

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL MEETING GROUP

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Updated 06/27/2022

Joys and Concerns

Send us the “joys” or “concerns” of your fellow members or of yourself (i.e. significant birthdays, anniversaries, grandchildren, travels, awards, etc.)

In Memorium

Robert (Bob) Joseph Etheridge, 88, of Littleton, passed away on Sunday, June 26, 2022, at Kitty Askins Hospice House in Goldsboro, NC.

Bob was born in Roanoke Rapids, NC, to the late Paul and Muriel King Etheridge on July 1, 1933. He married the love of his life, Mary Lou Shaw, from Weldon, NC, in June 1953, and the couple enjoyed nearly 60 years of marriage before her death in 2012.

Along with his parents and his wife, Lou, Bob was preceded in death by a brother, Paul Etheridge, Jr.

Bob was blessed with a 44-year career with the JC Penney Company. He began his career with JC Penney in the Roanoke Rapids store, working part-time while still in high school. He was dedicated to the company, working into managerial positions in many stores in the South as well as in the regional offices in Dallas, TX and Atlanta, GA. He retired from the company in 1994 while managing the store in Durham, NC. He lived by the “Penney Golden Rule” by being fair and just with his family, friends, associates, and customers.

Despite all the places his career took him, Bob always considered Roanoke Rapids and Littleton to be his home. He and his wife, Lou, returned to the area and retired to Lake Gaston on land that had been part of his grandfather’s farm. He became an active member of Calvary United Methodist Church and the lake community. His church, his family — including members of the canine variety — and friends were the most important things in his life.

Bob is survived by his children Charlie (Colleen) Etheridge of St. Simons Island, GA, and Susan (Frank) Kidd of Wilson NC; seven grandchildren: Cate (Steven) Ouzts, Mitchell (Mary Ellen) Etheridge, David Tripp, Mary Beth (Jackson) Tucker, Amelia (Anthony) Ruize, Austin Etheridge, and Tobi (Matt) Nestor; eight (soon to be ten) great grandchildren; and of course, his best canine companion, Trey.

A visitation will be held at 11:00 AM and the funeral service will follow at 12:00 PM Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at Calvary United Methodist Church, Littleton, NC. Reverend Stan Lewis, who is a special friend of Bob’s as well as a pastor, will officiate.

Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Arrangements are being handled by Askew Funeral and Cremation Services, Roanoke Rapids, NC.

Memorials can be made to Calvary United Methodist Church, 136 Calvary Road, Littleton, NC, 27850.

Anna Lee McCreary Burchfield, 94, a resident of Asheville for over 45 years, obtained her heavenly reward on May 17, 2022. Born on November 25, 1927 in Claiborne County, Tennessee, Mrs. Burchfield grew up on a farm in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, with her parents, 7 sisters, and two brothers. A star basketball player on her high school team, which won the county championship her senior year, she graduated from Powell Valley High School.

While working at the J.C. Penney Store in Middlesboro, Kentucky, she met Roy Burchfield, who became her husband on March 9, 1951. The couple remained married and in love until his passing on August 21, 2016. They welcomed daughter Brenda Joyce in 1952, and son Bobby Roy in 1954. Over the course of their marriage, Mr. Burchfield's career took them to eight different cities as he assumed increasing responsibilities with the Penney Company.

With her charming smile and winning personality, Mrs. Burchfield easily made friends in each city where they lived. While Mr. Burchfield pursued his career with the Penney Company, Mrs. Burchfield successfully pursued a part-time career for several years selling Avon products door-to-door. She also was an avid bowler in women's leagues, regularly played canasta with her friends and later with her grandchildren, and always delighted in besting her children and grandchildren at checkers.

Mrs. Burchfield also enjoyed cooking and gardening. Holiday meals were lavish events featuring home cooked turkey, ham, vegetables from the family garden, and pies of every description. She embellished the lawn of each home with beautiful plantings of roses, rhododendrons, and azaleas, as well as daffodils, impatiens, and petunias, winning neighborhood awards for nicest lawn.

A long time and active member of First Baptist Church of Asheville, she was a devout Christian who served her Lord by setting a strong example for her family and friends.

Mrs. Burchfield was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and five of her seven sisters. She is survived by her brothers, John McCreary of Harrogate, Tennessee and Hobert (Thelma) McCreary of Lafollette, Tennessee, her sisters Jeanette Sharp of Atlanta, Georgia and Martha (Jack) Day of Memphis, Tennessee, her daughter Brenda (Randall) Kale of Winston-Salem, her son Bobby Burchfield of McLean, Virginia, granddaughters Stephanie Kale Morris of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, Angela Kale (Chris) Dudley of Raleigh, and Taylor Nicole Burchfield of Chicago, Illinois, great granddaughters Claire Morris and Campbell Dudley, and great grandson Mason Dudley.

Visitation will be on Friday, May 20, 2022, at Groce Funeral Home, 72 Long Shoals Road in Arden, NC 28704, from 6 to 7 pm EDT. The family will receive friends from 10 am to 11 am EDT on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at First Baptist Church, Five Oaks Street, Asheville, NC, followed by a celebration of her life at 11:00 am EDT at First Baptist Church. Burial will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mrs. Burchfield's name to the First Baptist Church of Asheville.

Groce Funeral Home at Lake Julian is assisting the family.

