

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Baggett	2026	Susan Clelland Baggett (73) of Huntsville, Texas, passed away peacefully on April 29, 2026. Susan was born on June 4, 1952, in Houston, Texas, the daughter of the late James Lewis Young and Margaret Wayne Young. Susan was among the first women admitted to Texas A&M University, an institution she loved dearly and spoke of with great pride for the rest of her life. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1974 and a master's degree in forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1983. Susan's lifelong love of nature and the outdoors shaped her distinguished career. She began with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Waco, Texas. After a short time with Louisiana Pacific, she returned to the NRCS as Texas State Forester for one year. She then served as NRCS Assistant State Conservationist in Oklahoma before becoming Texas State Resource Conservationist, a position she held until her retirement in 2013. Her passion for the outdoors also wove beautifully into her marriage. On May 2, 1980, Susan married the love of her life, David Baggett. Together they created cherished memories hiking through Central Texas and hunting in New Mexico. She was also an avid sports fan who loved attending Texas A&M athletic events. An amazing quilter, she created beautiful handmade pieces for family and friends. She cherished playing board games with her grandchildren and, like everyone in her family, she loved to cook and was very good at it — her meals were always a highlight of family gatherings. Faith was the heartbeat of Susan's life. She was raised in the Presbyterian Church. She and David were longtime members of First Baptist Church in Huntsville and more recently University Heights Baptist Church. Susan is survived by her husband of nearly 46 years, David Baggett; son Chris deMilliano (Emily); daughter Jessica Kate Pendleton; grandchildren Abby Pendleton, Amelia deMilliano, Hayes deMilliano, and Jonathan Pendleton.
Bainter	2026	Everet Lee Bainter (77) of Casper, Wyoming, passed away on June 13, 2026, in Casper. He was born on September 23, 1948, in Oberlin, Kansas. Everet married the love of his life, Sheila Tomanek in 1969. Everet proudly served in the Army National Guard from 1970 to 1976, exemplifying his dedication to his nation during a pivotal era. Following his military service, he pursued higher education, earning a master's degree which laid the foundation for his long and impactful professional career. With a profound passion for environmental conservation, Everet held a vital role as a Soil Conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, an agency that later became Natural Resources Conservation Service. He retired as the Wyoming State Range Conservationist, having devoted many years to protecting rangelands and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Everet's enjoyed camping. His love of the outdoors reflected his deep connection to nature, and he found joy and solace in the quiet beauty of the wilderness. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sheila Bainter; his children, Lori Bainter Ratzlaf and Todd Bainter; as well as numerous grandchildren who carry forward his legacy: Briana Lejarza, Tyler Roenz, Alana Ratzlaff, Kenna Ratzlaff, Janessa Ratzlaff, along with Luke, Layton, Abigail, Adelyn, and Thane Bainter. Everet was preceded in death by his daughter, Michelle Roenz. A memorial service will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Casper on July 13th.
Bramblett	2026	Mackenzie Elizabeth Bramblett (30) of Watkinsville, Georgia, passed away April 22, 2026. Mackenzie was the daughter of Jimmy Bramblett who previously worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service where he served as Deputy Chief for Programs, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, and State Conservationist of Wisconsin. Mackenzie was a member of Grace Fellowship Church and a beloved soul whose presence enriched the lives of many. In addition to her father and his wife Anna, Mackenzie is survived by her paternal grandmother, Nellie Bramblett; and her maternal grandmother, Peggy Sailors. She also leaves behind her dear sister, Abby Bramblett (Mathew) Fuller, and her stepsiblings, Clare Edwards (Derek) Cooper and Cale Bryan (Nicole Mitchell) Edwards. She is preceded in death by her mother, Karen Sailors Bramblett.
Bright	2026	Member Roy Edward Bright (87) of Portland, Oregon, passed away on May 14, 2026 after an extended illness, in Happy Valley, Oregon. He was born on July 11, 1938, in Holly, West Virginia, to Samuel and Vernie Bright. As the youngest of twelve children, Roy was raised with strong West Virginia roots, graduating from Lost Creek High School and West Virginia University before earning a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. It was during his graduate studies that Roy met his cherished wife of 61 years, Dorothy McCarthy. Roy dedicated 33 years to a distinguished career as an agricultural engineer with the USDA -Soil Conservation Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He also served honorably in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. In 1978, his professional path brought Roy and Dorothy to Portland, Oregon, where he served as the Oregon State Conservation Engineer. They settled in the Rock Creek area, raised their family, and built a community of lifelong friendships. Following his retirement from the NRCS in 1996, Roy and Dorothy spent their golden years dividing their time between Oregon and Arizona while also traveling extensively around the world. Beyond his commitment to his career and country, Roy was a devoted husband and father. He was also a highly skilled and avid golfer; whenever he had a spare moment, he could almost invariably be found out on the golf course. Roy is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, David and Linda, of Happy Valley, and his grandsons, Devin and Derek, of Portland. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Dorothy; and his son, Brian.
