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In Memory of Janet Darlene Cave

APRIL 28TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Janet Darlene Cave

Janet Darlene Cave, 75, of East Prairie, Missouri, passed away peacefully on April 24, 2025, at Mercy Southeast Hospital, surrounded by those who loved her most.

Born on November 9, 1949, in Mississippi County, Missouri, Janet lived a life full of love, kindness, and quiet strength. She was a familiar and beloved face in East Prairie, first working at Bob's Convenience Store and Gas-a-Mat before going on to serve the community as a dispatcher and court clerk at the East Prairie Police Department. Both avenues of employment gave opportunity to capture her sharp memory and easy charm. This would make her the unofficial keeper of the town's stories (and sometimes secrets), a role she held with both humor and heart.

Janet was a lifelong practicing Baptist and a member of Elm Street Baptist Church. Her faith was a steady compass throughout her life and a comfort to those around her.

She never met a stranger and could strike up a conversation with anyone, often leaving people feeling seen and heard. Her warmth was magnetic, her laugh unforgettable, and her soul, truly pure.

But above all, Janet's heart was devoted to her family. She loved her daughter and grandchildren more than anything in this world, and her role as "MawMaw" was the one she cherished most.

Janet was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jimmie Wayne Cave, her parents Virgil Lee and Mildred Lynese Adams-Moore and her two brothers, Larry and Gary Moore.

She is survived by her daughter, Dana Cave; her three granddaughters, Haleigh (Finley) Hequembourg, Ashton Allred, and Elin Browning; and her great-grandson, Channing Shelby. She also leaves behind her dearest and lifelong friend, Patti Russell; one brother Jerry (Connie) Moore; one special sister-in-law Lawanda 'Peachie' Moore (wife of the late Larry Moore); and a host of nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held Monday, April 28, 2025, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Elm Street Baptist Church in East Prairie. A funeral service celebrating Janet's life will take place at the church on Tuesday, April 29,

2025, at 2:00 p.m., with a private graveside burial to follow for family and close friends.

Pallbearers will be Dennis Allred, Finley Hequembourg, Jeff Moore, Tim Moore, Kenny Walton, and Ray Givens. Honorary pallbearers include Trent Russell and Mandy Aycock.

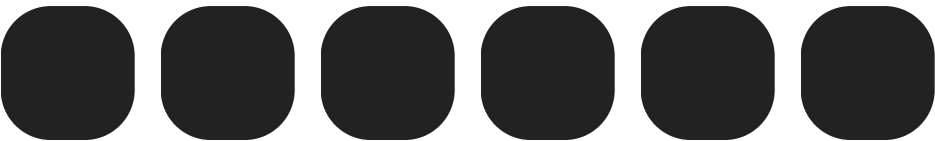
Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched, the stories she shared, and the love she gave so freely. Her warmth, wit, and wisdom will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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In Memory of William “Willie” Dennis Fortman

APRIL 24TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of William “Willie” Dennis Fortman

William “Willie” Dennis Fortman, son of the late Frederick and Agnus (Gass) Fortman was born on November 27, 1946 in Glennonville, Missouri, and passed away on April 19, 2025 in

Dexter, Missouri at the age of 78.

Willie lived in southeast Missouri all of his life and was a veteran of the United States Army. He was a former member of the American Legion of Malden, Missouri, enjoyed going to shooting matches, fishing, and spending time with his grandkids and great grandkids.

Surviving family include his children, Dennis (Tracy) Fortman, of Ankeny, Iowa, Richard “Richie” Fortman, of Wappapello, Missouri, Katie Hale, of Sikeston, Missouri, and Mary (Jon) Young of Marlow, Oklahoma, as well as 14 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild, 2 brothers, Richard Fortman, of Glennonville, Missouri, Bernard Fortman, of Troy, Missouri and 3 sisters, Agnus Altmeyer, of Evansville, Indiana, Dena Fortman, of Glennonville, Missouri, Cecilia Fortman, of St. Louis, Missouri and many more beloved nieces and nephews.

Willie was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, Paul, Leo, Fred, Jim, Jenny and Suzie.

The visitation will be on Friday, May 2nd, 2025, beginning at 9 A.M at the Watkins and Sons Funeral Home in Dexter, Missouri.