Charles "Charlie" Hampton Haygood, 84, of Lexington, Kentucky, passed away on May 16, 2022, surrounded by his family after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born November 19, 1937, to Clyde and Ada (Tinsley) Haygood in Ware Shoals, South Carolina, where he graduated high school and began an eight-year stint in the Army National Guard. Charlie earned a Bachelor of Administration degree from Western Carolina University in 1959 where he met his wife of 63 years. Upon graduation he began his career with the JC Penney Company in Asheville, North Carolina and worked his way from an entry level position to District Manager in Virginia, retiring in 1998 after serving one company for 38 years. He enjoyed golf and fishing with friends while his greatest joys centered around time with his family. He lived his life with love for his family, respect for his friends and with a larger than life smile and dignity. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington Kentucky. Charlie is survived by his loving spouse, Catherine I. Haygood, his daughter Cynthia L. Horne (Christopher), and eight grandchildren: Ryan C. Horne, Isaac H. Horne, Allen A. Horne and S. Greer Horne of Jessamine County, Kentucky, Rebecca C. Haygood of Toronto, Canada, Riley M. Haygood, Peyton A. Haygood and Jacob L. Haygood of Bowling Green, Virginia. He is preceded in death by his son Mark A. Haygood.

Visitation will be held Monday, May 23, 2022, at Kerr Brothers-Harrodsburg Road from 12:30 to 2:30 pm with a service to follow at 2:30 pm at the funeral home. Friends and family will gather May 27, 2022, at Westhampton Cemetery, Richmond Virginia where Mr. Haygood will be laid to rest at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mr. Haygood's name to the Virginia State Police Emergency Relief Fund, 6944 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond Virginia 23225.

Sawyer, William Roger (Mar 5, 2022) Sawyer, age 76 of Jonesborough, TN went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, March 5th peacefully surrounded by family.

Roger was born November 7, 1945, in Elizabeth City, NC. where he spent his childhood attending Newland United Methodist Church.

Roger graduated from Central High School in Elizabeth City, NC and thereafter attended College of the Albemarle before enlisting in the Army National Guard.

Roger was a true salesman who had a long and successful career with the **JC Penney Company**. Roger began his career with JC Penney at the age of 16, putting bikes together during the Christmas season. Upon his return home from his service in the National Guard he began working full-time for JC Penney, where he would retire 44 years later.

Roger was a devoted son, husband, father, brother, grandfather and uncle. He will be remembered for all the time he spent with them fishing, playing on the beach and just being present in their lives. Roger had a way of showing up just when you needed him most and loving you where you were. He was a loyal friend, always turning quick encounters with others into meaningful friendships. He had a way of walking into a room and within minutes making 3 new friends, knowing a fun fact about each of them and more than likely having a vacation planned to visit them. He was a Johnny Cash fan, a great dancer, a lover of boats and all things water. Roger had a zeal for life and a joy about him that was contagious. Always finding the positive in whatever situation he might be faced.

He was a philanthropist at heart. Sitting on the boards of the Ronald McDonald House, Dawn of Hope, United Way and March of Dimes, volunteering his time with Walk to Emmaus, and always serving the Lord in whatever capacity he was called. He was a Rotarian and a member of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church.

To have known him was a blessing and he will be greatly missed. The most precious thing we can give someone is a memory. Roger will be known by all as having given that gift.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Evelyn Sawyer and by his brother Phil Sawyer. He is survived by his beloved wife, Pam Sawyer; daughters Kim (Brandon) Hall and Kristy Howard, bonus sons; Rob Carpenter and Tim (Risa) Carpenter; grandchildren Taylor Hall, Addison Hall, Mitchell Howard, Brody Howard, Sawyer Howard, Sage Carpenter, Ailyn Carpenter, Marleah Carpenter and Macauley Carpenter; and his beloved fur baby Olive.

Special thank you to Melodie Ledford for being such a special family friend through the years.

A memorial service will be held at Dillow-Taylor Funeral Home Saturday, March 12, 2022. Visitation will begin at 2:00 until time of service at 3:00.

In lieu of flowers the family is asking that donations be made in Roger's memory to the Alzheimer's Northeast Tennessee Chapter 2020 Meadowview Parkway Suite 100, Kingsport, TN 37660 or go online alz.org Condolences may be sent to the Sawyer family online at www.dillow-taylor.com. Dillow-Taylor Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Jonesborough, TN 753-3821

Jewell, Thomas Robert (Feb 9, 2022) Jewell, age 91 of Franklin, TN, passed away on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. The oldest child of Robert Perry and Nina Mae Jewell, he was born in Waterloo, Iowa.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Lavon Jewell, and his daughters Sherri (Charlie) Borowski, Debbie (Eddie) Blackshear, Sue Jewell, and his brother Fred Jewell. He is preceded in death by his parents Robert and Nina Jewell, his father and mother in-law Aaron and Mary Goff, his brother, Bob Jewell, and his sister-in-law, Louise Baker. He attended the University of Missouri and served in the U.S. Air Force.

Tom was an avid sports fan, and had a passion for golf. After a 35-year career **with JCPenney**, Tom served as the Tournament Director for the **JCPenney** Golf Classic in Clearwater, FL for 8 years. Throughout his life, he played well over 2,000 rounds of golf, and had the privilege of playing with numerous golfing professionals, sports figures, celebrities, meeting James Cash Penney, and shaking hands with 5 U.S. Presidents. In 2000, Tom published a book entitled Having a Ball with Golf, which captured his life stories and life lessons on the golf course: "Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get good breaks from bad shots, and bad breaks from good shots, but you have to play the ball where it lies."

Tom was a loving husband, father and grandfather to his five grandchildren: Marci, Jami, Kelli, Kye and Evan. He was a man of faith, a devout pen pal, the ultimate time manager, an encourager, a man with a quick thank you, and who had a smile that lit up the room. Just like he dealt with all experiences in life, Tom managed his illness with strength and grace. On his final day, he was surrounded in love and prayer by Lavon and their daughters.

A funeral service will be held at the Concord Road Church of Christ on Saturday, February 19, 2022. Dan Chambers will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a memorial gift/donation be made to the Church of Christ Disaster Relief Effort at

www.disasterrelieffort.org/?fbclid=IwAR22TSYctH1eXHAbkz9KgzSJkieQvrKFWst-BA5oK30mu8C1ESesHX_DD9Y

To send flowers to Thomas' family, please visit our [floral store](#).

