

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

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

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Carter	2021	Carroll O. Carter (83) of Emporia, Virginia, passed away April 29, 2021. He was born July 1, 1937, to the late Herbert and Elsie Carter in Jarratt, Virginia. He received his extended education from Virginia State College, University of Delaware and later Glassboro State College in New Jersey. He absolutely loved the land and farming it. This ardent infatuation led to a 35-year long career as a Soil Conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service from 1961 to 1996 working in New Jersey. Carroll received numerous awards and certificates during his tenure. After retiring he moved back to Virginia he served as a substitute teacher in the very school system that set him on his educational path. Carroll was a devout Christian. In New Jersey he belonged to the Morning Star Baptist Church where he flexed his vocals and sang on the Senior Choir. When he returned to Virginia and joined Chapel Hill Baptist Church where he faithfully served until he was no longer able to do so. Carroll's survivors include his beloved wife, Clara, of 63; three children Dr. Kenneth Carter (Annette), Rhonda Miller (Harry), and Anthony Carter (Sandra); seven grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren.
Dahike	2024	Life Member George R. Dahlke (86) of North Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away on August 14, 2024. He was born February 5, 1938. After graduating in 1955 from Mountain Home High School as an honor student, George went to Arkansas Polytechnic College from 1956 to 1957 and worked part-time as a Combine Laborer. George married his high school sweetheart Esta Mae Norman on September 8, 1959, while pursuing an education at the University of Arkansas. Two years later, George enlisted in the United States Army in 1961 at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas, and was stationed in 1963 at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland. He was a 2nd Lieutenant in the chemical corps and was certified in chemical management, logistics, and personnel management. After his Army service, George spent multiple years employed by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, receiving multiple awards. George's dedication to his trade led him to the position of Budget Officer in the Little Rock State Office until his retirement. George was always a Razorback fan and made monetary donations to the Educational Athletic Scholarship Program. George was also a member of Levy Baptist Church in North Little Rock. His love for friends, co-workers, and family he accumulated over the years remained a source of comfort and beloved memories for him.
Dekle	2025	Remer Judson Dekle (81) of Register, Georgia, passed away on June 30, 2025, surrounded by his family. The Bulloch County native was born at home in Register on November 11, 1943, to the late John Lehmon Dekle and Lula Mae Dekle. He attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia, graduating in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural engineering. He obtained his Master of Science in agriculture engineering from North Carolina State University in 1969. Remer was employed by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as an agricultural/civil engineer from 1967 until 2004. He worked in North Carolina, South Carolina, Arizona, California and Fort Stewart, Georgia. Following retirement, he returned to Fort Stewart and continued his career as a project engineer until his second retirement. He had a deep love for the land and found great joy in working on the family farm, casting a line in a peaceful pond or spending time in the woods. Remer was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Florence "Sissy" Dekle, of 39 years; and his granddaughter, Carsyn Parry Hughes. He is survived by his cherished wife of 18 years, Jane Dekle. Other survivors include three sons, Lehmon Dekle (Karen) of Clemson, South Carolina, Stephen Dekle (Carol) of Statesboro, Georgia, Lake O'Donnell (Ashley) of St. Augustine, Florida; two daughters, Deanna Hodnicki of Jacksonville, Florida and Celena Hughes (Jody) of Richmond Hill, Georgia; 13 grandchildren, Laura Cohran (Cameron), Jack Dekle, Grace Webb (Mac), Sallie Hegler (Aaron), Gregory Dekle (Shermida), Peter Dekle, Julie Pye (Ethan), Kalei Dekle, Justin Hodnicki, Alexander Hodnicki, Cade Hughes, Cohen Hughes, and Lake Olivia O'Donnell.
