner (Mark), and Joe Nichols; mother-in-law, Norma Clardy; and many other nephews and nieces that she cherished.
Cloutier	2025	Life Member Hardy Cloutier (95) of Germantown, Tennessee, lovingly known as PawPaw, passed away at his home on August 18, 2025. Hardy was born on May 14, 1930, in Cloutierville, Louisiana, to Daisy Mae Hust and Julbert Cloutier. He grew up amid the rural farmlands of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, coming of age during the Great Depression a time that shaped his work ethic and enduring love for community and family. Hardy married the love of his life, Nina Jane (Bradley) Cloutier, on December 27, 1958, in Warren, Arkansas. Their marriage was a true partnership of 51 years, lasting until Nina's passing in 2010. Completing eighth grade, Hardy later entered military service at the age of 17, joining the military police during post-World War II wartime prosecutions was a formative period that reflected his sense of duty and principle. He later served as First Sergeant in the National Guard for thirty years, displaying exemplary leadership and commitment. Hardy pursued his passion for agriculture, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture from the University of Arkansas. He was a proud Razorback, always "Calling the Hogs" on gameday. His professional legacy includes years as an Arkansas Soil Conservationist in McGehee, Arkansas and District Conservationist in Marianna, Arkansas, and as Lee County Appraiser. He contributed to the welfare of his community through meaningful work and active civic engagement. Hardy was a Rotary Club member, served as president, and was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow. He organized American Red Cross blood drives (donating over 30 gallons in his lifetime). A man of deep Catholic faith, Hardy was closely connected to St. Andrews Catholic Church in Marianna. He is survived by their four devoted children, Michael Cloutier (Kathryn) of Germantown, Stephen Cloutier (Noel) of Coppell, Texas, Jenna Grubbs (Eric K.) of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Tracy Doyle (Tim) of Morrystown, Texas; twelve grandchildren: Anna Grace Doyle; Lauren (Jeff Pflanz), Caroline, and Julianna Grubbs; Lindsey (John Griesse), Cole, Kyle (Emma), and Kaylee Cloutier; Meagan (Dillon Jenkins), John Michael, James (Anna), and Abbie Cloutier; and three great-grandchildren, Bennett, Bauer and Lucy. He is also survived by his special friend, Mary Patricia Wright.
Diehl	2026	Honorary Member Carl Sanford "Sandy" Diehl (94) of Warsaw, Indiana, passed away peacefully on January 26, 2026 at Lutheran Kosciusko Hospital in Warsaw with his son, Claude Diehl, daughter Brenda Lamon and faithful assistant Chante Harter at his side. Carl was born in Leesburg, Indiana to Carl Sanford and Adaline Sayles Diehl on November 8, 1931. In 1950, Carl started study at Purdue University and then joined the United States Navy during the Korean War. On November 12, 1955, he married a widow, Barbara Ellen Hepler. She brought with her two toddlers, Ted Bast and Brenda Bast. The family immediately moved to California where Carl finished his stint in the Navy. In 1956 he moved the family, which now included a son, Carl, to the West Lafayette, Indiana area to finish his study at Purdue. After graduating from Purdue, the move was made back to the family farm. Their son, Claude, was born after this move. There he resided almost continuously until his death. He there began his career as a soil and water conservation technician in Kosciusko County. In the 1970's Carl took a position with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as the district conservationist. His district included Elkhart County, Tipton County and Noble County. He retired from what is now known as Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in 1986. Carl was a member of the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association and served as president for 2 years and was on the Board of Directors from 1987- 2006. He was a Walnut Council member and The American Chestnut Foundation member. In 1990 he was awarded the Outstanding Tree Farmer and in 2010 the State Charles Deam Forestry Stewardship Award. Even after retirement Carl was very active in forestry and conservation. He also helped with the local tree sales for the Kosciusko Soil and Water Conservation District. Carl proudly planted over 80,000 trees in his lifetime, improving the productivity of the forests and the environmental benefits they impact. He promoted no-till farming and cover crops with landowners. He was a member of the Kosciusko County Historical Society. Carl is survived by his children: Brenda (Jon) Lamon of Warsaw, Carl V. (Gaby) Diehl of Houston, Texas and Claude Diehl of West Lafayette, Indiana; seven grandchildren: Matthew (Susie) Walton, Mark (Christine) Walton, Andrew (Sarah) Bast, Ryan Bast, Jessica (Ryan A. Thomas) Diehl, Stephanie Diehl and Carl Diehl Jr.; and seven Great-grandchildren: Ava, Henry, Joseph, Emily, Alexandra, Cora, and Lincoln. He was preceded in death by his wife Barbara in 2016 and his son, Ted Bast in 2022.