Good, Victoria "Vicki" R(Nov 5, 2021) Victoria, 62 of Bloomington, IN, was called home by her Heavenly Father on Friday, November 5, 2021.

Victoria was born in Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri to W.A. and Ruth (Bettcher) Robinson on September 15, 1959. She graduated from Trevecca Nazarene University in 1981. Her life was spent serving the Lord, using her teaching and musical talent singing, playing the organ and piano, and leading many children's choirs. One of her favorite past times was to play games with family and friends. She was a constant source of encouragement and joy to everyone who knew her.

She will be dearly missed by all. Vicki is survived by her parents, her loving husband Lester Good (**JCPenney**), daughter Brittany Rhule and her husband Mathew, son Christopher Good and his wife Ciera and 4 grandchildren who loved her dearly. A

Celebration of Life with Family and friends was Tuesday November 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Zion Community Church of the Nazarene. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the MSAA-Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. Make your gift online at <https://mymsaa.org/>

Lacy, James E. (Jim) (Jan 17, 2022) He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee. He had previously been a deacon and elder.

Jim was an avid sports fan. In high school he lettered in football, basketball, tennis, and golf, and also served as the school president. At Texas Christian University he played on the varsity golf team.

Jim was a World War II veteran having served in the Philippines. After graduation from TCU, he worked for 39 years with **J. C. Penney Co.**, managing five stores in Texas, Oklahoma and Tennessee. He opened and managed the Rivergate Mall store in Goodlettsville, Tennessee for 17 years.

Very active in civic affairs in the Nashville Metropolitan area, he was the president of the Rivergate Mall Association three terms, president of the Tennessee Retail Merchants, president of the Retail Merchants in Nashville Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the Board of the Nashville Area Better Business Bureau. Jim was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Joy, son Ross, brother Gene, sister Joyce, and his parents. He is survived by three sons and their spouses: David (Barbara), Mike (Vickie), Randall (Martha), and daughter Kay, 13 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren.

Graveside service will be held at Hendersonville Memory Gardens, 353 East Main Street, in Hendersonville, on Monday, January 24th at 1pm. Please meet at graveside by 12:45pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the charity of choice.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of James Edward Lacy, please visit our [floral store](#).

Dennis, Dan Allison (Dec 15, 2021) Dan was 90, of Madison, AL. Mr. Dennis retired in 2012 from **JC Penney** after 53 years, 32 of those were in Huntsville, AL and he attended Whitesburg Baptist Church for 30 years. He surrendered his life to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was bombed. Mr. Dennis was also a US Navy veteran.

Survivors include his son, Milton Dennis (Janet); daughter, Janet Kathleen Cahill; daughter-in-law, Angela Dennis; grandchildren, Joshua Dennis (Kelsey), Brandy Martin (Chuck), Matthew Dennis, Stephen Dennis, Meredith Baird, James Austin Baird (Iulia), Faith Baird, Nicholas Baird (Alyssa); and great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Dennis, Sidney Dennis, Cash Dennis, Blakeigh Ray Baird, and Wrenley Dawn Marie Baird

Mr. Dennis was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Jane Dennis; son, Dan A. Dennis, Jr. and son-in-law, Tom Cahill.

Visitation will be Saturday, December 18th from 12:00 - 1:00 PM at Berryhill Funeral Home followed by service at 1:00. Burial will be at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Slusser, William Scott (Sept 18, 2021) William, age 64, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, September 18, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, William E. Slusser and Faith "Toddy" Slusser, and his infant son, Kevin Slusser. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Lori Slusser, his son, Eric Slusser, his daughter, Kristen Rzonca (Michael), his aunt, Zelma Slusser, his cousins Tani Salkowski, Kirk Smith, and Erik Smith, and his sisters-in-law Diane Sherry (Markus) and Janice Birr (Allan).

Scott was born on October 1, 1956 in Huntington, Indiana. He spent his childhood years playing with his cousins along the banks of the Wabash River. They were like siblings to him.

In 1970, Scott's family moved to Cape Coral, Florida and he quickly became friends with his neighbors. The group affectionately called themselves "the gang". Eventually bicycles were traded for golf clubs and Scott, Brian, Dave, and JR continued as a foursome.

Scott found love with Lori at Cypress Lake High School. Three days after getting married, they moved to Tallahassee to attend Florida State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation, Scott began his career at **JCPenney** where his hard work and tenacity led to several promotions. His career with JCPenney would span 24 years in five cities with many colleagues turning into lifelong friends.

Scott began his second career at the City of Cape Coral in the Human Resources Department in 2007. He worked there for 12 years before retiring.

For over 30 years, Scott, along with his buddies Tony D., Tony S., Lee, Phil, and Charlie, gathered for biannual golf trips. These weekend getaways always included spirited debates about college football, politics, and the best bands (The Beatles always won).

Scott was an avid reader with an especially deep library of American politics and history. He also wrote short stories, song lyrics, and poetry. His work has appeared in The Storyteller, Westward Quarterly, Poet's Ink Review, and Long Story Short.

Scott's greatest joy was spending time with his sweetheart Lori. Scott was proud of his children who became curious, well-versed, and kind adults. You could always count on Scott playing his music loud, drinking his coffee black, and enjoying the evening sunset.

A private service for family members will be held at Coral Ridge Cemetery. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.CoralRidgeFuneralHome.com for the Slusser family.

Lamond, Walter Tourison (Dec 31, 2018) Lamond, 89, was born in Philadelphia, PA on October 2, 1929 to James Lamond and Hazel Lamond. While in hospice, Mr. Lamond passed away peacefully in his sleep after a battle with respiratory illnesses and cancer.

