

Obituaries



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In Memory of Lawton Dale James

MARCH 06TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Lawton Dale James

Lawton Dale James, son of the late Chester Arthur James and Walcie Mae Rutledge James, was born April 15, 1921 in Jasper, Arkansas and passed away peacefully on March 3, 2025 at the age of 103 in Sikeston, Missouri.

He was a lifelong resident of Southeast Missouri following his family move to the area as a teen.

Mr. James was a World War Two Navy veteran, serving on a troop carrier that circumnavigated the world twice.

He was a career farmer, which was his passion. He was a dedicated, loving husband and father, and a deacon for over fifty years at St. Joe General Baptist Church in Idalia, Missouri.

Upon his retirement, Mr. James settled in Dexter, Missouri, where he spent the remainder of his long life. He was an avid fisherman, and enjoyed being around children, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was also a dedicated and loving husband to his wife Virginia for over 77 years.

Mr. James was famous for his peanut and pecan brittle which was in constant demand among his friends.

He is survived by his wife Florence Virginia Eaton James, his two children Ronald Lee James of Sikeston, Missouri and Diane Lynn James Berry of DeBary, Florida, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Mr. James was preceded in death by five sisters, Aral James Reynolds, Ethelyn James, Doris Ardeth James Wren, Wanda Elaine James Mahan and Billie Yvonne James Dale, and two brothers, Ross Burl James and Dorwin Arthur James.

Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter, Missouri on Thursday, March 6, 2025 from 9:00am to 10:00a.m. Funeral services will then be conducted at 10:00a.m. in the Mathis Funeral Home

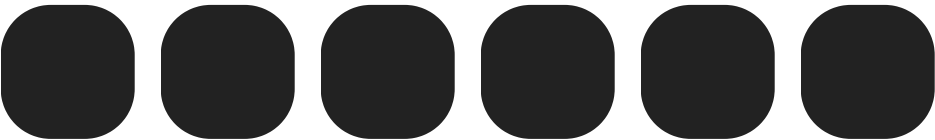
Chapel. Interment will follow at Dexter Cemetery.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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In Memory of Gail Lee Acton

MARCH 05TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Gail Lee Acton

Gail Lee Acton, daughter of the late Don Robinett and Helen Phillips Robinett, was born on January 3, 1954, in Dexter, Missouri, and departed this life on February 25, 2025, at her residence in Dexter, Missouri, at the age of 71 years.

Mrs. Acton was a former employee of Gaylon Lawrence and Company, and she was a member of the Dexter Elks Lodge. She was of the Baptist faith and when her kids were young, she was active in PTO and teaching Sunday school and vacation bible school. Gail was married to the love of her life Rick for 38 years, she loved nothing more than taking trips to see her grandchildren, camping, and enjoying time

with her family and friends. She loved her Dexter class of 1972 girls immensely, her time with them was always described as full of laughter. Anyone that knew Gail knew one thing about her and that was her faith, she truly believed that all you needed was "Faith the size of a mustard seed."

On January 31, 1987, in Dexter, Missouri, she was united in marriage to Rick Acton. Mr. Acton survives of their home in Dexter.

Along with her husband, she is survived by her son, Allen Morton and wife Brooklyn of Bloomfield, Missouri; by two daughters, Alicia Sheppard and husband Matthew of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Andrea Acton of Little Rock, Arkansas; by three brothers, Donnie Robinett, Phillip Robinett, and Roger Robinett; by two grandchildren, Jackson Sheppard and Annabelle Sheppard; and by several nieces and nephews.

Other than by her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Richard Phillips.

The family wishes to extend the most sincere thanks to her medical care team at Cape Medical Oncology.

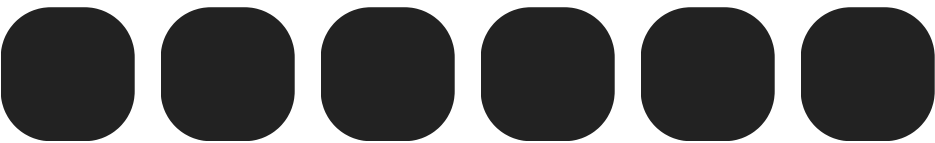
Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Saturday, March 1, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Graveside services will then be conducted at Hagy Cemetery on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. with Rev. Dennis Ward officiating.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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In Memory of Carol Ann Vails

MARCH 04TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Carol Ann Vails

Carol Ann Vails of Puxico, Missouri was born on October 15, 1938 in Waterman, Illinois to the late Harold and Anna Belle (Sloniker) Wilkin, and passed away on February 27, 2025 in Bloomfield, Missouri at the age of 86.

Carol is survived by her husband of 64 years. Carol and George Vails were united in marriage November 5, 1960 in Sycamore, Illinois.

Carol lived in Puxico for nearly 30 years and was a member of the Puxico First Baptist Church. Carol loved doing as much as she could for the church, doing everything from playing the piano, being a part of the cooking team, teaching children's Bible school and helping clean the church when needed. She enjoyed reading, playing the piano, cooking and baking with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, and was a volunteer at the Puxico Nutrition Center for many years.