Ellis	2020	Senior Conservationist Jeff Ellis, Jr. (94) of Newport, Arkansas, passed away on November 24, 2020. He was born George Jefferson Ellis, Jr. on January 6, 1926, to Pearl Miks Ellis and George Jefferson Ellis, Sr. in Dardanelle, Arkansas. After graduation from Dardanelle High School, he worked on the Alcan Highway. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the United States Navy and was sent to Chicago to be educated on the Morse Code. He served as a radio operator on the

		L.S.M. 329, protecting U.S. forces in the South Pacific until the end of WWII. Upon returning home, Jeff followed his dream and enrolled in Vanderbilt University. With the unexpected death of his father, he chose to be near to family and attended Arkansas Tech University. In 1951, he was awarded a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas. From this, he became a lifelong Razorback fan. More importantly, on a class field trip to the Fayetteville Water Works Plant, he met the love of his life, Frances Smith of Searcy. They married on Veteran's Day of 1951. After his attending R.O.T.C. camp, Jeff and Frances worked in Niagara Falls, New York and Pensacola, Florida for E. I. DuPont Company. He then worked as City Engineer for the City of Pensacola. Jeff and Frances returned to Arkansas and settled in Newport where Jeff continued his career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Services. He retired in 1998, after 42 years of service. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church at which he served on multiple Boards and Committees. Jeff loved being active in the Newport and Jackson County communities. Reflecting his pride in being a WWII Veteran, he remained active in the American Legion, Neil Griffin Post #47. He would serve as the Arkansas American Legion Baseball Commissioner and local organizer of the Arkansas Boys State. Perhaps, his greatest pleasure was his 30-year tenure as the Public Address Announcer for the Newport Greyhound Football Program. Being an avid outdoorsman, preparations began early for duck and deer seasons. Frances and he shared a friendly competition when fishing for trout on the White River. Later years found Jeff and Frances traveling from Alaska to the Holy Lands. Jeff enrolled in classes from computers to woodworking. He was known for his carving of competition worthy duck decoys and Razorback pins. Jeff is survived by Frances, his wife of 69 years; daughters Lisa LaGrone (Andy) and Jeffrey McKinley (Lester); grandchildren, Ellis LaGrone, Anna LaGrone, Mary Katherine McKinley and Ed McKinley.
Enz	2023	Senior Conservationist Richard William Enz (98) of Tempe Arizona passed away on March 14, 2023. Richard was born in Nutley, New Jersey on November 13, 1924, son of Paul and Frieda Enz, first generation Americans who immigrated from Switzerland early in the 1900s. Fondly known as Papa Dick by his grandchildren and great grandchildren, he served in the United States Navy during World War Two. He moved to Arizona after the war where he lived the rest of his life. A graduate of the University of Arizona in Agricultural Engineering, Dick worked as a soil scientist and hydrologist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service from the late 1940s through his retirement in the 1980. He was instrumental in predicting snow melt and water runoff after actively climbing the mountains of Arizona to conduct snow surveys. His data analyses, forecasts and land management expertise helped many desert communities responsibly manage water use. In the latter years of his long and productive life, he actively engaged in community and church activities alongside his wife, supporting the First Congregational Church of Tempe, and the Tempe Historical Society to name just two of his charitable interests. Dick had a passion for the majestic western landscapes which he hiked, skied, snowmobiled, and photographed. His children will always remember family visits to national parks, very long hikes, learning to identify trees and scrubs, and of course being called back to camp for dinner with his melodic and distinctive alpine yodel. Dick was predeceased by his wife of a lifetime Betty in 2014. He is survived by his three children and their spouses, Donald (Billie Jean), Connie (Paul), and Cathy (Jim), his seven grandchildren and his twelve great grandchildren.
Evans	2026	Everett "Junior" Evans, Jr. (88) of Seminole, Oklahoma, passed away on March 9, 2026, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Junior was born on July 8, 1937, in Seminole to Everett Emery and Ruby Butler Evans. He was a 1956 Varnum High School graduate. He also attended East Central University. He worked as a Soil Conservation Technician at the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for over 40 years. After retiring, he joined Beacon as a consultant for an additional 21 years. Junior married the love of his life, Carolyn Sue Harris on December 27, 1958, in Seminole. He was a devoted member of Twin Oak Baptist Church, where he worshiped faithfully and sought to serve the Lord through a life of obedience and quiet strength. A man who believed in the dignity of honest work, Junior worked at a job he truly loved until the day the Lord called him home. He was gifted with remarkable skill in woodworking and mechanical work, and he found great joy in working the land and tending his garden—using his hands to create, repair, and nurture. Junior is survived by his wife of 67 years Carolyn Sue Evans; two daughters, Tammy Evans Hall and Kari (Karen) Evans and many other family and friends. Junior was preceded in death by and infant son, Keith Evans.
Evans	2023	Life Member Earl Eugene "Gene" Evans (86) of Champaign, Illinois, passed away April 19, 2023 from complications related to late stages Alzheimer's disease at Amber Glen Alzheimer's Special Care Center in Urbana, Illinois. Gene was born October 23, 1936 on a farm in Moultrie County close to La Place, Illinois. His parents were John R. Evans and Sylvia C. (Morr) Evans. Gene enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During the summers he worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as a Trainee in Madison County, Illinois. Gene graduated from the University of Illinois in 1960 with a dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Science. He began working full-time for the SCS as an Agricultural Engineer. He moved around Illinois during the next eight years, working in Quincy, Pittsfield, Litchfield, Hillsboro, Sterling, Decatur, Pekin, and Lincoln designing watershed improvement projects. While stationed at Pittsfield, Gene became acquainted with Deloris Durr. He and Deloris were married at Pittsfield in May 1962. In 1969, Gene was transferred to the SCS Office in Champaign, Illinois as a Civil Engineer on the Watershed Planning Staff. Deloris was instrumental in the creation of the Center for Women in Transition (now Courage Connection) in Champaign-Urbana. Gene also volunteered 'whenever Mom asked him to do things' for the shelter and for all sorts of events at Faith United Methodist Church. Gene even got his CDL when the youth group needed a bus driver to take them on trips. After he retired in 1994, Gene continued to volunteer for groups such as the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), delivering Meals on Wheels, serving as Treasurer for NARFE (Chapter 348), etc. Gene was always helping neighbors with yard work and shoveling snow. In 2016, Gene was one of five people honored with the "Service Together Achieves Results" award "for the excellence in neighborly service". Gene was preceded in death by his wife Deloris M. Evans in 2002. Gene is survived by 3 adult children: James A. Evans (Kim E. Sims) of Urbana, Illinois, Karen E. Medina (Stuart Levy) of Champaign, Linda M. Evans (Eric Schacht) of Champaign-Urbana; and 3 grandchildren Parker A. Evans, Demetrius S.P. Evans, and Milo P. Evans