Walter was a man who devoted himself to helping others, from serving as a volunteer for his son's Little League team to helping the local community after natural disasters to feeding the neighbors during an ice storm to assisting with the design of a local Technical High School. He also worked with his wife with the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, where he designed an HVAC skills competition and later served in it as a Judge. After he retired, Mr. Lamond took on the challenge of serving the United Way as the leader for Henry County. He later served the 40 and 8 (a fraternal and charitable Honor Society of American Veterans) in several leadership positions including Georgia Commander. A few of his favorite 40 and 8 activities were the annual Christmas party (where hundreds of mentally challenged kids received Christmas gifts from Santa Claus), finding Nursing recipients for annual scholarships, and riding on the famous 40 and 8 train at various locations within Georgia. He also volunteered for many years at the VA Hospital on Clairmont Road.

Walter met Lillian Studnia in Levittown, PA in the summer of 1963 when a mutual friend asked him to fix the air conditioner in her sons' room. They maintained their connection for 4 years and were married in Miami, FL in 1967. In 1972, the family moved to the Toco Hill area of Atlanta, GA and have remained in the metro Atlanta area since. Their house quickly became the place to be for holiday meals, where extended family members, neighbors, and friends often came for friendship and fellowship.

From his time in the Army during the Korean War to the time of his retirement, Walter Lamond was an HVAC expert and aficionado. His decades with the **JC Penney Co.** as a Mechanical Field Engineer took him to all states in the southeastern United States where he oversaw the design and installation of HVAC systems in all JC Penney stores and facilities. During that time, he touched the lives of Store Managers and others within the stores and later became very active within the Georgia and Florida Retired JC Penney Associate groups. Aside from work and volunteering, it was Walter Lamond's sense of humor that he was perhaps most known for. He seemed to have an unlimited repertoire of jokes and riddles and shared them freely; this occurred in the hospital up to the time of his passing, often having nurses bringing in his/her colleagues to hear the same jokes over and over again. His laugh was infectious and, combined with his kindness, received smiles from those around him.

Walter Lamond was preceded in death by his wife Lillian Lamond, parents James Lamond and Hazel Lamond, brother Samuel Lamond, and sisters Peggy Byer and Hazel Brower. He is survived by his sons Michael Lamond, Thomas Lamond, and Walter Michael Lamond, daughters Susan Skinner (William) and Deborah Brownson, and grandsons Michael Lamond, Jr., Colby Skinner, Clayton Lamond, Tony Lamond, and Nicholas Brownson.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation in the name of Walter T. Lamond to Cure Childhood Cancer (curechildhoodcancer.org) or St. Jude's Children's Hospital (stjude.org).

Hutchens, Thomas "Tom" (July 18, 2021) Thomas Dunn Hutchens left to be with Jesus on July 18, 2021.

Tom was a devoted Husband, Father, "Papa" to 9 grandchildren, Uncle and Friend to so many.

Tom was born July 24, 1940 in Murray, KY to Walter and Vera Hutchens and was also preceded into Heaven by his brothers Bob and Porter Hutchens. He leaves behind the love of his life Nancy Owen Hutchens, daughters Carole Pizzuto (John) of Charlotte, Kristi James (David) of Denver, Karen Weaver (Blake) of Dallas and son Thomas Hutchens, Jr. (Crystal) of Atlanta as well as grandchildren Traci Dayvault (Ryan), Mark Pizzuto, Thomas "Max" Hutchens III, Sadie Hutchens, Jake Hutchens, Kylie James, Cassidy James, Brynn Weaver and Ellie Weaver.

Tom graduated from Murray State University and was later named a MSU Distinguished Alumni. While at Murray State he was the President of Sigma Chi Fraternity and was the first MSU Sigma Chi to be named a "Significant Sig" by the National Fraternity. He moved all around the country but was always a proud Kentucky Colonel!

Tom's only job after college was a 41-year career with the **JCPenney Company** where he retired as President and COO. At Penney's, Tom made lifelong friends and was a leader and mentor to many. He lived with his family in many places but was most fond of Dallas, TX where he became an avid fan of the Cowboys and Blue Bell Homemade Vanilla ice cream. He enjoyed golf immensely as it allowed him to keep active and

have an audience for his jokes. When not golfing, he most loved spending time with his family and friends. Tom lived such an amazing life it is not possible to express it in words. He loved life and he loved those around him! He will be missed tremendously but the love he shared will carry on by all those he touched.

Visitation will be Saturday, July 24, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Lakeland Funeral Home in Eddyville, KY. Funeral services will be at 3:00 pm Saturday, July 24, 2021 at the funeral home with burial to follow in Macedonia Cemetery in Lyon County.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for gifts to The Alzheimer's Foundation; <http://act.alz.org/goto/TomHutchens> or The MSU Foundation, 200 Heritage Hall, Murray, KY 42071; in the memo: Tom Hutchens Endowed Professorship. You may light a candle or leave a message for the family at: www.lakelandchapel.com.

Phillips, Earl Lynn (July 11, 2021) Loving and faithful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, son, friend, and most importantly, child of God, Earl Lynn Phillips departed this world on July 11, 2021 to enter the kingdom of heaven and the presence of the Lord.

To all who knew him, Lynn was a joyful person who caught people off guard with his dry wit and sense of humor. He was a man who loved everyone, who had a gift for recognizing and promoting the potential he saw in others, even when they could not see it themselves. Generous and kind, patient and forgiving, Lynn did not expect of others what he did not expect from himself.

Lynn was a Christ follower and a member of First Alliance Church in Franklin, NC. He was happiest with hands-on ministry in the church and community, working closely with people to serve their needs as directly as he could. His mountain home was often a retreat for missionaries visiting Franklin from around the world, and it was his pleasure to provide them a place to rest and recharge.