Surviving family include her children, Terry (Jill) Vails, of Baileyville, Illinois, Diane (Mark) Smith, of Poplar Grove, Illinois, Lori (Steve) Allen, of Puxico, Missouri, as well as her siblings, Harold (Marilyn) Wilkin, Kathy (Rick) Wittman, Becky (Harry) Tucker, and Tim (Linda) Wilkin, 11 Grandchildren and 1 bonus grandchild, 23 great grandchildren and 4 bonus great grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild.

In addition to her parents, Carol was preceded in death by her brother, Larry Wilkin.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations payable to:

Puxico Nutrition Center

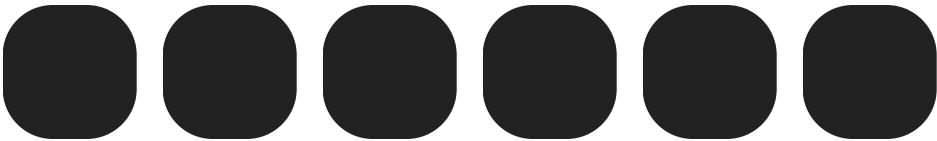
335 N Harty St

Puxico, MO 63960

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In Memory of Walter Jackson Jr.

FEBRUARY 28TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Walter Jackson Jr.

Walter Jackson Jr., son of Mary McFall Pulliam of Dexter, Missouri, and the late Walter Jackson Sr., was born on January 30, 1960, in St. Louis, Missouri, and departed this life on February 21, 2025, at Mercy Hospital South, in St. Louis, Missouri, at the age of 65 years.

Mr. Jackson was a Veteran of the United States Army, a van driver for the Railroad Company, and a resident of Dexter, Missouri. He enjoyed fishing and playing board games and card games with his family.

Along with his mother, he is survived by his brother, James Glenn Jackson of Dexter, Missouri; by his sister, Patricia “Trish” Jackson of Dexter, Missouri; by his nieces, Lexi Silvey, Kelly Rutledge, and Christie Jackson; by his great nieces, Courtney Cottrell, Jasmine Rutledge, Jamie Rutledge, and Addy

Rutledge; and by his great nephew, Hunter Rutledge.

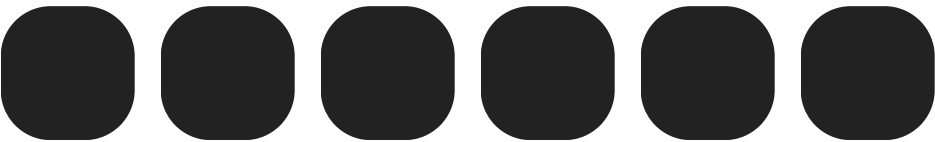
A graveside service will be conducted on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield, Missouri.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter, Missouri is assisting with arrangements.

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In Memory of Rev. Larie C. Burdine

FEBRUARY 28TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Rev. Larie C. Burdine

Rev. Larie C. Burdine, 83, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2025, at West Alabama Hospice, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in a farmhouse in Bloomfield, Missouri, on May 27, 1941, to Clyde and Alma Burdine, Larie’s life was one marked by deep faith, gentle kindness, and a calling to serve. He dedicated nearly 50 years as an ordained Assemblies of God pastor, shepherding churches across Tennessee, Illinois, and Missouri.

Known for his loving heart, gentle spirit, and an infectious laugh that could brighten any room, Larie left an indelible mark on everyone blessed to know him.

On November 17, 1962, Larie married the love of his life, Geraldine Burdine. Together, they built a life rooted in faith, family, and service. Beyond the pulpit, Larie was a gifted artist, known for his oil paintings of nature and rustic barn scenes. He found joy in camping adventures with Geraldine in their travel trailer, countless hours tinkering with antique tractors on their Missouri farm, and, most of all, spending time with his beloved grandchildren.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 62 years, Geraldine Burdine; his children, Chris A. Burdine (Toni) of Dexter, Missouri, Rev. Paul M. Burdine (Kara) of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and Dustin A. Burdine of Jackson, Missouri; his grandchildren, Cheyanne Smith, Madilyn Burdine, Tucker Burdine, Wyatt Burdine, Hadlee Burdine, Charlotte Burdine, and Andrew Burdine; and his great-grandchildren, Stella Pippins, Avery Smith, and Delaney Smith. He is also survived by his brother, Tony Burdine of Bloomfield, Missouri, and his sister, Peggy Hunt of Scottsville, Kentucky.

Larie was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde and Alma Burdine, and his sister, Mary Burdine Percy.

Larie’s legacy is one of faithfulness—to God, to his family, and to every community he served. He will be deeply missed but remembered with love and gratitude.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 27, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM at Lighthouse Christian Center in Dexter, Missouri, followed by the funeral service at 6:00 PM. A graveside ceremony will take place on Friday morning at 10:00 AM at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield, Missouri.”

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