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# In Memory of Joel Montgomery

FEBRUARY 04TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## In Memory of Joel Montgomery

**Joel A. Montgomery** was born on March 25, 1920 in Biggers, Arkansas. Raised in a humble and loving home, Joel developed his entrepreneurial spirit at a young age selling vegetables grown by his family. His beginnings may have been meager, but it was the beginning of a successful career.

He passed on Friday, February 3, 2017.

Later in his life, and following his service in the U.S. Army, Joel moved to Saint Louis and entered Washington University law school. Also during this time, he joined the Dolan Real Estate Company. This is where Joel says he "found his life's work" and came to realize that he didn't want to practice law, but that he wanted to be a "real estate man."

In 1950, Joel bought land in Tennessee and moved his family to Memphis. Joel Montgomery built and developed over 6,000 homes, apartments, and condominiums in Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, including the first-ever condominium project in Memphis, Tennessee. He was well on his way to becoming a successful real estate developer, including land holdings in several states and one foreign country.

In 1957, Tennessee-based Union Planters sought a new, stronger stockholder to purchase Sikeston's Planters Bank. Joel Montgomery met the challenge. After his purchase of Planters Bank, he moved his young family to Sikeston, converted the charter to a national banking charter, and renamed his bank the First National Bank.

In 2004, the bank's name was changed to what it is today, Montgomery Bank, to honor the founder, Joel A. Montgomery, Sr.

During his illustrious career, he has been named Sikeston's "Man of the Year" and was honored with an extraordinary distinction being listed as one of former President George H.W Bush's "1,000 Points of Light." For all of his financial success, however, Joel Montgomery is especially proud of the role he played in establishing both the Sikeston Rescue Mission and the Bootheel Food Bank. Both are non-profit enterprises with a mission focus to help the needy of Southeast Missouri. In addition, he was honored to be member of the Masonic Order. He was a member of the Scottish and York Rites, and a Thirty Second and Thirty Third Degree Mason.

Joel Montgomery was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lou Blue Montgomery.

Surviving are his children Richard H. Montgomery, III (Christy Seabaugh), Elizabeth Montgomery Wilson (Troy) and Joel A. Montgomery, Jr. (Maggie Moore). Other survivors include: Richard Henley Montgomery IV, William Joel Montgomery, Julianna Christine Ford, Troy Lee Wilson, Jr., Samuel Montgomery Wilson, Jordan Elizabeth Montgomery, Michael Reed Montgomery, Joel Andrew Montgomery and David Moore Montgomery. In addition, he had five great grandchildren. Joel Montgomery is also survived by his loving friend and companion, Carol Gilmore. In the final years of his life, Joel Montgomery was cared for with great love by Jessie Tate Shannon and Orlando Maurice Perkins.

Visitation will be held on Monday February 6, 2017 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm.

The funeral service will follow at 2:00 pm, at First United Methodist Church in Sikeston, MO., Rev. Tom Bass, former minister at Hunter Memorial First Presbyterian Church in Sikeston and Pastor, Jennifer Moxley, of First United Methodist Church in Sikeston, officiating.

Burial will follow at the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Sikeston Mo.

Arrangements under the direction of Nunnelee Funeral Chapel, Sikeston, MO.

Pallbearers include: R. Henley Montgomery, William J. Montgomery. Troy Lee Wilson, Samuel M. Wilson, M. Reed Montgomery, J. Andrew Montgomery and Jessie Tate Shannon.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to Hunter Memorial First Presbyterian Church or the Bootheel Food Bank are requested.

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## In Memory of Travis Hitt

FEBRUARY 02ND 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### In Memory of Travis Hitt

**Travis Leo Hitt**, 41, of Advance passed away Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Travis was born Oct. 25, 1975, in Cape Girardeau, the son of Dennis and Glenda Hampton Hitt.

Travis was a 1994 graduate of Advance High School. He had been a driver for Coca-Cola since 1998. He was an avid hunter and especially liked bow hunting. He had a great love for the outdoors. He was a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan and enjoyed going to Busch Stadium to watch games.

Travis was very involved with the youth sports programs in Advance. He had been a tee-ball and baseball coach for his children's teams for many years. Travis and his wife, Melissa, had been in charge of the Advance Elementary Basketball program for many years. He loved coaching his son's basketball team. He was a role model for many children. He was very involved with the Advance school and the community of Advance.

Travis had a passion for music. He also loved watching movies. His family enjoyed having family movie night together.

Travis was known for being a kind, honest and loyal person. He was a dedicated and loving husband, father, son and brother. He was a friend to everyone he knew.

Travis and Melissa Blair were united in marriage Sept. 2, 2000, in Advance, and she survives of the home.

Loving survivors include his parents, Dennis and Glenda Hitt of Advance; his wife, Melissa Hitt of the home; a son, Hayden Leo Hitt of the home; a daughter, Kyndall Blair Hitt of the home; a brother, Tyler Hitt of Jackson; and a host of other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Leo and Myrtle Hitt; and his maternal grandparents, Tom and Mildred Hampton.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday at Morgan Funeral Chapel in Advance.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the chapel, with the Rev. Eric Shrum officiating and the Rev. Fred Ritter assisting. Burial will be at Morgan Memorial Park in Advance.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to an education fund for his children, Hayden and Kyndall, at First Commercial Bank in Advance.