A husband of 57 years to his wife Pat and father to his three sons, Lynn took seriously his role as provider and protector, often working quietly behind the scenes to fulfill the desires of his family. As a grandfather, Lynn (Pop) cherished each moment shared with his grandchildren -- building things in the workshop, riding in his truck, exploring the mountain property, and especially just being together.

Lynn loved woodworking, refinishing furniture, gardening, and spending time with friends and family. Lynn passed his love of music to his children and grandchildren. He loved to plan elaborate trips and to travel. In his later years, Lynn researched family history.

Lynn was born May 19, 1941 in Mena, Arkansas to Earl Tildon and Marjorie Galloway Phillips. He graduated from Fort Smith Senior High School in 1959 and served in the Arkansas Air National Guard from 1960 until his honorable discharge in 1966. Starting out with **J.C. Penney** in the shoe department at age 17, Lynn's career included nine moves across six different states until his retirement as store manager in 1998 when he chose to settle in Franklin, his final home of 23 years.

Left with many wonderful memories are his wife, Patricia Cotten Phillips; his sons and their wives, Michael and Suzanne Phillips of Greenville, SC, Mitchell and Lori Phillips of Marietta, Georgia, and Matthew and Libby Phillips of Syracuse, NY; his grandchildren, Doug (Meg), Blake (Caitlyn), Nicholas, Ashley, Josh, Jackson, Samuel, Madie, Landon, Abby, and Austin; his great-granddaughter, Hailey Adelynn; and his siblings, Joyce Gray of Springfield, MO, and Patsy (Gary) Tuer of Mountain Home, TX. Lynn was predeceased by his parents; his sister, Brenda Fitting; his in-laws Bill and Joy Cotten and his sister-in-law, Deborah Harrison.

Lynn's body was buried at a private family service on July 14 at Ramsey Creek Preserve in Westminster, SC.

A public memorial service will be held at 4 pm on Thursday, July 22 at the First Alliance Church-Franklin, NC. As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions can be made to the First Alliance Church Great Commission Fund or Samaritan's Purse.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Lynn's family.

Whittington, Robert Ray "Red" (Apr 15, 2021) Whittington, passed away at North Oaks Medical Center, at the age of 86. He was born on Sunday, January 27, 1935, in Oak Grove, Louisiana. Robert was a resident of Hammond, Louisiana.

The Jesuits in Shreveport found Robert in Jr. High and gave him a football scholarship to their school. He converted to Catholicism and became a good Catholic, and a standout football and basketball player. Robert tried working at night and Centenary College during the day, but couldn't make the grades. He went to work at KTBS Television Station where he met his love, Carol.

They married and he worked two jobs, the second at **J.C. Penney**. It was then that he received a pay raise with **J.C. Penny's** and moved the family to Dallas then to NYC, and from there went to Atlanta and Destin, Florida. Robert worked for J.C. Penny's until he retired after 32 years of service. He and his wife Carol raised five children and had many exciting adventures.

Robert is survived by his wife of 61 years, Carol Ann Guitrau; father of: Laura Pait (Sam), Elizabeth, Catherine, Carol Cay and Robin Rae; grandfather of: Elaine, Sammy and Erin; and brother to: Charles Butler Whittington (Mercedes); and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Hollis Lloyd and Elaine O'Neal Whittington; and sister, Faye Hankins.

A Visitation for Family and Friends will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021 from 10:00 am until the Funeral Service begins at 11:00 am at Harry McKneely and Son Funeral Home, 2000 N. Morrison Blvd, Hammond, Louisiana 70401.

Interment will follow at Rose Memorial Park Cemetery in Hammond, Louisiana.

Varnado Sr., Rynold O'Neal (Feb 12, 2021) Rynold, affectionately known as "Ron" to family and friends, was born on September 30, 1946, to the late Carolyn and Talmadge Roger Varnado Sr. He departed this life unexpectedly on Friday, February 12, 2021 at home.

He graduated from Eva Gordon High School, Magnolia, MS, in 1964 and attended college at Jackson State University on a music scholarship where he played the piano and saxophone. He graduated with a Bachelors of Administration degree in 1969 and began teaching both high school and adult education at Higgins High School prior to moving to Atlanta, GA.

He was united in holy matrimony to Ms. Rosie Marie Woods, December 30, 1967 and to the union two children, Rynold O'Neal Jr, and Renita (Denise) were born.

Ron began his career at **JCPenney's** Department store on February 1, 1971. He broke many barriers, as he was the first African American to become the Regional Training Coordinator. He remained in Georgia for 19 years, before moving back to Mississippi in 1992. He continued his career with a promotion to Store Manager in Hattiesburg, MS and finally retired on October 22, 2007 in Jackson, MS.

Ron will always be remembered for his ability to light a room up with his kind spirit. He loved Rosie with all of his heart and was a devoted loving husband and father. He was a very patient man and always spoke in a calm voice. He made everyone feel special, always making sure everyone was comfortable. He took great pride in his home, working in his yard, winning "Yard of the Year" multiple years. Ron loved celebrating all holidays, and would personally decorate for each one. Christmas was his favorite as he had multiple trees and made sure his Christmas lights outside were perfect. He loved watching the cooking channel and cooking meals for his family.

He was preceded in death by his brother's in-love Donald Wayne Woods and Harvey Earl Woods. He is survived by his wife Rosie Woods Varnado; brother, Talmadge R. Varnado Jr, (Jamie); children, Rynold Varnado Jr, (Tosha), Renita Varnado McCoy (Lester) Denzel Varnado (Jelisa); siblings in-love Mose Woods Jr, (Jackie), Gloria Woods Miller, Steve Woods (Diane), Carmen Woods and Raymond Woods. He held a special bond with his God children Clarence Loveless, Carmenlina Woods White (Kendall) and Lance Miller.