Coleman	2025	Jerry Lee Coleman (86) of Harrodsburg, Kentucky (formerly of Jamestown, Kentucky) passed away on September 20, 2025, in Harrodsburg. He was born January 12, 1939, in the Sharum Community of Randolph County, Arkansas, the son of the late Granville Carl and Nellie Augusta James Coleman. He was the husband of the late Elizabeth "Betty" Jane DeClerk Coleman, who passed away in 2019. After graduating Pochahontas High School in Arkansas in 1957, Jerry joined the United States Army where he served in the 82nd Airborne. He continued to serve his country in the Army Reserves until the mid-eighties. Jerry graduated from Southwest Missouri State University in 1978. Afterwards he enjoyed a long career with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He worked in multiple positions and offices throughout Missouri and Kentucky, including serving as District Conservationist in Mercer County and Boyle County field offices from 1983 to 1997. He retired as Russell County District Conservationist in 2004 after 41 years of service with the NRCS. Jerry was a member of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, and a 4th Degree member and a past District Deputy in the Knights of Columbus. He was an avid gardener and loved being outdoors in nature. He also loved volunteering in the community, especially serving the less fortunate and children's services. In his younger years, he served as a Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America. Jerry and Betty both were active members of the Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery in Jamestown. He also served as a volunteer with the Russell County Rescue Squad. He was honored as a Kentucky Colonel. Jerry is survived by four sons, Michael Coleman of Harrodsburg, Daniel (Carol) Coleman of Marshfield, Missouri, Charles (Christine) Coleman of Cincinnati, Ohio, and David (Lisa) Coleman of Harrodsburg, and three daughters, Georgia (Stuart) Grooms of Kansas City, Missouri, Susan (Mark) Willmott of Harrodsburg, and Rose (Brian) Love of Dundonald, Scotland; twenty grandchildren, Kevin (Lorena) Grooms, Eric Grooms, Gabrielle (Ryan) Cobb,

		Gregory Coleman, Joshua (Savanna) Coleman, Rebecca (Michael) Hayes, Aaron and Hope Coleman, Mary, William, Anna, Catherine, Joseph, Caroline, and Georgia Coleman, Grant Willmott, Loren Willmott (Devin) Carpenter, Jacob (McKenzie) Coleman, Luke (Maggie) Coleman, and Eden Love; and five great-grandchildren, Sam and Alice Cobb, Charlotte Coleman, Arthur Hayes, and Ruby on the way!
Eddleman	2026	Life Member Robert Leroy “Bob” Eddleman (88) of Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away on May 13, 2026. He was born on February 18, 1938, in Milltown, Indiana. Growing up in a rural community on a Southern Indiana farm and participating actively in 4-H and FFA fostered in him a lifelong dedication to agriculture, conservation, and the protection of the earth’s natural resources. Bob attended Purdue University, where he earned a degree in Agricultural Education. While at Purdue, he participated in ROTC and later served as a Captain in the Army Reserves following graduation. Bob met his beloved wife Patricia (Pat) French while serving as presidents of their respective cooperative houses, Circle Pines and Shoemaker. The two married in 1960 and shared 62 wonderful years together before Pat’s passing in 2023. During his summers at Purdue, Bob worked as a student trainee with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Following graduation, he continued his career with the agency, dedicating 42 years to conservation and public service. In 1974, he earned a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. He retired in 2000 as Indiana’s State Conservationist. He and Pat encouraged all four of their daughters to participate in 4-H. Bob served as a 4-H leader for more than 50 years. Bob’s tireless support in the background made Wayne Township one of the most successful urban 4-H programs in the country. Furthermore, Bob served for many years as a member of the Marion County Extension Board. He was a faithful member of St. Christopher Catholic Church for 45 years. Bob served his parish as a lector and Eucharistic Minister. Bob was an avid supporter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for more than 65 years, serving as a leader of the Hoosier Chapter, on the Board of Directors, and as the organization’s President in 2002. He received the Society’s Fellow Award in 1992, its highest honor, along with the President/Chair Leadership Award and an Outstanding Service Award. When Bob retired, he signed up as an Earth Team Volunteer, contributing more than 1,500 hours each year to support conservation activities. At the same time, he was appointed to the Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development Council and to the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District as an associate supervisor. As a speaker and author, Bob conducted hundreds of demonstrations on tree care, tree planting, and invasive plant removal. Bob was appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels to serve on the State Soil Conservation Board in 2005. He became the Board’s Chair in 2006. During his sixteen years on the Board, Bob played a key role in overseeing the Clean Water Indiana program. In 1994 Bob was honored to receive the Purdue Agriculture Alumni Association’s Certificate of Distinction, the association’s highest honor recognizing individuals for their service to agriculture beyond the call of duty. The Purdue University School of Agriculture recognized Bob as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1995. In January 2000, Frank O’Bannon awarded him the “Sagamore of the Wabash” in recognition of his professional accomplishments and dedicated service to agriculture and society. That same year, Richard Lugar honored Bob in the Congressional Record for his many years of service with the United States Department of Agriculture. He is survived by four daughters: Mary Beth Brown (Nick) of Chesterton, Indiana; Susan Gregory (Kevin) of Zionsville, Indiana; Julie Eddleman (Diane Cummins) of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Donna Sweeney (Paul) of Carmel, Indiana. He is also survived by eight grandchildren: Geoff Brown, Katie Brown-Spurgeon (Cody), Matthew Gregory, Annie Gregory, Sydney Keil, Logan Keil, Elizabeth Sweeney, and Elijah Sweeney.