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## In Memory of Dennis Taylor

FEBRUARY 01ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### In Memory of Dennis Taylor

**Dennis Lee Taylor** of Bloomfield, son of the late Lonnie Emerson and Dolly Ann Pearcy Taylor, was born in Sikeston, Missouri on August 2, 1948, and passed away at his home in Bloomfield, Missouri on January 31, 2017, at the age of 68 years, 5 months and 29 days.

Dennis had lived in Bloomfield most of his life. He had worked as a welder at Arvin Automotive. He enjoyed fishing, camping and woodworking.

On October 3, 1970, he married Barbara Kay Sanders in Bloomfield, Missouri.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara Kay Taylor of Bloomfield; one daughter & husband, Karen & Vince Lockhart of Bloomfield; two sons & wife, Roger Taylor of Bloomfield, Stacy & Jennifer Taylor of Poplar Bluff; three grandchildren, Chase Taylor of Poplar Bluff, Peyton and Nathan Lockhart both of Bloomfield; three brothers & wives, Bruce & Yvonne Taylor of Wappapello, Steve & Karen Taylor of Huntsville, Texas, and Mark & Sandy Taylor of Joplin. Many other nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends also survive. He was preceded in death by a brother, Lonnie Taylor, Jr.

Friends may call on Friday, February 3, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Chiles-Cooper Funeral Home in Bloomfield.

Services will be held on Friday, February 3, 2017, at 12:00 p.m. at the Chiles-Cooper Funeral Home in Bloomfield with Rev. Bob Taylor of Wappapello officiating.

Interment will be in the Missouri Veteran's Cemetery in Bloomfield, Missouri with Chiles-Cooper Funeral Home in charge of all the arrangements.

Chiles-Cooper Funeral Home - 573-568-4500  
[www.watkinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.watkinsfuneralhome.com)

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## In Memory of Iris Smith

JANUARY 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Iris Smith

**Iris Nadine Smith**, the daughter of the late Clyde Ray and Liberty Ann Beal Newingham was born July 25, 1933 in Parma, MO.

She was a member of the Pleasant View General Baptist Church in Risco, MO. She was member of the Rural Independence and Willing Workers.

On February 9, 1952, in Piggott, AR, she was united in marriage to Verly McCord, Jr. He preceded her in death on April 21, 1984. She was then married to Kenneth Smith on June 27, 1985, in Gideon, MO. He preceded her in death on October 26, 2009. Mrs. Smith died on January 31, 2017, at her residence in Parma, at the age of 83 years.

Survivors include 3 sons, Daniel R. McCord and wife, Sharon, of Dexter, MO, Rick L. McCord and wife, Laurie, of Malden, MO and Andy K. McCord and wife, Debbie, of Parma; 2 daughters, Tamra Bishop and husband, Felton, of Lee Summit, MO and Julie Weiners and husband, Steve, of Ash Grove, MO; 12 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

A visitation service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2017 in the Bradshaw Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services will be conducted on Friday, February 3, 2017, at 10:00 A.M. at the Pleasant View General Baptist Church in Risco with Reverend Mark Powell, Reverend James Hamlett and Reverend Mark McDowell officiating.

Burial will be in the Memorial Park Cemetery, in Malden, MO.

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## In Memory of Dixie Prough

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JANUARY 31ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

### In Memory of Dixie Prough

Dixie Lou Prough, daughter of the late Ewald Forslund and Vida Baumgarden Forslund was born on August 12, 1937 in Webster, South Dakota and departed this life on January 29, 2017 at her residence near Dexter, Missouri at the age of 79.

Dixie was the former Stoddard County Public Administrator and is a member of The Faith Lutheran Church in Dexter.

She was united in marriage to Clay Prough on March 13, 1959 in Alhambra, California. Mr. Prough survives of the home.

Survivors include; one son, Ronnie Prough of Dexter; three daughters, Sandy Keeling of Poplar Bluff, Nickki Prough and Marilyn Borden both of Dexter; by five grandchildren, Cody Fox, Jimmy Rodriguez, Robert Roberts, Albert Sipes and Tabbytha Jarred; by eleven great-grandchildren.

Besides her parents, she is preceded in death by one son, Randy Prough; one brother, George Forslund, and one sister Gloria Weakley.

Friends may call at Rainey Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter, Friday, February 3, 2017 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 2:00 PM in the Faith Lutheran Church with Rev. Justin Sponaugle officiating.

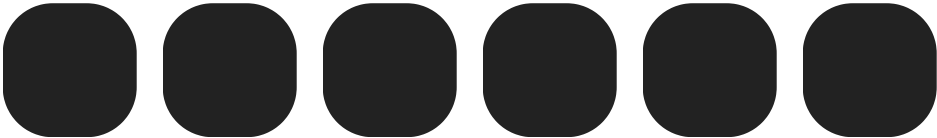


Interment will follow at the Sadler’s Chapel in Dexter, Missouri

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