Ron leaves a legacy of 5 grandchildren, Alexis Varnado; Ryan Starks, Brianna Varnado; Jevona Murry, Jevon Murry Jr, and 1 great grandchild, Travon Murry, whom he affectionately called "Buddy"; along with a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Taylor, Jerry Edward (Mar 23, 2021) Taylor, 74, of Hattiesburg, MS left us surrounded by his family on March 23, 2021.

He was the husband of Peggy. They shared 40 years of marriage together.

Jerry was born in Columbus, Georgia and was the son of William Edward and Louse Taylor (deceased). He was with the **JCPenney Company** from 1966 to 2006 and was in the Southeast Region and The Regional office in Atlanta. He ended his career in Clearwater, Florida as a store manager after 40 years.

Jerry was a dedicated father and mentor to many. He enjoyed golf and travelling, particularly to Italy. He loved to have fun with people and enjoyed teasing and making people laugh.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy, brother William Stanley and Sharon Taylor of Easley SC, his daughters, Laurie and Tom Teimer of Brooksville, FL, Casey and Donnie Davis of Hattiesburg, MS and Tammie Taylor of Lakewood, CO and 7 grandchildren.

The Celebration of Life will take place on Sunday, March 28, 2021 at the Hulett-Winstead Funeral Home, 205 Bay Street, Hattiesburg, MS, with viewing at 1:00 CST and service at 2:00 PM CST. He service will be officiated by Craig Curtis.

Memorial donations accepted at Asbury House Hospice, Hattiesburg, MS in Jerry Taylor's honor or Venture Church through venturechurch.org.

Kight, Jr. Ray Emerson (Mar 5, 2021) Kight, Jr., 88, of Boone, NC, passed away at his residence surrounded by his loving family.

Ray was born in Heard County, Georgia on July 15, 1932, to the late Ray Emerson Kight, Sr. and Nati Mary Shirey Kight. He proudly served in the United States Army. Ray had a successful career in the retail industry, retiring as the General Manager of **JCPenney** at Hanes Mall. He was a faithful member of Ardmore Baptist Church and loved his Lord.

In addition to his parents, Ray was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann Garret Kight; son, David Kight; sister, Kathryn Pagett; and brother, Hulyn Kight.

Ray is survived by his son, Todd Emerson Kight (Karen); grandchildren, Jaime Kight Welch (Jason), Matthew Kight (Tara), Molly Kight Woodcock (Trent), Garrett Kight, and Grant Kight; great-grandchildren, Emerson, Carter, Wilder, Rook, and Shea, who's arrival is expected soon. Ray is also survived by his brother, Kenneth Kight (Carol); sister, Sue Lane; sister-in-law, Anne Kight; and special companion, Reba Greene.

A private service to celebrate Ray's life will be held at Ardmore Baptist Church with Dr. Paul Mullen, Rev. Mikel Garrett and Rev. Ty Talton officiating. A private committal service will follow in the church columbarium. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Ardmore Baptist Church, 501 Miller St., Winston-Salem, NC 27103. Hayworth-Miller Kinderton Chapel is serving the family of Mr. Kight.

Eads, Elsie Manny (Aug 6, 2020) Eads died peacefully at Rex Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Aug 6, 2020, her 91st birthday (born August 6, 1929).

Born in Washington, D.C., she graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School as valedictorian in 1947. She attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where she met her first husband and father of her children, James R. Troyer. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1951 with majors in mathematics and Spanish. After several moves related to James' academic career, the couple settled in Raleigh in 1958, when he joined the botany department faculty at N.C. State University.

Elsie held several administrative positions during her working years in Raleigh, including long stints at West Raleigh Presbyterian Church, the **JC Penney** district office, and Disability Determination Services.

During the 1960s, she was a vocal advocate for civil rights and participated in and supported numerous justice-related causes long into her eighties.

A lifelong student, Elsie was never happier than when she was learning and exploring new subjects. After retirement, she took German classes, traveled abroad on educational tours, and attended arts performances year-round.

Her love of the outdoors and nature led her to volunteer with conservation groups and the N.C. Museum of Natural Science in Raleigh.

She was a devoted member of West Raleigh Presbyterian Church and for years served as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and the Loaves and Fishes ministry. She continued her volunteer service at Springmoor Life Care Retirement Community, where she resided from 2007 until her death. At Springmoor she enjoyed educational programs, outings and daily ping-pong matches.

Elsie is survived by two daughters, Margaret Kelly (Matthew) of Apex and Rebecca Troyer (Carter Crawford) of Denver; three granddaughters, Elizabeth Troyer of Denver, Claudia Troyer of Brooklyn and Hannah Clendening of Indianapolis; a step-grandson, Will Crawford of Garner, and nieces, nephews and cousins across the U.S.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Katherine E. Troyer; her sister, Elizabeth M. Crawford, her brother, Benjamin Manny, her grandson, James M. Kelly; her first husband, James Troyer and her second husband, James H. Eads Jr.

Elsie's ashes will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date. To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#). Published in The News and Observer (Raleigh) on Aug. 7, 2020.

Demaray, William Richard (Bill) (Jan 26, 2021) Bill, age 95, passed away January 26, 2021 from heart complications. Bill was a resident of Birmingham for over 60 years.

He is preceded in death by his wife Patricia Coyne Demaray and son Coyne Drew Demaray; parents, Richard Charles Demaray and Edna Brainard Demaray, and his brother, John Robert Demaray.

He is survived by his daughter, Debbe Demaray Ezzell, and grandchildren William Douglas Ezzell (Caitlin), and Elizabeth Ezzell Perry (Jeff) all of Atlanta, Ga.; five great-grandchildren: Virginia Coyne, Ellery Ann and William Porterfield Ezzell; and Benjamin Harrington and Jack Royce Perry all of Atlanta, Ga.; and a nephew Richard Demaray of Tulsa, Ok.