Erickson	2026	Raymond Gayle Erickson (79) of Lewisville, Arkansas, passed away on June 17, 2026, after a two-week battle with pneumonia at CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System surrounded by his loving family, including his devoted wife of 45 years, Linda Beasley Erickson. Ray attended college for several years before joining the United States Air Force in 1968. He proudly served for four years. During his service, he thoroughly enjoyed traveling, especially throughout Europe. Following his active-duty service, he remained in the Air Force Reserve for an additional four years. Ray later graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a degree in Agronomy and Earth Science. Ray served as a Soil Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in both Lafayette and Miller Counties in Arkansas. Following his retirement, he taught science for two years at Columbia Christian School in Magnolia. He then worked at Logoly State Park until he truly retired. He was a lifelong gardener with an extraordinary knowledge of plants—how to grow them, care for them, and where and when they would thrive. Gardening was not only his passion but also a way he brought beauty and happiness to others. Ray will be greatly missed by the Lewisville Church of Christ family. He was always eager to serve wherever he was needed. He is survived by his wife, Linda Erickson; his daughters, Maleah Williamson (Ted) of Stamps and Mindy Morton (Dickie) of Lewisville; and his granddaughters, Megan Morton Cullipher (Joe) and Madison Morton (Zac).
Frick	2026	Clifford Wayne Frick (80) of Guthrie, Oklahoma, passed away February 1, 2026. Clifford was born in Guthrie on October 21, 1945, to Marvin and Geraldine Frick. He attended Oklahoma State University, taking a break from his studies to serve his country in the United States Army as a medical corpsman. He was stationed at Fort Sam Houston before being deployed to Germany, where he served as a mail clerk in the 15th Evacuation Hospital. After serving two years and receiving an honorable discharge, he returned to Oklahoma State University to continue his education, graduating on the Dean’s Honor Roll with a degree in Forestry and an option in Recreation. Following graduation, he spent the summer as an Interpreter/Naturalist at Sulphur State Park. He later went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Cordell, Oklahoma, working in all phases of conservation. He then was assigned the District Conservationist in Hugo, Oklahoma, where he was recognized for outstanding performance. He later transferred to Guthrie, Oklahoma, where he continued serving as District Conservationist until his retirement. While there, Cliff was instrumental in planning and hosting the National Land Judging Contest for agricultural students from all over the United States. He married Linda Carol Lewis, and together they were blessed with a daughter, Stacy, and a son, Travis. Later, he was blessed with bonus children — Christopher, Jill, and Kari — upon marrying Diane Hopfer. Cliff was preceded in death by his infant son, J.W. Survivors include his wife, Diane Diane; daughter, Stacy Urbanowicz (Matt Shields); son, Travis Frick (Tiphani); bonus children, Chris, Jill, and Kari; grandchildren, Deacon Urbanowicz, Mathias Urbanowicz, Naizani Shields, Brynlea Frick, Ellasyn Frick, Raina Frick, Mabel Frick, and Rusten Frick; bonus grandchildren, McKale, Kaylea, Caden, Trent, Kailen, and Race; bonus great-grandchildren, Ridley and Raleigh; nieces Valerie and Chelsea; and great-nephews and great-nieces Reid, Rhett, Ryker, Cora, and Evan.