Gilbert	2026	Theodore "Ted" Louis Gilbert (90) of Casper, Wyoming, passed away July 5, 2026. Ted was born November 6, 1935, in Laramie, Wyoming to Carl and Nellie Gilbert. He was a Veteran of the United States Army. Ted worked as an Engineer and later a Hydraulic Engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1994 after 35 years of service. He received multiple awards for his work. He was a diehard Wyoming Cowboys fan. He suffered a number of years supporting the Cleveland Browns and Indians, now the Guardians. He was involved in numerous activities at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and received several awards for his involvement in supporting his kids in scouting, youth baseball, and the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps. His involvement included serving on the board of directors, volunteering with Trooper Bingo, and following the corps each summer selling souvenirs. Ted is survived by his wife of 63 years, Gertraud "Traute" Gilbert of Casper; sons, Karl Gilbert (Donna) of Denver, Colorado, Kurt Gilbert (Lara) of Casper, Kent Gilbert (Leslie) of Frisco, Texas, and Kyle Gilbert of Red Lodge, Montana; daughter, Kari Gilbert of Casper; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.
King	2026	Area Conservationist Andrea Marie King (54) of Taylor, Missouri, passed away on July 2, 2026, at Boone Hospital in Columbia, Missouri, after a long battle with cancer. Andrea was born January 31, 1972, in Hannibal, Missouri, to the late Robert E. "Bob" Peiter and Carol Faeth Peiter. She was married to Craig King on July 15, 2000. Andrea received a master's degree from the University of Missouri - Columbia. She worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for 31 years, serving as an Area Conservationist managing 30 counties. Andrea was a dedicated Lucky Four 4H Club leader, a strong 4-H advocate, and enjoyed helping youth with sheep showing. Andrea began raising Shropshire sheep at a young age with her siblings attending the Missouri State Fair annually. She continued managing her sheep flock and showing at the Missouri State Fair for the entirety of her life, meeting many lifelong friends along the way. Andrea previously served as the president of the Marion County 4-H Council and was instrumental in implementing the sheep showing events. Andrea loved her family greatly, always attending her children's activities and sporting events. Known for her warm smile, infectious laughter, attention to detail, and selfless nature, Andrea was always encouraging and supportive of others. She enjoyed attending and cheering on Mizzou Football. An avid reader, she enjoyed books by John Grisham and Nicholas Sparks. She loved music, especially George Strait, whom she saw in concert multiple times, as well as classic rock and roll and worship music. In addition to her husband Craig, survivors include her children, Weston (Karlee) King of Lyons, Kansas, Candra King (Cameron Jones of Ames, Iowa) of Taylor,

		Missouri, Tracy (Ryan) McAleer of La Vista, Nebraska, Terri (Zach) Miller of Novelty, Missouri, Chad (Debbie) May of Shawnee, Oklahoma, Leslie (Randy) Kerr of Shawnee, Oklahoma, Chima Dunga of Davenport, Iowa, who was like a son to Andrea, and grandchildren, Grant, Hannah, Kase, Callen, Rowen, Emlyn, Harris, Rhett and Kallen. Funeral Services will be held July 8, 2026, at the Zion Lutheran Church in Palmyra, Missouri.
Lane	2026	Dennis Leon Lane (77) passed away on July 2, 2026, after a courageous battle with illness. He was born on October 31, 1948, in Clarinda, Iowa, to Carroll and Betty Lane. Dennis married Jeanne Porter Lane on April 6, 1968, in the United Methodist Church in Mitchellville, Iowa. After high school he pursued further education in Des Moines, Iowa, where he earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Sheet Metal Technology. His career was marked by several accomplishments, but his work on the St. Louis Arch in Missouri remained one of his most cherished achievements. Dennis was also an entrepreneur, purchasing a business in Granby, Colorado, and working on the Cook Ranch as well as Logging. He contributed significantly to his family's business, Lane Drilling Company, but found his true calling with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, where he worked passionately as a Soil Conservation Technician who worked in Wyoming as well as in Page, Montgomery, and Clarke Counties in Iowa until his retirement in 2013. An avid outdoorsman, he found joy in fishing, kayaking, hiking, camping, and horseback riding. He also loved motorcycling, was well known for his appreciation of history, and was a skilled carpenter. Dennis is survived by his wife Jeanne, children Andrew (Suzanne) Lane and Jennifer (Dean) Duran; grandchildren, Hannah and Jake Lane, Turner Murphy, Holli, Ethan, and Calvin Duran, and six great-grandchildren—Everly Grube, Kade, Bailey, Harper, Kinleigh, and Mia Duran.
