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In Memory of Megan Grace Parker

JUNE 28TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Megan Grace Parker

Megan Grace Parker, daughter of Lisa Kelley of Sikeston, Missouri and Jeremy Parker of East Prairie, Missouri, was born on September 21, 2001, in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and departed this life on June 26, 2024, at St. Louis Children’s Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, at the age of 22 years.

Megan was a member of First Baptist Church in Puxico, Missouri, and a resident of Sikeston, Missouri. As a child, Megan’s wish was to be a cashier at Bill’s Market in Puxico. She attended Puxico Schools through middle school and graduated from Portageville High School. Megan liked to go to work with her mom at the nursing home and visit with the residents. She enjoyed watching videos on YouTube and scrolling through social media, she enjoyed shopping, especially at thrift stores, and going out to eat. Every year she looked forward to Puxico Homecoming and Christmas. She loved spending time with her best friend, Taylor, her nephews, her dogs, Louie, Buster, Nellie, and Zoey; and her cat, Winnie.

She is survived by her mother and father, Lisa and Steven Kelley of Sikeston, Missouri; by her father and step-mother, Jeremy and Shauna Parker of East Prairie, Missouri; by two brothers, Andrew Parker and wife Raimy of Baltimore, Maryland, and Steven Kelley II and wife Jessica of Kenosha, Wisconsin; by her sister, Ashley Kelley of Lenzburg, Illinois; by her maternal grandparents, Richard and Diane Hawthorne of Sikeston, Missouri; by her paternal grandparents, Adrian and Glenda Parker of Paragould, Arkansas; by her nephews, Milo Kelley and Finn Kelley; by her best friend, Taylor Hobbs of Dudley, Missouri; and by many extended family and friends.

Megan’s family would like to thank her medical team locally, as well as her team at St. Louis Children’s Hospital and Cardinal Glennon Hospital for their loving care and support. Even though we never met her heart donor, we cannot thank them enough for the additional 16 months they gave us with Megan.

Visitation will be held at First Baptist Church in Puxico, Missouri on Saturday, June 29, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Funeral services will follow at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Justin Miller officiating. Interment will follow in Duck Creek Cemetery.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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In Memory of Barbara Jane Dirickson

JUNE 28TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Barbara Jane Dirickson

Barbara Jane Dirickson, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend passed away on June 25, 2024, in Bloomfield, Missouri, surrounded by the love of her family. She was born on October 17, 1933, in Campbell, Missouri, to Theodore and Lillian (Jeffries) Cruse, and lived most of her life in Southeast Missouri.

Barbara was a remarkable woman who found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She had a passion for, farming, and spending time outdoors driving the tractor and putting up hay. Barbara took great pride in raising cattle and tending to her garden where she could often be found

canning fresh produce. Above all else, she cherished moments spent with her family, especially spoiling her grandchildren with love and affection.

On July 4, 1953, Barbara Jane married Fred Clifford Dirickson in Qulin, Missouri, and became best friends over their 70 years of marriage.

Barbara spent many countless hours volunteering her time for Blood Drives, working at elections as a Poll Worker, She was a member of the Young Farmers And Farm Wives Club as well as the Mingo Saddle Club. Barbara Jane was also a member of the Puxico Church of Christ.

Barbara is survived by her loving husband of many years; their five daughters Stephanie (Darrell) Mortland of Hardin, Illinois, Renee (Ronnie) Stuart of Wappapello, Missouri, Tammy (Kent) Blocker of Oran, Missouri, Tracey Dirickson of Puxico, Missouri, Kelli (Kerry) Acre of Poplar Bluff, Missouri; eight grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; as well as her church family and a multitude of relatives and friends who will miss her dearly.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Teddy Jack Cruse; and her sister, Donna Jean Fuller.

Visitation for Barbara Jane Dirickson will be held on June 29, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Watkins Funeral Homes in Puxico. A Funeral Service will follow at the same location at 12:00 PM. The interment will take place at Puxico Cemetery at 1:00 PM.