Friday	2026	Claude Wesley Friday (88) of Vinemont, Alabama, passed away at his home on March 23, 2026. Claude retired as District Conservationist at Talladega, AL serving a SWCD with a heavy workload, including several PL-566 watershed projects. Claude was born in Selma, Alabama, on November 19, 1937 to W.C. and Lillie Friday. He graduated Auburn University in 1960. While attending Auburn, he was a proud member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity which was a very special part of his life. Claude had a deep love for Auburn University Athletics and was a lifetime donor and supporter. After retiring from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service he continued to farm for over 25 years. Mr. Friday was a member

		of First Baptist Church of Talladega, Alabama and he served on the board for Alabama Farmers Federation, Cattleman's Association, and Federal Land Bank. He was a devoted husband, father, "Granddaddy", and brother. He is survived by his wife, Gail Friday; son, Craig Friday (Annie); daughters, Cam Friday (Lori) and Connie Dobbins (Lee); stepdaughters, Tabatha Neal and Shannon Federer (Chad); grandchildren, Caitlin, Wesley, Noah, Nick, Matthew, Dustin, Desseria, Kyle, Savannah, and Ty; great-grandchildren, Nora, Declyn, Elias, Teddy, Barrett, McKenzie, Lily, Zavier, Malaki, Katelyn, and Kailer; sister, Erlene Wiggins, and a host of nieces and nephews.
Gruber	2026	David (Dave) Lee Gruber (85) of Kewaunee, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on May 28, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. David was born to Mary (Wergin) and Anthony Gruber on March 7, 1941, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dave and his four siblings (Paul, Jim, John, and Mary) spent most of their childhood in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Dave served in the United States Navy as an air controlman, both stateside and for two years in Spain. After serving his country, he continued his education at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, where he discovered a passion for environmentalism. While training as a soil conservationist for the USDA–Soil Conservation Service, Dave met his wife, lifelong friend, Betty (Mink) Gruber. Together, they lived in several Wisconsin cities before making their home in the beautiful community of Kewaunee where Dave served as the District Conservationist. He retired from what was now the USDA–Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2001. Dave leaves a legacy of kindness, quiet strength, and steadfast love. Though he was a man of few words, his gentle presence and loving spirit were felt deeply by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Betty; children Laurie (Frank), Jon (Andrea) and Stefanie (Kevin), and grandchildren Celestial, Avian, Brice, Liam and Lillian; and his siblings Paul (Barb), Anthony Jr. (Julie) and Mary (Dave).
Gundlach	2026	Member Howard Francis Gundlach (84) of Madison, Wisconsin, passed away April 27, 2026, at his home. Howard was the fifth child born to John and Esther (Luther) Gundlach in their home in Evansville, Wisconsin. He went on to study at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, earning a Bachelor's degree in Soil Science. After graduating from UW–Madison, Howard made a career as a Soil Scientist with the USDA–Soil Conservation Service (later re-named the Natural Resources Conservation Service) in Janesville, Wisconsin in 1967. Shortly after, Howard married his first wife Linda Noble. Three years later they were on the move again, this time to Baraboo, Wisconsin where Howard completed management classes and was promoted to party leader for the Sauk County Soil Survey. Howard was stationed next in Shawano, Wisconsin where he met and married his second wife, Susan (Beauchaine). Again, on the move, the next soil survey project brought them to Mauston, Wisconsin in 1980. When offered a promotion to the State Office in Madison, Howard seized it and in 1986 the family returned to Madison where most of his siblings lived. After a 40-year career documenting soils across the state, Howard hung up his boots and sharp-shooter spade with his retirement at the end of 2006, which Governor Jim Doyle coincidentally declared the "Year of Soil" in Wisconsin. Howard was an avid and skilled outdoorsman who loved to hunt, fish, and forage for wild food and tall tales. Unsurprisingly, the Soil Scientist maintained an impeccable vegetable garden and primly trimmed yard. He also enjoyed playing cards (lots of cards), refinishing furniture, following Wisconsin sports, and later, his grandchildren's events. Howard was a dedicated family man, friend, and faithful parishioner of Saint Dennis Church. Howard is survived by his wife of 45 years, Susan, three children Alan, Adam (Lisa), David (Jessie) and four grandchildren Josephine (David), Bennett (Adam), Chloe (Adam), and Crosby (David).
Hardy	2025	Patricia Louise Hardy (90) of Salem, Oregon, passed away on October 18, 2025. She was the wife of Senior Conservationist and Life Member Leland A. Hardy, retired National Technology Center Irrigation Engineer for the USDA–Soil Conservation Service in Portland, Oregon. Patricia was born on October 15, 1935.