Bill was born on October 27, 1925 in Stockton, Kansas and was raised in Joplin, Missouri. In junior high, he met Patricia Royce Coyne who would later become his wife of 58 years. Upon graduating from Joplin High School, Bill then attended Park College for officer training. He went on to serve in the United States Navy as an Ensign in World War II. After the war, he graduated from The University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo. where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Bill later received a Master of Business Administration from New York University. Bill had an extensive career in retail management. He started this career with **JC Penney** in Corpus Christi, Texas. He later moved with the company to Houston, Jackson and Birmingham.

In Birmingham, he successfully opened and managed stores at Eastwood Mall and Century Plaza where he spent many happy years. Following his retirement from JC Penney, he was co-owner of Jones-Lawless, Inc. a chain of men and boys clothing stores in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa.

Bill was a member of The Club and Vestavia Country Club for many years where he was an avid golfer. He was an incredibly friendly and kind gentleman with many friends and enjoyed interacting with them as often as possible. Bill loved his family greatly. Some of his fondest activities were attending birthday parties and as many sporting events as possible for his two grandchildren who were so special to him. Bill loved Alabama

football and used to joke that Bear Bryant could walk on water. Fittingly, both Bear and Bill passed away on the same day in January.

Bill had a strong faith and dearly loved his church, Independent Presbyterian Church. The family requests in lieu of flowers that donations be made in Bill's name to Independent Presbyterian Church, 3100 Highland Ave., Birmingham, AL 35205. A small memorial service for family members will be held at Independent Presbyterian Church. A celebration of his life with friends who knew Bill will be held later in the spring/summer. Everyone who knew Bill was aware that he didn't like to tell people goodbye, so in his favorite words he leaves this earth saying "Happy Day". To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#). Published in The Birmingham News from Feb. 3 to Feb. 5, 2021.

Sullivan III, Frank M. (Sept 09, 2020) Sullivan, age 67 of Belvidere, Tennessee passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. He was born on Sept. 2, 1953 to Frances Johnson Sullivan and the late Frank Martin Sullivan, Jr.

Before his retirement he was employed in management with **J.C. Penney**, where he worked for over thirtyseven years. Frank attended World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and was a member of the Franklin County Republican Party. He was also involved with Bass Clubs in Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia and Michigan. He loved God above all, closely followed by his family. His passions were fishing, politics and finance. His catch phrase was "Life Is Good," and one could see it in the love he shared.

In addition to his father, Frank was preceded in death by two brothers, Dennis Sullivan and Mike Sullivan. He is survived by his loving wife Sheila Sullivan of Belvidere, Tennessee; children, Adam Sullivan of Vancouver, Washington and Laura Sullivan of Mount Hood, Oregon; mother, Frances Johnson Sullivan of Chester, Virginia; brothers, Patrick (Roxanne) Sullivan of Chesterfield, Virginia, and Jerry Sullivan of Virginia Beach, Virginia; many nieces and nephews whom he adored and a lifetime's worth of dear friends.

A memorial service was held at the Keith Springs Baptist Church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020 with Rev. Ron Taylor officiating. Visitation was held from 1:00–2:00 PM on Sunday, September 20, 2020, with the funeral service following at 2:00 PM at Providence Mennonite Church. Interment followed at the Warwick River Mennonite Church Cemetery in Newport News, Virginia with Pastor Harold Bergey officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, or The Blue Monarch, P.O. Box 1207, Monteagle, TN 37356, www.blumonarch.org/givetoday.

Please leave condolences at wjsmithandsonfh.com

Dickerson, Mrs. Carolyn (Nov 29, 2020) Dickerson, age 67 of Mount Juliet, Tennessee, passed away at her residence after a very brief, but hard-fought fight with an aggressive cancer. The family plans to hold a memorial service at a later date due to the current circumstances.

Carolyn Dianne Davis was born Saturday, December 13th, 1952 in Newport News, Virginia, a daughter of Mary E. (Hinchev) Davis and the late Carl V. Davis. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by brother, Richard Davis; sister, Beverly Wyatt; mother-in-law, Ann Dickerson; two brothers-in-law, David Goetz and Andy Pigsley.

She is survived by loving husband of almost 50 years, Joe Dickerson; son, Jason (Michelle) Dickerson of Pensacola, Florida; daughter, Joanna (Mike) Bierce of New Fairfield, Connecticut; five grandchildren, Jacob Bierce, Joey Bierce, Mila Dickerson, Jacelyn Bierce and Crue Dickerson; four sisters, Cynthia "Teenie" Goetz, Janet "Bebo" (Howard "Bubba") Wilson, Kimberly "Bittiebabe" (Brian) Devine, and Kippi Pigsley; parents inlaw, Joe & Sunny Dickerson; four brothers-in-law, Jon (Elaine) Dickerson, James (Christine) Dickerson, Jeffery (Susan) Dickerson, Tom (Lisa) Miller; two sisters-in-law, Judith Ann (Kenneth) Broadwater and Tara (Brett)

Cassady. Carolyn also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and many other family members and friends who will sadly miss her.

A 1971 graduate of Kecoughtan High School in Hampton, Virginia, Carolyn went on to receive both her undergraduate and master's degrees in mathematics, with honors, from Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York. She was a member of the Math Modeling Team, receiving Honorable Mention twice in international competitions. Carolyn had a successful forty-year career with **JC Penney** prior to retiring. Working in various management positions from Merchandise Manager to General Manager of JC Penney stores, she had the opportunity to work in: Waycross, Georgia; Dothan, Alabama; Pensacola, Florida; Metairie, Louisiana; Kenner, Louisiana; Huntsville, Alabama; Napierville, Illinois; Los Angeles, California; Centerville, Virginia; White Plains, New York; Duluth, Georgia; Buford, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Pikeville, Kentucky; Mount Juliet, Tennessee; Poughkeepsie, New York; and worked on the District Staff in Atlanta, Georgia.