Farnes	2026	Member Phillip Edward Farnes (91) of Bozeman, Montana, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2026, in Bozeman, with his daughters by his side. Phil was born on September 28, 1934, in Billings, Montana, to Phil and Katherine Farnes. After attending Eastern Montana College in Billings and graduating from Montana State University with a degree in Civil Engineering and serving in the United States Army, he settled in Bozeman. Phil was a legendary figure in mountain hydrology and snow science. He dedicated more than six decades to understanding the relationship between mountain snowpack and water resources. For 36 years, Phil served as a Supervisory Hydrologist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) in Bozeman, where he became the primary architect of Montana's snow survey data collection process through technology and vision. He was involved in the installation of one of the first computers in his field which at that time filled an entire room with processors from ceiling to floor along with developing their own open aired snow bug to get them to the snow sites throughout the mountains of Montana. His

		<p>expansive knowledge was sought out from organizations throughout the country up until his death. Phil published several books, papers and articles on water resources and climate change which are still available and used today. Phil was a cornerstone of the Western Snow Conference, where he served for over 40 years. In 1990, after retirement from the Soil Conservation Service, and spending the summer camping, exploring, and working in Alaska, he founded Snowcap Hydrology and Snowcap Photos which allowed him to continue working in two of his passions. He was a frequent contributor to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle Letters to the Editor. In 1996, Phil's contributions were formally recognized when he was named a "Legend" by the Montana Chapter of the American Water Resources Association. In 2012, Phil received the UUNO SAHINEN Medalion from Montana Tech in Butte. Phil was well known as a photographer of nature, having many of his pictures published in magazines, books, and used as inspiration for other art forms. Phil is survived by his children, Kathie Sybrant (Bill), Glenda Rall (John Hastings), Dennis Farnes, 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, nephews, and nieces, Sister-in-Law, Ruth Farnes, and former wife, Barbara Farnes, along with many beloved friends that were family. Phil was preceded in death by his longtime partner, May Mace.</p>
Feil-Erskine	2026	<p>Theresa Mae Feil-Erskine (56) of Richmond, Missouri, passed away March 3, 2026, at her home. Theresa was born on September 6, 1969, in Cowgill, Missouri, the daughter of Wayne Edwin and Rita (Elliott) Feil. She was united in marriage to William "Will" Erskine. Theresa was a Soil Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service working out of the Higginsville Field Office. Theresa found her greatest joy in the outdoors and in the company of those she loved most. She enjoyed hiking, camping, kayaking, and fishing, always appreciating the peace and beauty of nature. Theresa also expressed her love through cooking, often creating new dishes and bringing family together around the table. One of her proudest and most meaningful accomplishments was training service dogs for Retrieving Freedom in Sedalia, an organization that trains service dogs for veterans with disabilities and children with autism. Survivors include her husband, Will Erskine of Richmond; two daughters, Aspen Erskine of Richmond, and Samantha (Preston) Pippin of Texas; grandson, Parker Pippin; four brothers: Wayne Edwin Feil of Warsaw, John (Regina) Feil of Braymer, Leonard (Julie) Feil of Cowgill, and James (Britni) Feil of Warsaw; several nieces and nephews also survive.</p>
Fimreite	2026	<p>Olin Charles Fimreite (92) of Whitehall, Wisconsin, passed away on March 31, 2026. He was born on August 25, 1933, to Theodore and Olinda (Schultz) Fimreite on the family farm a mile north of Eleva, Wisconsin. He was part of the first graduating class of Eleva-Strum High School, the first consolidated school in Wisconsin, and was a standout athlete for the Cardinals in both basketball and baseball. He was also a member of the Future Farmers of America. After high school, Olin remained on the family farm for two years before joining the U.S. Army. A Korean War veteran, he served as a "map maker" and took great joy in his time stationed in Japan. Upon returning home, he used the GI Bill to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. While there, he met Janice Marie Kaneen, whom he married on December 27, 1959. Olin briefly taught at Plum City High School before realizing education was not his calling. He then accepted a position with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, where he discovered his true professional passion, a love for the land. After one year, he moved to Alma, Wisconsin, to work with the Buffalo County SCS. In 1967, he accepted a promotion to Whitehall, Wisconsin, where he led the Trempealeau County SCS until his retirement in 1994. Never one to sit still; Olin remained active throughout his life. He and Janice established Fimreite's Sunset Gardens greenhouse, sharing their love of plants and soil with the community. He was an active member of the Lions Club and participated in several mission trips to Nicaragua. Olin served nearly 25 years on the Trempealeau County Board, where he was known as a fair and honorable leader who advocated for fiscally responsible solutions. An avid photographer, Olin won first place in the 1968 National Soil Conservation Society photography contest. Olin is survived by his wife, Janice; his four sons, Robert (Angie), Duane (Kathy), Gordon (Arlene), and Jeffrey (Anne); his grandchildren, Luke (Abigail), Tyler, Zachary, Lydia (Kevin), and Tessa; his great-granddaughters, Aurora and Gwen; his sister, Evelyn (Harland) Wegner; and sister-in-law Audrey (Henry).</p>