Harris	2026	Ronald Allen Harris (69) of Olive Branch, Mississippi, passed away on May 24, 2026. Ron was born on April 24, 1957, in Detroit, Michigan, to the late Lotis and Marie Harris. Ron was raised in Magnolia, Arkansas, where he learned the values of faith, hard work, and service that would guide him throughout his life. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 1979. While attending the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Ron met Sue Nevels, the love of his life. They were married on April 15, 1981, and shared 45 years together. Ron's distinguished career with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service began in 1977 as a summer intern. What started as an internship grew into a career spanning more than four decades. Throughout his years of public service, he served communities and agricultural producers across Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, and at the National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. His leadership roles included Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, Area Conservationist, Program Lead Manager, and Advisor to the Natural Resources and Environment Deputy Under Secretary for the Gulf of Mexico. Ron finished his career as Director of Outreach and Partnership, a position he considered the pinnacle of his service and held with great pride. Whether coordinating programs, engaging partners, or advocating for resources, Ron fostered trust and understanding wherever he went. He had an ear for every voice and a gift for turning that listening into lasting impact, teaching people to steward the land and making conservation more inclusive along the way. He also served on committees and advisory boards within 1890 and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU institutions), advocating for the next generation of students entering agriculture. For all that he accomplished in his career, Ron often said that being a husband, father, and grandfather was the greatest joy of his life and what he was proudest of. His marriage to Sue was the foundation, a partnership built on deep love, mutual respect, and a quiet kind of devotion that everyone around them could feel. Ron was preceded in death by his son, Chaz Harris. Survivors include his devoted and loving wife of 45 years, Sue Harris of Olive Branch, Mississippi; his daughter, Jessica Roe (Tim) of Olive Branch, Mississippi; his son, Bryan Harris of Olive Branch, Mississippi; and his four grandchildren, Teagan, Trevor, Tiffany, and Taylin Roe, who brought immeasurable joy to his life.
Helm	2026	James Edward Helm (89) of Athens, Georgia, passed away peacefully on May 22, 2026, after a long illness. He was born on September 23, 1936, in Wideman, Arkansas, to the late Ewell Baxter Helm and Ethel (Dalrymple) Helm. James earned a master's degree in Agronomy from the University of Arkansas and began a distinguished career with the USDA–Soil Conservation Service. He served as the State Resource Conservationist in Georgia, retiring in 2001. He dedicated his life to supporting farmers and promoting soil and water conservation throughout the region. His work reflected both his deep knowledge and his sincere commitment to the land and the people who depended on it. Outside of his professional life, James found joy in many simple pleasures. He loved listening to classical music, reading, working in his shop building projects, and spending time working on his model trains. James is survived by his devoted wife, Judith Helm; his daughter, Rayna (Charles) Standard; his sons, Mark (Jade) Helm and Ron (Maria) Helm; and his beloved grandchildren, Amanda Standard, Alyssa (Jonathan) Book, Eric Helm, and James Helm. He was also blessed with two cherished great-granddaughters, Macy and Piper Book. James was laid to rest in the family cemetery alongside his relatives at the Wideman Cemetery in Wideman, Arkansas.

Hole	2026	<p>Senior Conservationist and Life Member Thornton J. F. Hole (94) of Egg Harbor City, New Jersey, passed away May 17, 2026. He was born August 2, 1931, in Wapakoneta, Ohio, to the late Benjamin J. and Anna M (Meyers) Hole. He was a 1954 graduate of The Ohio State University. On August 21, 1955, he married Joanne Sitler at Columbiana, Ohio. After college, Thornton was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Army Reserve and was on active duty from 1955 to 1957. He was assigned to the artillery school, Fort Sill, OK, and B Battery 176 AA Missile BN, Edgemont, PA. His yearly active-duty commissions took him across the country to different Army Bases, and he brought his family along for the adventures. He was in the Army Reserves for 28 years and retired in 1982 with the rank of Lt. Col. Thornton was a Soil Scientist with USDA – Natural Conservation Service in Ohio and New Jersey, working as a member the Soil Survey parties for Atlantic and Ocean Counties in New Jersey until 1978. From 1978 to 1988 he was the district Conservationist for the Cape Atlantic Soil and Water Conservation District, Mays Landing, New Jersey, from 1988 to 1994, he was the Resource Soil Scientist for southern New Jersey at Hammonton. Thornton was a member of the New Jersey Association of Professional Soil Scientists, Soil Science Society of America, Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the Ohio Academy of Science. He was a Master Gardener with the Atlantic County New Jersey Extension Service. Thornton was a member of the Egg Harbor City Moravian Church, where he served as an Elder, Trustee, and Financial Secretary. He was a Boy Scout Leader of Troop 46, and Cub Pack 46 for many years. Thornton loved being outdoors, gardening and taking care of his daffodils, as well as traveling the world with Joanne. Thornton was preceded in death by his lovely wife of 65 years, Joanne in 2020, as well as son, Jeffrey Scott who died as an infant. He is survived by his sons, John F. (Amanda), Kevin M.; daughters, Rebecca A. (Alfred) Hamel, Karen S. (Steven) McGinty, and Pamela L. (Mark) Gallagher; grandchildren, Samuel Hole, James (Stephanie) Powers, Jackson (Lirianna) Powers, Jarrett (Ally) Powers, Allyson (Daniel) Fields, Patrick (Chanel) McGinty, Brian Gallagher, and Erin Gallagher, and seven great-grandchildren.</p>