Robertson	2026	Jerry Don Robertson (74) of Lamar, Arkansas passed away on July 3, 2026. He was born September 21, 1951, in Sikeston, Missouri to the late Joshua and Ethel Robertson. Jerry was a Vietnam veteran of the United States Air Force and later retired as a Civil Engineering Technician from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He was a former Scout Leader in Paris, Arkansas who enjoyed hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, being outdoors, and especially spending time with family. Jerry is survived by his wife, Kristi Robertson of the home; his sons, Nathaniel Robertson of Altus, Arkansas and Benjamin Robertson of Pottsville, Arkansas; his beloved dog, Bandit; as well as other relatives and friends. A funeral was held July 7, 2026, at Roberts Memorial Chapel and burial was at Spring Hill Cemetery in Booneville, Arkansas.
Schertz	2026	Sharron LeAnne Schertz (80) of Northport, Alabama, passed away on July 29, 2026, at Aspire Physical Recovery Center in Northport. She was the wife of ARCSE Member David Schertz, retired National Agronomist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Sharron was born on March 10, 1946, in Belvidere, Illinois. She loved the Lord with all her heart and was an active member of First Baptist Church (FBC) of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Sharron and her husband went on several FBC Builders for Christ mission trips, where she helped in the kitchen crew to feed the workers. Sharron was loved by all who knew her, and she never met a person she didn't like. During her younger years, she worked in plant design and horticulture and enjoyed helping the workers learn how to take care of "sick" plants at home. She will be truly missed by her family and her friends! Survivors include her husband of 60 years, David Schertz; daughter, Stacey Shamburger; and her two grandsons, Braden, and Gabriel Shamburger.
Seinwill	2026	Life Member Gerald D. "Jerry" Seinwill, P.E., (86) of Arlington, Virginia, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2025. He was born October 26, 1938, in Rockford, Illinois to William and Solveig (née Delebak) Seinwill. Jerry graduated in 1960 from the University of Wisconsin (UW) as a Civil Engineer. While at UW, Jerry met his future bride Sally Wagner, while attending the required summer Surveying Camp in the north woods of Wisconsin. Fulfilling his Army ROTC commitment after graduation saw Jerry moving to Germany with the Army Corps of Engineers, where he was joined by his new wife in 1962. Jerry's civilian public service commenced in earnest after leaving Germany and the Army in 1964. He started with the US Bureau of Reclamation in Colorado. Following receiving a Master of Science in Water Resources Management from UW, he worked for the State of Illinois as a water resources civil engineer and then for the State of Minnesota as Director of Waters. He returned to federal service with a move to the Washington, DC area in 1978 to serve as Deputy Director, then Director, of the US Water Resources Council where he became a Senior Executive. He wrapped up his federal career and full-time working life in various roles with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service ultimately retiring as the Director of Engineering in 1994. In retirement, Jerry more deeply immersed himself in his love of home improvement projects, wrapping up a complete renovation of their 1898 turreted townhouse on Capitol Hill. In 2002, Jerry and Sally left the townhouse for a home on the Chesapeake Bay to immerse themselves more fully in another of his loves, sailing. Sally passed away in 2009, after which Jerry continued enjoying family and friends. He found his "senior sweetheart" in long-time friend Carol Waite with whom he remained until his death. Together, they moved back to the DC area in Arlington to be nearer to mutual friends. In addition to supporting Carol's artistic endeavors, Jerry, ever the civil engineer, monitored nearby high-rise construction from their apartment balcony. Jerry is survived by Carol, his children Jeff Seinwill (Trish) and Anne Larsen (Erik) and granddaughters Natalie, Caroline, and Tess.