Foster	2024	<p>Clifford "Cliff" James Foster, (68) of Chelsea, Iowa, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at his home on December 22, 2024. Cliff was born July 22, 1956, in Laurens, Iowa, the son of Jack E. and Beverly Marsh Foster. He and his brother Terry enlisted together in 1974, with Cliff enlisting in the United States Air Force and his brother Terry in the United States Marines. After serving Cliff enrolled in a vocational school in Jackson, Minnesota, for sales, marketing, and management. He was united in marriage to Catherine Kepler on July 25, 1981. Cliff worked as a soil conservation technician for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service where he designed and completed installation of conservation practices in Emmett, Poweshiek, and Tama counties in Iowa totaling 100 ponds for livestock water and recreation. He also ran miles of terraces for water and sediment control basins and over 200 acres of grazed waterways. Cliff was given the Golden Buffalo Award for his close work with the Meskwaki settlement. He always had a big garden, growing vegetables and selling them at Holiday Lake and also donating to local food banks for many years. He was also influential in GALFA (Grinnell Area Local Food Association). He dedicated many years to coaching little league baseball in Brooklyn. Cliff is survived by his children, Chad Foster, Jeremy Foster, both of Brooklyn, Iowa; Jessica (Brian) Wilcox of Prairie City, Iowa; John Foster of Knoxville; Iowa and an honorary son Eric Garringer of Brooklyn; eight grandchildren; his brothers Rod (Kathy) and Terry Foster and his sister Kay (Dave) Besaw. He is preceded in death by his wife Cathy in 2017.</p>
Frerich	2026	<p>Charles Patrick Frerich (68) of Rowena, Texas, passed away on April 1, 2026. Charles was born on August 1, 1957, to Arnold and Alice Frerich. On February 19, 1977, he married the love of his life, Linda Halfmann-Frerich, and together they built a life centered on faith, family, and hard work. Charles dedicated many years of service working with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service as a Conservation Engineer Technician and received several awards over the past 30 years. After retirement, he operated heavy equipment for Buddy's Plant Plus. He served on the Ballinger ISD School Board for 23 years. Charles was also involved with the Earthmoving Contractors Association of Texas. He had a true passion for operating heavy equipment and "playing in the dirt", a job he genuinely loved. A man of deep faith, Charles was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rowena. He served the Lord in many ways, including as a member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Joseph Choir. He was a volunteer firefighter on Rowena Volunteer Fire Department. He is survived by his loving wife, Linda Frerich; his children, Patrick Frerich (Wendy), Adam Frerich (Amanda), and Trisha Hunter (Jeff); his mother, Alice Frerich; grandchildren Isabella Frerich, Ty Frerich, Oliver Frerich, Eve Frerich, Carson Hunter, and Easton Hunter. His greatest joy in life was following his grandchildren to their activities and supporting them in all they did.</p>
Helmeý	2026	<p>Senior Conservationist and Life Member Edgar Lebey Helmeý (97) of Raleigh, North Carolina, passed away February 9, 2026. Ed was born in Effingham County, Georgia, on April 8, 1928, the son of the late Randall and Mamie Cook Helmeý. He was married to Marilyn Howe Helmeý for 58 years. She preceded him in death in 2015. Ed served as a pilot in the Air Force on active duty during the Korean and Vietnam wars, with other service in the Air Force Reserves and Air</p>

		National Guard until retiring in 1978 as a Lieutenant Colonel with 28 years of service. Edgar worked for 32 years with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He was a Civil Engineer in Gainesville, Georgia, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and as a Conservationist in Athens, Georgia, retiring there in 1994. He continued to live in Athens until October of 2004, when they moved to Raleigh, North Carolina. At the time of his death, he was a member of St. Philip Lutheran Church in Raleigh, having served on the Church Council. He was a life member of the Georgia Salzburger Society and a charter member of the Atlanta Chapter of the Georgia Salzburger Society. He was also a member of the Athens Rotary Club, the Military Officers Association of America, the Air Force Association, and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees. He was the author of a three-part book series covering his life titled, Life As I Remember It. Survivors include two sons, Donald (Julie) Helmey of Little River, South Carolina, Brian (Kim) Helmey of Charleston, South Carolina; four grandchildren Robert Helmey, Jordan Vinck, Christopher Helmey, and Kiersten Helmey; and two great grandchildren.
Hobson	2026	Life Member Stanley Neil Hobson (91) of Boise, Idaho, passed away March 29, 2026. Stan was born December 30, 1934, in the Panama Canal Zone to Robert and Helen Hobson. He joined the United States Navy following an early high school graduation in 1951. He proudly served four years' active duty aboard the aircraft carriers USS Oriskany and USS Sicily as a Navy photographer during the Korean War. After an honorable discharge, Stan returned to his parents' home in Roswell, New Mexico. He worked as a cameraman at a local television station until enrolling at New Mexico State University. He graduated with a master's degree in civil engineering. While working as a summer intern in Tucumcari, New Mexico, Stan met the cutest soda jerk in the town's only ice cream parlor, a local girl named Kathryn. They married on his birthday, in a snowstorm, in 1958. Stan worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, transferring and living in California, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, where he served as State Conservationist before becoming head of the NTC for the 13 Western states in Portland. He retired in 1992 after 32 years of service, after which Stan and Kathy returned to Boise. He also loved tennis, golf, photography, woodworking, reading, square-dancing with his favorite partner, and playing competitive games. He and Kathy travelled many miles throughout their beloved Southwestern desert, camping and exploring with family and friends. Stan was committed to volunteering. He was most proud of working with the Veterans History Project through the Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa, Idaho. Many years also were devoted to being a weekly docent at The Discovery Center of Idaho and serving on the citizens advisory board for the Idaho National Laboratory. Stanley is survived by his loved wife Kathy of 67 years, his sister Dottie of Utah, as well as his three children and their families of seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.