Icenhower	2026	<p>Joe A. Icenhower, COL, US Army (Retired) (92) of Boise, Idaho, passed away on May 21, 2026. Joe was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on June 5, 1933 to E.A. "Dutch" Icenhower and Velma LoDell Unbehauen Icenhower. At the age of 14, Joe became the first Eagle Scout in the Oklahoma Great Plains Boy Scout Council. After graduating from Medford High School in 1951, Joe attended Oklahoma A&M College (Now Oklahoma State University), where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Joe graduated in January of 1956 with Bachelor of Science degree in Soil Science and Agronomy, and upon graduation, Joe was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. While in the Army, Joe served with the 173d Airborne Brigade in Okinawa, where he was deployed and served in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Air Medal, and three Army Commendation Medals. He also served a tour with the 8th Infantry Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. Joe retired from the military as a Colonel with 37 years of service. During his time in the US Army Reserves, Joe served in the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a soil scientist in Oklahoma, and a District Conservationist in McCone County and Valley County Montana. Joe then moved to Lewiston, Idaho and established the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Area for Central Idaho. In 1988, he moved to Boise as an Area Conservationist. After retiring in 1988 from the US Army and the Soil Conservation Service, Joe continued to live in Boise with his wife, Lorie, and stepson Jon Tracy. He was a member of the Reserve Officers Association, where he served as president, and the Military Officers Association of America. He was also a member of the Masons, the Shriners, and the Scottish Rite. Joe helped to organize the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, and served as its first director, and helped to organize the Idaho State Military Museum where he served as its first president. For recreation, Joe and Lorie loved raising and showing Morgan Horses. Joe also enjoyed cowboy poetry, which he would occasionally write and recite. He is survived by his wife Lorie, sons Jeff, Barry, and Jon, and their families, as well as his younger brother Jerry and his family. Joe was a longtime member of Trinity Presbyterian Church and later of Southminster Presbyterian.</p>
		<p>Gene Wellington Jarvis (90) of Flemingsburg, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on June 13, 2026. He was born on June 18, 1935, in Georgetown, Kentucky to the late Joseph and Annie Jarvis. He was married to Hazel McFarland Jarvis for 71 years before she passed away in 2025. He was a graduate of Oxford High School and obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky. After college he began his career as a Soil Conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He later became a District Conservationist in Flemingsburg and a watershed specialist, retiring in 1987. After retiring from SCS, Gene served with the Fleming County Conservation Board for numerous years and was employed with Licking Valley Cap for numerous years, both whom he loved to visit every day he could. He was an avid farmer, a cattle breeder and a proud University of Kentucky Basketball fan, who in 1951 became a season ticket holder. He and his wife Hazel were members of First Christian Church of Georgetown, Kentucky. Gene is survived by his son Leslie W. (Carole) Jarvis; daughters Carolyne Jarvis and Kathryn (Timmy) Gray; grandsons Matthew W. Jarvis and Brett Allen Jarvis; great-grandson Isaac Wellington Jarvis.</p>
Kuenstler	2026	<p>Rita Kaye Perrine Kuenstler (76) of Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, passed away April 20, 2026, at her home. Rita was the wife of ARCSE Florida State Representative and former South Region Vice President William (Bill) Kuenstler. Rita was born June 7, 1949, in Oblong, Illinois, to Howard Dorsey Perrine and Hazel (Baker) Perrine. She married Bill on June 19, 1971, at Holy Cross Church in Wendelin, Illinois. Rita attended Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education (with a botany/biology emphasis) in 1971. She earned a master's degree in science education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1974. It is often said that marriage is a partnership, and Rita was a true partner to Bill throughout their almost 55 years of marriage. She supported him by having many careers throughout those years, finding different jobs at all the locations to which Bill was assigned in his career with USDA - Soil Conservation Service (which became the Natural Resources Conservation Service). She attended graduate school while Bill was in Decatur, Illinois and Eureka, Illinois; in Jackson, Kentucky, she worked and taught at Lees College; in Macomb, Illinois, she sold real estate; in Gainesville, Florida, she worked at a florist shop, then ran her own business of leasing and maintaining indoor plants for restaurants and other businesses; in Wilmington, Delaware. The most important role of her life was becoming a mother when Jackie was born. In Fort Collins, Colorado, she worked at a plant nursery; and in Arlington, TX, she worked at a plant nursery, and volunteered untold hours at Jackie's schools. Rita never complained about all those moves. She was always willing to move to a new town, sometimes halfway across the country, and happily adapt to a new place, and a new set of friends. Rita's final home was in Florida, close to the beaches that she loved. Her dream of having a house at the beach began in 1985, when Bill and Rita lived in Gainesville, and visited the beaches on the east coast of Florida. After moving to Texas in 1997, they started taking vacations to the white, sandy beaches in the Florida Panhandle. Even though retirement was many years away, she knew that this was where she wanted to retire. After several visits to different locations between Destin and Panama City, she finally found the perfect spot in Santa Rosa Beach. She enjoyed walking the beaches and learning about the new plants around her new home. Those of you who knew her, knew she was passionate about her progressive political views. In her memory, we know she would want everyone to support those people and candidates in their communities</p>

		who are championing human rights and human dignity. Rita's survivors include her husband, Bill, and her daughter, Jacqueline. Rita wanted to be cremated and did not want any services.