Shevchik	2026	Joseph Edward Shevchik (72) of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, passed away unexpectedly on June 21, 2026, while on a fishing trip with friends. Joe was born October 15, 1953, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the son of the late Michael and Margaret (Stofko) Shevchik. He received a degree in Environmental Resources Management from Pennsylvania State University in 1975. He worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and was the District Conservationist in Ebensburg for many years. He retired in 2014. At home in Ebensburg, he enjoyed playing tennis, card nights with friends, and tending to his honeybees. His lifelong love of automobiles included working on his treasured Shelby Mustang, and his beloved Toyota Land Cruiser. Joe traveled to Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Honduras, the Bahamas, throughout Canada, and across the United States. He was a member of Holy Name Catholic Church in Ebensburg. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Elaine (Drelick) Shevchik in 2014. Joe passed away alongside one of his closest life-long friends, Kevin Benzenhoefer, with whom he shared one final fishing trip. Joe is survived by his loving daughter, Heather (David) Shevchik-O'Brien.
Summers	2026	Challen "Donald" Summers (93) of Morgantown, West Virginia, passed away on May 22, 2026, at Mon Health Medical Center. He was born in Fairmont, West Virginia, on December 11, 1932, a son of the late Ellis Donovan and Elva Ellen (Wilson) Summers. His career over the years included working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as well as working as a Federal Mine inspector with the Office of Surface Mining. For 40 years, he served as an Emergency Medical Technician Instructor. He volunteered as an Emergency Medical Technician for Valley Ambulance Service and worked as a Standardized Patient with WV STEPS. Donald was a faithful member of the Howesville Church of Christ. He was also known as an avid outdoorsman to include both hunting and fishing as well as farming. Survivors include his children, Karen Weyrich, Donna Lynn (Steven) Acuff, Dan (Caroline) Summers, Jeanette Smith and Faye Brinkley;

		his grandchildren, Sean (Vika) Weyrich, Chad (Babs) Weyrich, Kendra Weyrich and Dustin (Lisa) Acuff, Lisa Summers (Drew) Gilbert, Aaron (Brittany) Smith, Heather Smith (Matt) Harris, Brittany Brinkley, Corey Brinkley, and Jesse Brinkley; and great grandchildren, Gregory, David and Yaromir Weyrich, Sebastian and Aria Acuff, Lillianna and Maia Gilbert and Isla and Challen Smith. Donald is preceded by his loving wife of 63 years, Glenda White Summers.
Watson	2026	Deborah Ann "Debbie" (Moore) Watson (73) of McMurray, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on August 12, 2026, with her loving family by her side at Good Samaritan Hospice. She was the wife of retired District Conservationist Thomas Sierzega, who worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Debbie was born on February 6, 1953, at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts. She had a Bachelor of Science degree from Murray State University and a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. She worked for Reynolds Aluminum in Richmond, Virginia and ALCOA in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Davenport, Iowa before eventually establishing her own consulting firm. She served as a Eucharistic Minister at Immaculate Conception Church in Washington, Pennsylvania. Survivors include her children Tres (Dr. Laura) Watson of Lexington, Kentucky, and Sara (Ben El-Baroudi) Watson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and New York City; stepchildren Philip Sierzega (Addie) of Brooklyn, New York, and Katie Sierzega (Mark) of Baltimore, Maryland; and grandchildren Finn and Keegan Watson of Lexington, Kentucky.