Hunt	2026	Keith Hunt (77) of Milo, Iowa, passed away on April 13, 2026, surrounded by his family. Keith was born in Maryville, Missouri, and was raised on the family farm south of Mt. Ayr, Iowa. He proudly served his country in the United States Army, enlisting in October 1969 and being honorably discharged in December 1970. During this time, he served in the Vietnam War. Keith worked in the contract administration staff in the Iowa State Office of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He had a great sense of humor and a deep love for life's simple pleasures. Keith was a proud fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes, enjoyed spending time fishing, and cherished every moment he could playing pitch with his family. Above all, he loved his grandchildren dearly—they were truly his pride and joy. He also carried a deep respect for his fellow servicemen and women—any time he saw a veteran, he made it a point to thank them for their service and welcome them home. Keith will be greatly missed by his wife, Rhonda Hunt; children: Tim (Shawna) Hunt, Stacie (Bret) Lawler, and Jennifer (Matt) Hall; 10 grandchildren: Casey, Cory, Kelsey, Kourtne, Zachary, Kyle, Taylor, Kaleb, Emma, and Lincoln; eight great-grandchildren; siblings: Kenny Hunt and Marjorie Tully; along with many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his son, Kelly Hunt.
Irinco	2026	Julita Geronimo "Julie" Irinco (77) of Salinas, California, passed away peacefully at home on February 15, 2026, surrounded by the family she loved so dearly. Julie was born October 18, 1948. She was married to Avelino Ultra Irinco who passed away in 2024. She worked at the United States Army Fort Ord Base as a Secretary before she worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Salinas, first in the Salinas Field Office and then in the area office where she became the Area Administrative Assistant. She baked cakes adorned with care for birthdays and graduations, crafted decorations by hand, and became known for her intricate bouquets of folded money — small works of art that turned celebration into something unforgettable. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, Auntie and friend, Julie lived a life rooted in generosity and joy. She is survived by her children, Avelino P. Irinco Jr., Lorenzo (Yolanda) G. Irinco, and Julee (Eric) L. Rarang; her cherished grandchildren, Jaysen, Marissa, Janine, Jaylyn, Eryk, Sophia, Ejaya, and her great grandson, Adan. To them, she was lovingly known as "Gammie" — a name spoken with warmth, laughter, and immeasurable love.
Jantz	2026	Donald R. Jantz (92) of Fairview, Oklahoma, passed away February 3, 2026. Don was born to Dave and Mabel (Koehn) Jantz November 4, 1933, in rural Kingfisher County near Okeene, Oklahoma. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Soil Science at Oklahoma A&M (Now Oklahoma State University) in 1956 and was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. After college he took a job with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Hugoton, Kansas. That job was short-lived for after a few weeks he was drafted into the United States Army at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. After Basic Training he remained at Fort Chaffee as a supply clerk instructor until he was discharged in 1958. While in the military the job with the Soil Conservation Service was reserved for him so he returned to that job now in Garden City, Kansas as a Soil Scientist. For the next 33 years he worked across the state living in 5 different towns, working in 19 different counties, plus a 30-day special assignment in Jamaica. Don retired in 1988 and shortly thereafter moved to Enid, Oklahoma residing there until moving to Fairview in 2021. He was a member of Enid First United Methodist Church. He attended there until he moved to the Fairview Fellowship Home. He rarely missed attending Sunday School at the nursing home. Don is survived by sister Jean Jantz of Yukon, Oklahoma; brother Darrel Jantz of Fairview, Oklahoma; and sister-in-law Donna Jantz of Cushing, Oklahoma; He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Robert Jantz and Gary Jantz; and sister-in-law Ellen Jantz.
Judy	2019	Senior Conservationist Harris W. Judy (89) of Davidson, North Carolina, passed away September 9, 2019. Harris was born in Maxwelton, West Virginia on May 4, 1930, to Roy W. Judy and Ula Blanche Judy. He received a scholarship to attend Greenbrier Military School in Lewisburg, West Virginia, which he attended for one year. He graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. He served in the United States Air Force for two years and in the Air Force Reserves for six years. He worked for 33 years with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He was Watershed and River Basin staff leader and later in administration in the Washington, DC office. The last two years with Soil Conservation, Harris and Dottie moved to Jakarta, Indonesia where Harris worked with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry. They retired to Fredericksburg, Virginia for 27 years. They were residents of the "Pines at Davidson" in North Carolina for the past four years. Harris was a member of Davidson College Presbyterian Church. Harris is survived by

		his wife of 65 years, Dorothea (Dottie Baker) Judy, his four children Barbara Davis (Bob) of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Stephen Judy (Robin) of Fredericksburg, Virginia, Robin Wagner (David) of Clifton, Virginia, and Lisa Oliver (Perry) of Huntersville, North Carolina; 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.
Medlin	2026	Larry Dennis Medlin (79) of Salado, Texas, passed away at his home on April 21, 2026. Dennis was born on September 24, 1946, to L.H., Jr. and Betty (Gage) Medlin. He graduated from Texas Tech University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Engineering. He married his high school sweetheart Marilyn McCall and they just celebrated 59 years of wonderful marriage in January. Larry worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 34 years as an engineer and was the State Conservation Engineer when he retired in 2001. After he retired, he started his own company, M&E Consultants. Dennis loved watching his grandchildren's activities and his beloved Texas Tech Red Raiders. Dennis and Marilyn are member of the Restoration Fellowship in Holland, Texas. Mr. Medlin is survived by his wife Marilyn; two sons, Dwayne Lee Medlin (Brenda), and Jason Scott Medlin (Jenny) and a daughter Becky Parks (Steve). Also surviving are six grandchildren: Preston Jerome Medlin (Abby), Courtney D'Ann Gilbert (Jimmy), Chandler Dennis Medlin (Vicky), Colby Scott Medlin (Jazi), Megan LeAnn Surgi (Tyler) and Trace Capps Medlin (Jannie), as well as great grandchildren Hazel McCall Gilbert, GiGi Medlin, Davi Medlin and Diana Marie Surgi.