Kurer	2026	Donald Clem Kurer (99) of West Bend, Wisconsin, passed away at Kathy Hospice in Jackson, Wisconsin on June 19, 2026. He was born on October 5, 1926, to the late John and Viola (nee Japp) Kurer in West Allis, Wisconsin. He married the love of his life, Dorothy (nee McCulloch) on February 4, 1950. Don served in WWII from 1944 to 1946 in the 11th Airborne Division in the Asiatic Pacific Theater as an Army paratrooper. Don earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy & Soils at the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1952. He started working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in 1956 as a soil scientist for Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties, then soil conservationist in Green County in 1967 before becoming a District Conservationist in Washington County in 1970 until retirement in 1986. Don is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and four children: David (Peggy), Cameron (Carol), Gary (Judy) and Sharon (Sean) Murphy. He has 11 surviving grandchildren: Corey, Jed, Andrew, Sarah, Amanda, Katie, Kristin, Noah, Isaac, Peter, Tiana and 15 Great Grandchildren. Preceding him in death was a granddaughter, Julissa Murphy. A memorial service for Don will be held at Community Church of West Bend, 2005 S. Main Street, West Bend WI 53095 on June 26, 2026.
Latty	2025	Jerry Leon Latty (81) of Tahlequah, Oklahoma passed away on May 29, 2025. Jerry was born on December 27, 1943, to James Henry Latty and Hazel (Eden) Latty. He pursued higher education at Northeastern State University (NSU) while working full-time before enlisting in the United States Air Force. After his service, he returned to NSU to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Arts. While serving his country, Jerry married the love of his life, Carolyn. Jerry worked as a Soil Conservation Technician with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He also was a teacher, small business owner, farmer, and mechanic—Jerry did it all. He had a gift for fixing nearly anything mechanical and became the go-to helper for neighbors, friends, and family, especially when a lawn mower or car needed repair. Together, he and Carolyn ran Latty's Egg Farm and Jerry proudly served two terms as Cherokee County Commissioner before retiring as the City Administrator for Tahlequah. In recognition of his service, the mayor officially declared June 25th as Jerry Latty Day. In retirement, Jerry continued serving his community as the Director of Housing for Cookson Hills Community Action. His dedication to public service spanned over four decades, including work on numerous boards such as: Cherokee County Soil Conservation District, Resource Conservation & Development, Grandview Rural Water District, Cherokee County Excise Board, and Oklahoma Production Center Board. When he wasn't working, Jerry found joy playing cards, traveling, tinkering with his classic cars and tractors, and making music. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Latty; children: Aaron Latty (Jenny), Sheena Long (Shelby), Jerry Don Latty (Mindy); grandchildren: Tanner Long (Abby), Braydee Long (Corbyn Pesch), Jerry Wayne Latty, Justin Latty (Cassidy), and Jake Latty; as well as two great-grandchildren: Leighton Long and Houston Latty.
McIntyre	2026	Senior Conservationist Julian Holmes McIntyre (99) formerly of Fayetteville, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on May 1, 2026, in Garner, North Carolina. Julian was born October 8, 1926, in Robeson County, North Carolina to George Webster McIntyre and Clara Franklin McLean McIntyre. Julian served his country with honor in the United States Army during World War II before graduating from North Carolina State University in 1952. He went on to dedicate his career to helping others through his work with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in North Carolina. He was the District Conservationist in the Fayetteville Field Office when he retired in 1987. Julian's life was rooted in family, faith and the love of the land. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who could often be found tending his garden —especially his famous tomatoes, which were always the biggest and best. In 2013, he was inducted into the Cumberland County Agriculture Hall of Fame, a fitting tribute to his lifelong commitment to conservation and community. He was a member of Highland Presbyterian Church for over 50 years and served as a deacon and an elder. He loved watching sports, especially the North Carolina State Wolfpack. He is survived by his son, Julian McRae "Ray" McIntyre (Jennifer) of Garner; and by his three granddaughters, Erin of Durham, North Carolina, and Allison and Meredith, of Garner. Julian was preceded in death by his beloved wife of many years, Dorothy McRae McIntyre.