Wickliffe	2026	Shirley Ann Kelley (72) of Wickliffe, Kentucky, passed away at her home on July 7, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. Shirley was born on July 20, 1953, to the late Raymond and Gladys Carpenter. Shirley retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) after years of dedicated service, where she worked as a Soil Conservation Technician. Retirement never slowed her down. She embraced every season of life with enthusiasm, always finding joy in the outdoors. Whether tending to her beautiful flower gardens, spending hours working in the yard, fishing with her beloved husband on the waters of Florida, crafting homemade wine to share with family and friends, or spending time with her loyal companion, Beau, the dog her grandson, Kameron, brought into the family years ago. She celebrated her 67th birthday by parasailing, jet skiing at 68, and marked her 70th birthday by zip-lining. Shirley was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary at Campground, where she found great joy in serving alongside others and spending time with friends. Shirley is survived by her husband of 53 years, William "Dubby" Kelley; daughter, Stephanie Jacobsen of Metropolis, Illinois; son, Wesley Kelley of Cunningham, Kentucky; four grandchildren, Kameron Kelley, Levi Jacobsen, Jasmine Jacobsen, and Abigail Kelley. She was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Kinsey Kelley.
Wiederhold	2026	Arlene Adele Dowdy Wiederhold (74) of Dime Box, Texas, passed away on July 24, 2026, after a battle with cancer. She was the wife of Lee Wiederhold, retired engineer for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Arlene was born on December 29, 1951, in Giddings, Texas, to William Hester "Bal" Dowdy and Jean Ellen Dowdy. On August 26, 1973, Arlene married Lee Roy Wiederhold, Jr., at St. James Lutheran Church in Lexington, Texas. She earned her degree in Education from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 1984 and began her teaching career at Troy Independent School District. Over the next several decades, she touched countless lives as a loved educator. Survivors include her husband of almost 53 years, Lee Roy Wiederhold, Jr.; her children: Lee Roy "Trey" Wiederhold III (Dora), and their daughters Beatrice and Elizabeth; Amber Nicole Inberg (Chris Behan), and daughter Olivia; Amanda Jean Foley (Daniel) and daughters Sadie, Molly, and Clara; and William Al Wiederhold (Annie) and children Wyatt, Beckham, and Caroline.
Williams	2026	James Stuart "Jim" Williams (70) of Ardmore, Oklahoma, passed away August 20, 2026 surrounded by his family. Jim was born on March 22, 1956, in Joplin, Missouri to J.V. and Joyce E (Feuers) Williams. He received his associate degree from Northeastern A & M College in 1976 and his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Degree from Oklahoma State University in 1979. Jim and Jerrie Howell were married on February 17, 1979, in Afton, Oklahoma. He began his career in 1979 with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resource Conservation Service), retiring in 2017. He was the District Conservationist for Cordell, Altus, Sulphur, Walters and finally his forever home in Ardmore in 1993. Throughout his life he served on many boards and volunteered throughout the community. He was active in church, FFA/4-H programs, Carter County Free Fair, the Carter County Jr. Livestock Show, the Walters Jaycee organization and Ardmore Little Theatre. Jim is survived by his wife, Jerrie. Other survivors include his children Brandi (Matt) Suffal and Brian (Katie) Williams, and grandchildren Brooklyn, Makynlee, Brilee, Mason and honorary granddaughter Taylor.
Woodside	2026	Life Member Charline A Woodside (91) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away on August 3, 2026. She was born in Gilead, Nebraska on August 22, 1934. She worked as a Secretary for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and retired in 1994. She is survived by her son, Kale J Woodside (Pam Baker) of Lincoln, Nebraska; daughters and sons-in-law, Shari (Thomas Styskal) of Greenwood, Nebraska; Kim (Brad) Jacobs of St. Paul, Nebraska; grandchildren: Brandon Woodside of Des Moines, Iowa; Anne (Scott) Sheffield of Lincoln, Nebraska; Faye Styskal (Chris Leach) of Bozeman Montana; Dustin Jacobs (Melanie Colindong), William (Sierra) Jacobs of St. Paul, Nebraska; and great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by daughter Janeen Fay Woodside and special friend and dancing partner Bob Schuldt.