In our hearts and memories, Barbara's kindness, strength, and love will forever remain. May she rest in peace knowing she was deeply cherished by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

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In Memory of Joyce Ellen Dowdy

JUNE 23RD 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Joyce Ellen Dowdy

Joyce Ellen Dowdy, daughter of the late John Harold Pullum and Ellen Purcell Pullum, was born on March 6, 1949, in Dexter, Missouri, and departed this life on June 21, 2024, at Missouri Delta Medical Center in Sikeston, Missouri, at the age of 75 years.

Mrs. Dowdy was a former supervisor for Missouri Industries, and a resident of Sikeston, Missouri.

She is survived by her son, Larry Andrew Dowdy and wife Jaime of Robertsville, Missouri; by her daughter, Kathy Jarrell and husband Clifton of Sikeston, Missouri; by her brother, David Pullum of Dexter, Missouri; by two sisters, Judy Stanfield of St. Louis, Missouri, and Alice Moore of Dexter, Missouri; by five grandchildren, Clifton Jarrell Jr., Jeremy Jarrell, Amanda Terry, Dausen Dowdy, and Abigail Dowdy; and by seven great-grandchildren.

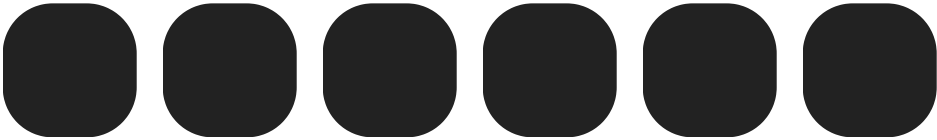
Other than by her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Harold Dean Pullum, Wayne Pullum, and Jerry Pullum.

Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Funeral services will then be conducted in the Mathis Funeral Home Chapel on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Hagy Cemetery.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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In Memory of Janet Hall Vaughn-Gilder

JUNE 23RD 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Janet Hall Vaughn-Gilder

Janet Hall Vaughn-Gilder, daughter of the late Larry Hall and Frances Goodrich Hall, was born on July 27, 1945, in rural Essex, Missouri, and departed this life on June 21, 2024, at her son's residence in Rolla, Missouri, at the age of 78 years.

Mrs. Vaughn-Gilder was a former Executive Director for Regional Workforce Development. She was a member of the Church of Christ and a resident of Rolla, Missouri. Janet grew up in Dexter, Missouri, graduated from Dexter High School and attended Freed-Hardeman University. Since 1995, she enjoyed square dancing with Bruce as her angel.

On October 30, 2015, in Steeleville, Missouri, she was united in marriage to Bruce Gilder. Mr. Gilder survives of their home in Rolla.

Along with her husband, she is survived by her son, David Vaughn and wife Susan of Rolla, Missouri; by her brother, Jim Hall of Bloomfield, Missouri; by her sister, Kay Hall Cain of Sikeston, Missouri; by three grandchildren, Jarel Vaughn (Shenna), Jana Vaughn (Shayne Ponzer), and Rebecca Henson (Nathan); and by fifteen great-grandchildren, Ashlyn, Cailyn, Rylan, Jailyn, Jordyn, Jason, Ely, Julius, Kendrick,

Xaiver, Roman, Chayton, Serenity, Steven, and C.J.

Other than by her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Jason Vaughn, and by her brother, Charles Hall.

Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. Graveside services will then be conducted in the Dexter Cemetery on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. with Jeff Martin officiating,

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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In Memory of Ernest Oliver Hill

JUNE 23RD 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Ernest Oliver Hill

On June 20, 2024, at the age of 88, Ernest Oliver Hill departed from our lives, surrounded by loved ones, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and wonderful memories. Born on November 5, 1935, in Essex, MO, Ernie lived a life characterized by his youthful spirit and deep connection to family and friends. He was the son of the late James "Jim" L. Hill and Irma Naomi (Alsup) Hill.