Minnick	2024	Senior Conservationist and Life Member Edwin "Ed" Lewis Minnick (93) of Walnut Creek, California, passed away on June 11, 2024. He was born in Folsom, Pennsylvania on October 6, 1930. Following high school he began attending La Salle University in Philadelphia; however, the Korean War draft was imminent, so Ed enlisted in the United States Army. He served in the field artillery and arrived in Korea about six months prior to the armistice (signed at Panmunjom on July 27th, 1953). Ed was honorably discharged in 1954. He started working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1956 as a part-time employee at the Georgetown, Delaware field office. He was hired full time in June of 1957 as a Civil Engineering Technician serving field and project offices in Maryland and Delaware. He met his wife, Berta, in the cafeteria at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. They married February 14th, 1959. Ed served as Civil Engineering Technician until March 1968 when he accepted the job of Design Engineer for offices and projects in Maryland and Delaware with office in College Park, Maryland. In June 1970 he graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering. In November of that year, he was promoted to Civil Engineer at Storrs, Connecticut, with responsibility for field and project offices in both Connecticut and Rhode Island. In December 1979 he was made Assistant State Conservation Engineer for Ohio and moved to Columbus, Ohio. He held that position until August 1982 when he accepted the job of Assistant State Conservation Engineer and Construction Engineer at Durham, New Hampshire. Ed was promoted to State Conservation Engineer for Michigan in May 1985 and served in that capacity until his retirement in December 1988. Throughout his career he designed conservation structures, developed tools to improve the effectiveness of conservation measures, and instructed and mentored other conservationists in analysis and development of appropriately designed conservation measures and systems. Ed passed the Licensed Professional Engineer exam while in Connecticut and was licensed in five states. After retirement Ed worked as Project Engineer for Civil Consultants, South Berwick, Maine, from January 1989 to March 1990. From May 1990 until May 1992, he was Project Engineer for Greiner Engineering Co. of Timonium. In May 1992 he established Minnick Engineering located in Berwick, Maine. He remained active as a consulting Professional Engineer until he and Berta moved to California in 2014. He enjoyed photography. He was a volunteer with his local community food pantries in Maine and New Hampshire. He is survived by two children and five grandchildren.
Schuler	2026	Gary Alan Schuler (72) of Marion, Kansas, passed away peacefully at home on May 15, 2026. Gary was born on November 2, 1953, in Ransom, Kansas. Gary grew up on a farm in western Kansas. In 1976, he graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in natural resources management. After college, he spent two summers as a park ranger at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, where his favorite responsibility was working with the park's bison herd. The remainder of his career was spent with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, with most of it as the District Conservationist in Marion. Gary lived a quiet life caring for both the land and people. He would start each day by walking his dog through the family's pasture. He was a member of Grace Community Church in Newton,

		<p>Kansas, where he and his wife, Mary, led a care group for more than ten years. He loved working behind the scenes to help those in need. Family vacations to the national parks were always a priority and a highlight for Gary and Mary. A longtime amateur geologist, Gary spent much of his retirement restoring a prehistoric cave, flint-knapping arrowheads, and writing adventure novels for young readers. He is survived by his wife, Mary; son, Matthew (Irene), of Mountain View, California; son, Timothy (Allison), and grandson, Otto, of Manhattan, Kansas.</p>
Vopat	2026	<p>Alan George Vopat (76) of Wilson, Kansas, passed away at his home on June 7, 2026. Alan was born on November 16, 1949, in Ellsworth, Kansas, to the late George Leonard Alan and Sylvia Georgina (Svaty) Vopat. Alan graduated from Wilson High School in 1968. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Fort Hays State University, and his master's degree from the Chicago Institute of Art in Chicago, Illinois. Alan also proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam war. Following his military service, he worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as an Engineering Technician, drawing dams. He later embarked on a career as a national and international tour guide, traveling the globe with his then-partner, Ginger Otto, and enjoying the adventure of a lifetime. After returning to Wilson later in life, Alan spent considerable time in Lucas, Kansas, where he forged lasting friendships with fellow artists and devoted himself to his craft. He was a member of the Switchgrass Artist Cooperative, where he sold his whimsical drawings and prints. In 2015, he opened the Da Da Muse 'Um Art Gallery in Lucas, explaining that it was created "to give Dinsmoor a little competition." Alan will be remembered for living life to the beat of his own drum, his remarkable artistic talent, engaging storytelling, love of travel, and enjoyment of a good game of pitch. Surviving family members include his siblings: Phyllis (Vernon) Dolezal of Kanopolis, Kansas; Robert (Mary L. Mahoney) Vopat of Topeka, Kansas; Harry (Loni Jensen) Vopat of Paola, Kansas; Dr. Richard (Mary Kasper) Vopat of Wilson; and Danny Vopat of Topeka, Kansas. He is also survived by eleven nieces and nephews, numerous great-nieces and nephews, and several great-great nieces and nephews.</p>