The funeral will be on Friday, May 2nd, 2025, beginning at 10 A.M. at the Watkins and Sons Funeral Home in Dexter, Missouri.

Internment will follow at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield, Missouri.

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In Memory of Bonnie Hugh Gillespie

APRIL 24TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Bonnie Hugh Gillespie

Bonnie Hugh Gillespie, son of the late S.E. Gillespie and Edna Clodfelter Gillespie, was born in Taylor, Arkansas on August 13, 1925 and passed away from this life on April 18, 2025 at the age of 99 years, 8 months and 5 days in the Cape Girardeau, Missouri Veterans Home.

In 1944, he joined the AACCS-Army Airway-Communications Systems. His basic training was at Buckley Field Denver, Colorado. Then to Madison, Wisconsin for training. He was not there long, and after losing the war, the infantry was needing men and many of the squadrons were called out. He was called but at the last minute was told his squadron to stay. In his words “that is all that saved me.” He was at Shepard Field, Texas when WWII was won and was sent to Natal Brazil-no parachutes going over in airplane- coming back to United States a parachute was mandatory. He had to wait 2 weeks before one was available. They were in short supply. He was discharged in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1946.

Bonnie loved his country and instilled that love in his children to respect the American flag and what it stands for. It was an honor to be a WWII Veteran and he proudly wore that hat every day.

He owned and operated Gillespie’s Service Station in Aquilla from 1956-1974. He raise black Angus cattle and after selling the service station 1975, he was a salesman for Moorman Feed, winning many awards until his retirement in 1985.

Bonnie was a lifetime member of Stars and Stripes, lifetime member of American Legion #382 for 76 years, lifetime member of Bloomfield Masonic Lodge #153 and 32nd Degree Scottish Rite.

He attended St. Joe General Baptist church until declining health.

He is survived by a son, Dennis (Phyllis) Gillespie of Nolensville, Tennessee, his daughters, Angie (Bob) Barnfield of Bloomfield, Missouri, and Ruthann (Dale) Bradshaw of Dexter, Missouri, three grandchildren, Christian (Mendy) Bell of Dexter, Missouri, Dr. Ryan (Kristen) Gillespie of Nashville, Tennessee, Dr. Leslie (Skye) Gillespie-Marthaler, of Chesterbrook, Pennsylvania, eight great grandchildren, Carson Bell, Clayton Bell, Cameron Bell, Olivia Gillespie, Hazel Gillespie, Magnus Marthaler, Jonithan Dodson, and Graison Dodson, two brothers, Walter (Janet) Gillespie of Charlotte, North Carolina, Don (Darlene) of Phillipsburg, Ohio, and one sister, Clara Kull of Irvine, California.

A very special friend, Kathryn Williams.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Aileen Rummel, Geneva Douglas Siler, Vergie Lee Tiller, and Gussie Tiller, as well as his brothers, Blair Gillespie and Dwight (PD) Gillespie.

Private family services will be held on April 28th, 2025 at the Watkins and Sons Funeral Home in Dexter, Missouri, with brother Ronnie Stevens officiating. Internment will follow at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield, Missouri with full military honors.

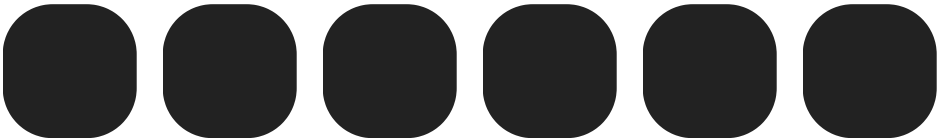
The family is so grateful to the Cape Girardeau, Missouri Veterans Home for the excellent care and love they showed to our loved one.

Memorial donations can be made to St. Judes, Stars and Stripes, and 18FORELIFE.

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In Memory of Grady Harold Williford

APRIL 21ST 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Grady Harold Williford

Grady Harold Williford, born June 28, 1941 at 34 Corner, passed away peacefully at Crowley's Ridge Care Center in Dexter, Missouri on April 15, 2025 at 83 years of age.