Peterson	2026	Senior Conservationist and Life Member John William Peterson, Jr. (89) of Burke, Virginia, passed away at his home on March 3, 2026. A resident of Burke since 1978, John was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, on July 25, 1936, to John and Gertrude (Hagerty). He graduated from South Dakota State University in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and continued his education by obtaining a master's in public administration from Central Michigan University in 1973, and an Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from LaSalle University in 1974. He was commissioned in the United States Army in 1959, retiring as an infantry colonel in 1991 after a 32-year active and active reserve career. John had a successful 40-year career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), where he planned and constructed watershed projects in Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, and Arizona, before working nationally in Washington, D.C. He retired from the Senior Executive Service in 1994 as the Assistant He also served as the SCS Deputy Chief for Administration. He founded KEMPS Consultants, Inc. with expertise in natural resources public policy, water resources, and erosion and sediment control in April 1994. From 1994 to 2004 John also served as the Executive Director of the National Watershed Coalition (NWC). In that role, he was the National Watershed Coalition's representative in Washington, D.C., and was the initial drafter and a lead champion for the successful passage of PL 106-472, the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Act of 2000. That was the first major USDA water resources legislation passed in over 22 years, and it allowed USDA to assist watershed sponsors in bringing their dams up to current safety standards. John was recognized internationally for his expertise in watershed planning, dam safety, and erosion and sediment control. He directed USDA's Watershed Programs nationally for six years. He was a three-term president of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA), past IECA Mid-Atlantic Chapter President, and a Fellow of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). He belonged to the Land Improvement Contractor's Association and served as a volunteer conference manger with the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative. He served as a locally-elected director and chairman of the board of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District in Fairfax County, Virginia, and was also on the Board of Directors and past Board Chairman for EnviroCert International, Inc. John's life reflected his love of family, faith, travel, and sports. In addition to his professional accomplishments, John was deeply involved in the lives of his family and an active member of the community. Being an Eagle Scout himself, John served as both a Pack Leader and a Troop Leader for his sons. He enjoyed a variety of sports, coaching Little League Baseball and acting as a scorekeeper for the Lake Braddock Girl's Softball Team. He was known to root for local sports teams at all levels, including GMU basketball, the Potomac Cannon's/National's baseball team, and the Baltimore Ravens, not to mention the university sports teams of his children's alma maters. A lifelong Catholic, he was a parishioner at Nativity Catholic Church in Burke for over 47 years. John and Blanche enjoyed traveling, visiting a multitude of countries such as India, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, England, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, China, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives, in addition to visiting 49 of the United States. He was a past director of the Potomac Nationals Baseball Booster Club and was an elected director and president of the Time-Share Owners Association of the Ocean Cove at Palmetto Dunes Resort at Hilton Head Island, SC. One of the things John was proudest of is the John W. Peterson Agricultural Scholarship established by the Organization of Professional Employees of the US Department of Agriculture (OPEDA). John is survived by his wife of 67 years, Blanche (Sorensen); their five children, Michael Peterson (Katie) of Manassas, Virginia; Patrick Peterson of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina; Kathie Bailey (Derek) of Leesburg, Virginia; Shannon Dube (Jeremy) of Cumberland, Maine; and Erin Peterson of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; and his seven cherished grandchildren, whose professional, academic, and athletic accomplishments he actively followed and cheered on: Megan, Lilly, Emily, Sofia, Jack, William, and Ryan.
Pinkerton	2026	Life Member Paul Harvey Pinkerton, Jr. (82) of Marble, Pennsylvania, passed away unexpectedly at the Clarion Hospital following a sudden illness, on March 18, 2026. Harvey was born June 8, 1943, in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, son of the late Paul Harvey Pinkerton and Carrie Margaret Brink Pinkerton. On August 23, 1969, he married Victoria Lee "Vickie" Hise at the First Church of God in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Harvey began his career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a student trainee while attending Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation in 1965, with a degree in Agricultural Mechanization, he became a full-time employee in Mercer County, Pennsylvania as a Soil Conservationist. During his career he was assigned to Jefferson County (District Conservationist), Tioga County (Soil Conservationist), Susquehanna County (District Conservationist), Clarion County (Rural Abandoned Mine Program Specialist), and ended his 40 plus year career in Clarion County as the Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator (RC&D) with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, retiring in 2004. As RC&D Coordinator, he was very proud of his work raising funds and coordinating the installation of dry hydrants in Northwest Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Faith Lutheran Church in Venus, Pennsylvania. Harvey was a founding member of the North Clarion Players, presenting numerous musicals at the Verna Leith Sawmill Theatre at Cook Forest State Park, where he had the opportunity to exhibit his terpsichorean talents. He was also a horologist. Survivors include Vickie, his wife of 56 years; two children: Paul David Pinkerton of Cascade, Maryland, and Cheryl Dianne Bailey (Matthew) of Fryburg, Pennsylvania; grandchildren: Kayla Nikol Hendrickson and Jordyn LeeAnne Bailey, of Pennsylvania, and granddaughter, Brittany Bailey and great-granddaughter, Skyler, of Massachusetts.
Ricks	2026	Judith Annette Lewis Ricks (76) of Frankfort, Kentucky, passed away on March 21, 2026. She was the wife of retired Soil Conservation Technician Robert C (Bob) Ricks, Jr., who worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Judith was born on May 15, 1949, in LaGrange, Georgia, to the late Wilbur M. and Dora H. Lewis. She became the first in her family to attend and graduate from college, earning both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Tuskegee Institute in 1971 and 1973, respectively. In 1975, she relocated to Kentucky and began her distinguished

		career with Kentucky State University in the Division of Land Grant and Cooperative Extension. A Registered Dietitian and Licensed Nutritionist, Judith served as an Area Specialist in Family Development and Management until her retirement in 2010. Judith leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband of 48 years, Robert C. Ricks, Jr.; her loving daughter, Elaina B. Ricks of Aldie, Virginia; and her beloved siblings: Wilbur Joyce Lewis of LaGrange, Georgia; Milton Lewis (Hea) of Columbus, Ohio; Cheryl Wright (Gary) of Denver, Colorado; Carol Faye Lewis of LaGrange, Georgia; and Willard Charles Lewis of College Park, Georgia.