Ernie grew up on a farm just outside of Idalia, Missouri where he and his first cousins, Jim and Joe Mayo, created many adventures out of everyday rural life. Ernie attended Bluff School through 8th grade, where his grandmother, Ada Bolin Alsup, was one of his teachers. His freshman year, he began attending Bloomfield High School and was a graduate of the class of 1954. While in high school, Ernie enjoyed playing basketball and baseball which cultivated his never-ending passion for sports and camaraderie.

Ernie married his high school sweetheart, Sylvia Yvonne Bess on April 21, 1954. Although they were already good friends, one of their high school teachers liked to take credit for getting them together their junior year by pairing them as the bride and groom in the school play, "A Hillbilly Wedding." However, we all know it was a match designed by God as they enjoyed 70 wonderful years of marriage filled with love and laughter.

Ernie and Sylvia moved to Malden shortly after they married, where he worked for a lumber company and then a gas company. He applied for a lineman position with Southwestern Bell through the Cape Girardeau office, but was told he was too short to be a lineman. However, a friend told him that they would hire him in the Kansas City office, so they moved to Independence where Ernie started his 43-year career with Southwestern Bell. Through the years, he worked as a stockman, lineman, installer, repairman, and a cable splicer. He was a dedicated employee with a strong work ethic and made lasting friendships with his coworkers (who were known to enjoy a little arm wrestling and other competitive games of male prowess).

Ernie was a life-long member of St. Joe General Baptist Church in Idalia where he served faithfully as a Sunday school teacher and a trustee for many years. Ernie loved his Lord and was always humbled that Jesus died for him and he never took the Lord's sacrifice for granted. Ernie's genuine love for his church family and his ability to make people feel special further underscore the impact he had on those around him.

Ernie had a playful nature and was especially well known for his firm handshake. What would start out as a simple handshake would often turn into a friendly scuffle.

In a moment's notice, the living room at Ernie and Sylvia's home could transform into a miniature gym filled with wrestling matches, acrobatics, exercises, and "horse rides" on Pawpaw's back, all with lots of fun and laughter.

Ernie was a kid at heart, always joking around and making people smile. Sylvia often told how when they first got married, the young children in the neighborhood would come and knock on the door asking if Ernie could come out and play. Ernie enjoyed playing softball, basketball and racquetball, but for years refused to play golf because it was an "old man's game." When someone finally convinced him to try golf, he was hooked and never put down his clubs (except to bowl on days when there was snow on the golf course!)

Ernie was loved by everyone, but especially his family. He and Sylvia have four children, Bruce (Sharon) Hill, Chris (Curt) Hillis, Bryce (Cara) Hill, and Beth (Bill) Poyner; ten grandchildren, Alana (Josh) Dowdy,

Josh Hill, Kristen (Salvatore) Gazzia, Shane (Jaime) Hillis, Chelsie (Ben) Eaton, Drew (Chelsea) Hill, Bradley Poyner, Brittany (Blake) Brown, Christopher (Hunter) Poyner, and Seth (Baylee) Hill; seventeen great grandchildren Wesley, Isaac, Alesia, Ellie, Rylie, Ben, Carter, Layla, Halle, Maggie, Renner, Emmett, Lily, Ember, Everett, Oliver, and Evelyn; and two great-great grandchildren Ray and Theo. Ernie also leaves behind a dear brother John (Susan) Hill and sister-in-law Lin (Wayne) Baker; cousins Jim (Sue) Mayo, and Brenda (Bob) Noyes, as well as many other cousins, nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Ernie was preceded in death by a sister Patricia Elaine Hill, and two special cousins Joe G. Mayo and Barbara Bounds. Ernie leaves behind many beloved friends including his church family and his bowling and golfing buddies.

Please join us in celebrating the life of Ernie on Monday, June 24, 2024, at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter, visitation is from 9:00 a.m. until to 11:00 a.m. with the funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow in the Bloomfield Cemetery.

The family requests that donations may be made to St. Joe General Baptist Church, Building Fund, 17537 State Hwy FF, Bloomfield, Missouri 63825 or Stoddard County Children’s Home, PO Box 164, Dexter, Missouri 63841.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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