Grady was preceded in death by his parents Ona Woods Williford and Grady William Williford, three brothers; Billy West McIntosh, Bobby Williford and Dale Williford. He is survived by one sister Becky (Billy) O'Neill of Houston, Texas and one brother Fenton (Shannon) Williford of Wingo, Kentucky.

On December 21, 2001 Grady married Luella Krebs Williford who survives of the home. He is also survived by his six children; Grady Williford Jr. of Matthews, Missouri, Robert (Cricket) Williford of West Frankfurt, Illinois, David Williford of East Prairie, Missouri, Angie Watson of East Prairie, Missouri, Darrell (Cheryl) Abner of Sikeston, Missouri and Angie Abner of East Prairie, Missouri.

In addition to his wife and children, Grady leaves behind seven grandchildren: Rachel Macchiaverno, Scott Williford, Allen Williford, Alexandra Morris, Megan Watson, Jason Abner, Kersten Abner and six great grandchildren: Aubree Williford, Jordan Williford, Shep Morris, Blaze Tibbs, Hazen Tibbs and Swade Tibbs.

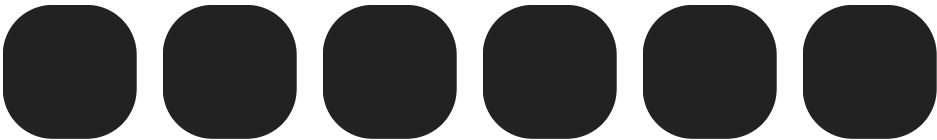
Grady was a successful entrepreneur, had a zest for life and never met a stranger. He was always on the lookout for his next adventure, project or hustle. He loved spending time with his beloved dog Nan, friends and family, especially on his boat.

Visitation will be at Watkins and Sons Funeral Home in Puxico, Missouri on Monday April 21, 2025 starting at 10:00 with services to follow at 1:00. Brother Travis Lambert will officiate and Pallbearers will be Matthew O’Neill, Greg O’Neill, Scott Williford, Kenny Schaeffer, Larry Price and Josh King. Honorary Pallbearers will be Edgar (Boo Boo) Pipkin, Wub Riley, Edwin Riley, Wes Williford, Dennis Williford and Allen Williford.

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In Memory of Nancy Sue Reeves

APRIL 21ST 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Nancy Sue Reeves

Nancy Sue Reeves, daughter of the late Homer Hensley and Dokie Reed Hensley, was born on August 17, 1935, in Portageville, Missouri, and departed this life on April 19, 2025, at her residence in Malden, Missouri, at the age of 89 years.

Mrs. Reeves was a former business owner of a taxi service in Dexter, Missouri, and she attended Lighthouse Church in Dexter. She was a member of the VFW in Dexter for 40 years, and the Dexter Eagles Ladies Auxiliary for 25 years. She enjoyed making quilts for nursing homes, family and friends. Her love was her family, cooking, fishing, singing and writing songs. She loved to play the card game “Skip-bo”, but you had to watch her because she cheated. Most of all she loved serving God and sharing his word.

She was united in marriage to William C. Reeves in Williford, Arkansas. He preceded her in death in 1990.

She is survived by three daughters, Tammy Harris and husband Dale of Dexter, Missouri, Brenda Lee and husband Te of Gainesville, Georgia, and Rhonda Kay Harris of Gainesville, Georgia; by three sons, Butch Priddy of Baytown, Texas, Michael Fritch and wife Glenda of Gainesville, Georgia, and Dave Hobbs and wife Melanie of Puxico, Missouri; and by thirteen grandchildren, twenty-one great grandchildren, and six great-great grandchildren.

Other than by her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Carlos Hensley, Henry Hensley, and Harvell Hensley; and by two sisters, Genevie Savatte and Reba Hensley.

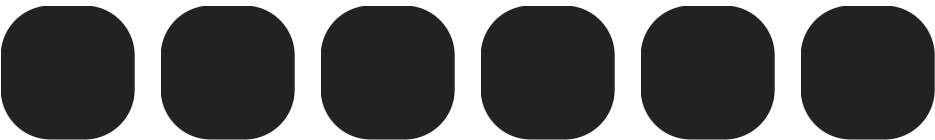
A celebration of life service will be held at Lighthouse Christian Church in Dexter on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Tim Russell officiating.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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