Riddling	2026	Nyla "Beth" Riddling (85) of Sherwood, Arkansas passed away peacefully on April 7, 2026 surrounded by her loved ones. Beth was born on September 11, 1940, to Sarah "Ellen" and Robert "Earl" Lynch in England, Arkansas. She and Bill were married on October 17, 1958. Their loving marriage continued for 67 beautiful years. She was a dedicated employee for Kelly Girl and for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service where she worked in the Budget and Finance section of the Little Rock State Office. She was a longtime loyal member of the Kellogg Valley Baptist Church and deeply loved her church family. Beth was truly a beautiful, elegant, kind, and loving woman to all. Her gentle and nurturing nature continued throughout her entire life. She was fair, selfless, and adored by everyone that had the honor of knowing her. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Billy "Bill" Joe Riddling, two daughters, Sonya Edwards (Bobby) of Sherwood, Tamara Ivey (Terry) of Jacksonville, Arkansas; five grandchildren, MacKenzie Phillips (Will), Ericka Ivey, McCall Reynolds, Amber Erickson (Travis), Chase Wilson, and seven great grandchildren.
Ridenour	2026	Willis J. Ridenour (91) of Largo, Florida (formerly of Parkersburg, West Virginia) passed away on March 15, 2026. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Janice Foster Ridenour. He was born December 3, 1934, in Stone Creek, Ohio and graduated from Stone Creek High School. He graduated from The Ohio State University, and he loved his Buckeyes; he received his master's degree from Oklahoma University. Willis spent his young life working on the family dairy farm and after graduating college, he spent 39 years working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. This included several years as a successful Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator. He was an Area Conservationist when he retired in 1994. After retirement, he volunteered for several organizations in Parkersburg. Between the ages of 50 to 85 years old, he was an avid runner completing numerous races in the area as well as 10 Boston Marathons. In addition to his wife, Willis is survived by 1 son, Gene (Christy) McCutcheon, of Jacksonville, Florida; 5 daughters, Linda Ridenour (Jeff) Long of Longmont, Colorado; Lisa Ridenour Wilson of South Weber, Utah; Julie Ridenour (Ken Harcrow) of Arlington, Texas; Julie McCutcheon (Jon) Law of Parkersburg, West Virginia; Sarah Ridenour (Doug) Robinson of Little Elm, Texas.; grandchildren: Zachary (Cynthia) McCutcheon; Brittany (Orlando) McCutcheon Redrino; Joshua (Jessica) Long; McKenna Long (Travis) Chambers; Theo Ridenour; Amelia Ridenour; Andrew (Brittney) Wilson; Linda Wilson (R.J.) Perry; Courtney Law (Cameron) Resuta; Luca Robinson and Jude Robinson; and great grandchildren: Cannon, Jace, and Paisley Wilson; Wren Chambers; Collin and Mateo McCutcheon; Quinn and Hayden Perry; Charlotte Resuta.
Setness	2025	Senior Conservationist and Life Member Duane Kenneth Setness (92) of Salem, Oregon, passed away peacefully on September 28, 2025. Duane was born on July 2, 1933, in Silverton, Oregon, the only child of Kenneth and Anna Setness. He earned a degree from the University of Oregon and proudly served in the United States Army in 1955 at Herzo Base in Herzogenaurach, Germany. In 1959, Duane married Audrey Pettengill in Lebanon, Oregon. The couple lived in Oregon City and Medford, where they raised their three children: Ron, Diane, and Brian. After retiring in 1989, Duane and Audrey moved to Salem. Duane devoted 30 years to a career as a Soil Scientist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, reflecting his lifelong love of the outdoors. In retirement, he and Audrey enjoyed traveling with an RV club and were active members of First Christian Church, volunteering with Meals on Wheels and Marion Polk Food Share. Known for his storytelling, love of nature, and passion for gardening, Duane touched the lives of many. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Audrey; and his son, Brian. He is survived by his children, Ron and Diane, and three grandchildren.
Setness	2024	Audrey Diane Setness (87) of Salem, Oregon, passed away peacefully on July 16, 2024. She was the wife of Senior Conservationist and Life Member Duane Kenneth Setness, retired soil scientist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Audrey was born on September 3, 1936, in Port Angeles, Washington, the only child of Orville and Virginia Pettengill. She earned a degree in Education from the University of Oregon in 1958. She taught elementary school for two years before marrying Duane Setness in 1959 in Lebanon, Oregon. They lived in Oregon City and Medford, where Audrey devoted most of her life to raising their family. Upon retirement, she and Duane relocated to Salem, Oregon. Audrey found great joy in the outdoors, gardening, baking, and holiday gatherings. She also had a deep love for animals and nature. In retirement, she and Duane enjoyed RV travel with an RV club and were active in the First Christian Church, particularly through her volunteer work with Meals on Wheels and Marion Polk Food Share.
Sharp	2026	Senior Conservationist William Curtis Sharp (96) of Castle Hayne, North Carolina, passed away at his home on March 30, 2026. Curtis, as he was known, was born on October 31, 1929, in Frost, Pocahontas County, West Virginia to John Mitchell Sharp and Edyth Morrison Sharp. In 1949 Curtis entered Potomac State College, then completed his requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy at West Virginia University in 1953. In 1955 he graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a Master of Science degree in Soil Physics. Later that year he entered the military and was honorably discharged in 1957. On October 5, 1957, Curtis married Peggy Louise Bell. During summers while in college he was employed as a student trainee with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties, and after completing his military service, took a permanent position with them in East Aurora, New York. Except for two and half years of employment with The State University of New York, Curtis' career spanned over 40-years with SCS, (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service or NRCS), in various locations, including New York, New Jersey, California, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C, until his retirement in 1996. His employment concentrated on the development of new plants and related technology for the conservation of natural resources. During his last 20 years of service, he was a Regional Plant Materials Specialist (PMS) in Broomall, Pennsylvania and in Washington, D.C., he directed the Plant Materials Program as a National PMS. His most rewarding accomplishments were the development of plants and technology for stabilizing east coast sand dunes and tidal stream shorelines, and his efforts in the Service's program redirection during his last ten years in D.C. Following retirement Curtis published several books regarding the history of the Plant Materials Program (Conservation Plants - A USDA Success Program.) and about 20 genealogical books on his parents and wife's families, plus six books on the genealogical history of 100 Pocahontas Pioneers. His busy retirement also included collaborating with fellow plant materials folks for 13 annual botany tours (2008-2024) known as "Grass Treks" serving as key editor of the reports. Preceding him in death were his wife of 61 years, Peggy Louise (Bell) in 2018. Curtis is survived by his four children: Mitchell Clifford Sharp, Downingtown, Pennsylvania; Rebecca Bell Ward, Castle Hayne, North Carolina; Melissa Lee Terrels, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Johanna Dene Sharp, Jupiter, Florida; 11 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Curtis will be buried on top of a hill

		near Frost, Pocahontas County WV, beside Peggy in the cemetery established in 1912 by his grandfather and grandmother William Alexander Gilmer Sharp and Nancy Elizabeth Arbogast Sharp. It is on the property where he and his father and grandfather were born.
Smith	2026	Senior Conservationist and Life Member Burns “Ed” Edward Smith (91) of Columbia, Missouri passed away on February 9, 2026. Ed was born October 14, 1934, in rural Reynolds County, Missouri to the late Areville and Muriel (Young) Smith. On December 26, 1955, he married Judith Whitaker in Salem, Missouri. He moved to Columbia with his young family in June 1962, and this is where he established his life and home until his final day. Ed worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for many years as an engineering technician. After retirement, he went back to work for several years for Bartlett & West, Inc. Ed was a member of Memorial Baptist Church for 63+ years and served in many roles there. Ed enjoyed traveling, especially to Colorado. After retirement he and Judith spent many winters in Avon Park, Florida, and made lots of great memories there. He enjoyed fishing whenever he could, but his favorite hobby was golf. He played as often as he could, any time of year. In his later life, he liked to challenge himself to have his golf score match his age, and he accomplished this goal many times. He was still playing golf into the Fall of his 91st year. He also got great joy from spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Ed was preceded in death by his loving wife, Judith, and his daughter, Christa Schilb. He is survived his daughter, Cindy (Steve); five grandchildren, Mallory, Joel, Justin, Kalie, Aaron; and seven great grandchildren.
Twitty	2023	Julia Drodody Twitty (88) of Fort Worth, Texas, passed away on September 4, 2023. She was the wife of Walter Kenneth Twitty Jr, retired engineer at the South National Technology Center for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Julia attended college at Texas Women’s University, Southern State College and Louisiana Tech University where she earned her degree Elementary Education in 1961. Julia taught school in Colorado, Arkansas, and The American School in Lahore Pakistan and Montessori Children’s House in Fort Worth, Texas. Julia and Kenneth lived in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Lahore Pakistan, Rome Italy, Maryland and Texas. She was preceded in death by her daughter Carole. She is survived by her husband, Walter; daughter, Diane Williams; grandchildren, Michelle Sanders, Julia Parr, Carole Graves and Jordan Williams; great grandchildren, Kenneth Sanders, Elaura Sanders, Victoria Sanders, Stella Graves, Beatrice Graves and Mieshka Ann Parr.
Wiggins	2023	Marjorie Love Jackson Wiggins (88) of Raleigh, North Carolina, passed away December 26, 2023, surrounded by her family. Marjorie was the wife of Senior Conservationist and Life Member Talmadge J. Wiggins, retired Area Conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Marjorie was born in Sampson County, North Carolina on August 12, 1935, to Jasper Dempsey Jackson and Florrie Marshburn Jackson. She was a graduate and supporter of Meredith College. Marjorie lived her life in North Carolina - settling back in Raleigh over the last 3 years. She served as Executive Officer of the Wilkes County Homebuilders Association and was a successful real estate broker and property manager. She and husband Talmadge enjoyed square dancing, storytelling events, her "Little House" on the Blue Ridge Parkway, and North Carolina State football games. Marjorie is survived by her husband of 67 years, Talmadge Wiggins, a daughter, Lisa Wiggins Taylor, and a son, Bryan Wiggins (Annette) all of Raleigh, and a granddaughter, Sarah Wiggins, of Stockholm, Sweden.
Yolton	2024	Elva Mae Yolton (85) of Canastota, New York, passed away on August 5, 2024, in the Oneida Health Hospital. Elva was the wife of Life Member William P. Yolton, retired Physical Scientist Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Elva was born in Madrid, New York on September 22, 1938, the daughter of Earl and Elva Moulton. She married William P. Yolton on August 17, 1957. Prior to her retirement, Elva was employed with GNC Stores in Syracuse, New York as a manager and had previously been employed by General Electric. Surviving besides her husband William are her two daughters, Cheryl (Joel Regis) Sgarlata of Canastota and Felna (Joe) Sweet of Syracuse; her two grandchildren, Ty Smith and Jason (Kaitlyn) Sgarlata; and her three great-grandchildren, Brooklyn Smith, John Sgarlata and Will Sgarlata. She was predeceased by a granddaughter, Amberlee Sgarlata in 2023.