Carolyn was also an Adjunct Professor of both Retail Management and Fashion Buying at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. She was continually active in multiple Episcopal parishes over the years, active in the choir, and taught Sunday School. Following her retirement from JC Penney, Carolyn has been with Bank of America as Vice-President & Branch Manager as well as traveled the Southeast for two years on a special project.

The family respectfully request memorial contributions be made to Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research (13770 Noel Road, Suite 801889, Dallas, TX 75380). Carolyn trained for and participated in the 3 Days, 60 Mile Walk for a cure in Atlanta, Georgia in 2001. Condolences may be left for the family at www.sellarsfuneralservices.com under Carolyn's obituary. Arrangements by Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet, 2229 N. Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122, 615-758-5459, obituary line 615-758-8818, www.sellarsfuneralservices.com.

Nobile, Charles B. (Jan 24, 2020) April 14, 1922 - January 24, 2020 Was from Massapequa Park, NY. Massapequafuneralhome handled the burial. See limited information on their website..

Nobile, Mary (Aug 25, 2016) Mary, was of Massapequa Park New. For 70 years loving wife of Charles. Cherished mother of Rosemary, Charles, Robert, Donna, and the late Linda. Devoted grandmother of 15 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Reposing at Massapequa Funeral Home Inc. South Chapel 4980 Merrick Rd. (Co. Whitewood Drive) Massapequa Park, N.Y., 11762. For further information please visit our website, MassapequaFuneralHome.com

Thompson, Jeanette Warren (Dec 17, 2020) Jeanette, 80, of Midlothian, VA. passed away after a long illness. She was born on August 12, 1940 in Asheville, NC. She was preceded in death by her parents, Eules H. Warren and Ethel R. Jackson, and her brother Jerry E. Warren.

Jeanette is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Wriston A. Thompson, Jr.; daughters, Vicki Tambellini (Dave), Mitzi Staton, and Rebecca Collins (Ron); grandchildren, Katelyn Ilkani (Awat), Chase Tambellini, Lauren Staton, and Haley Thomson (Ian); great grandson, Grant Ilkani; brother, James H. Warren. Jeanette will be remembered most for her generosity, kindness, sense of humor, love for her family, and her faith. She grew up in Asheville, and married her high-school sweetheart. Wriston's career with **JC Penney** meant that they relocated often, and Jeanette made many friends in each new city.

She was adept at fundraising and led major campaigns for YMCA's in Anniston, Alabama, Nashville, Tennessee, and Richmond, Virginia. She and Wriston retired in Port St. Lucie, Florida and moved to Midlothian in 2003. She was an active member of St. Edward Catholic Church, and volunteered with the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary. She was a member of the Midlothian Women's Club. She was a devoted wife, mother, "Mimi", and friend and will be missed by all that knew her.

Jeanette was a graduate of Lee H. Edwards High School in Asheville, NC in the class of 1958. She studied business at Lenoir Community College.

A Private interment will be at Saint Edward Church. A memorial Mass will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital www.stjude.org, or the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary at Saint Edward's Catholic Church 2700 Dolfield Dr. North Chesterfield, VA 23235.

Wilbun, Ryland O'Brien (Dec 21, 2020) Wilbun, 80, of Rockingham, North Carolina, passed away peacefully at home. Ryland was preceded in death by his parents, Robert E. and Hazel M. Wilbun.

Ryland is survived by his wife, Carol Wilbun; daughter Amy Hubbard and son-in-law, Clint of Richmond, Virginia; son, Greg Wilbun and his wife, Terra of Rockingham; his five grandchildren, Lauren Wilbun, Jeb Wilbun, Jake Wilbun, Bobby Hubbard and John Hubbard; brothers Gerald Wilbun and his wife Sandy, and Charles Wilbun and his wife Chris, all of Appomattox, Virginia; brother-in-law Doug Burnett of Anthem, Arizona; and his many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews.

Ryland was born in Red House, Virginia, on March 24, 1940. After growing up in nearby Appomattox and graduating from Appomattox County High School, he earned a B.S. degree in Economics from Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1962. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy for two years before beginning a thirty-year career in retail with the **J.C. Penney Company**. After several career moves in North Carolina and Virginia, he retired from J.C. Penney in 1998, and he and Carol settled in Rockingham where they have made many lifelong, dear and loving friends.

Ryland, our "Poppy," was a kind, thoughtful and hardworking man who thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his family both in Rockingham and in Appomattox. He spent many hours tending to his late parents' farm in Appomattox with his brothers, and was very proud of, and took great pleasure in maintaining and upholding his parents' legacy of hard work. He was a true Southern gentleman who loved to tell stories, and was a true friend to all. Ryland was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Rockingham where he served faithfully for many years as adult Sunday School teacher, deacon, elder, and just about any other volunteer position that was asked of him. During the two years that he and Carol lived in Covington, Virginia, he was an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Covington, volunteering for countless community events to raise money for those in need. The family is planning a small, private Celebration of Life in the spring at the Wilbun family farm in Appomattox.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice. Online condolences may be made at www.watson-kingfuneralhome.com Watson-King Funeral Home in Rockingham is serving the Wilbun family.

Brown, Leon Eugene (Dec 7, 2020) Brown, a long-time resident of Clay County died of heart complications. He was born at home in Hammond, Louisiana on September 30, 1935. Growing up he was known to his family as "Sonny". Later in life, he was affectionately known to as "Grandy". Leon graduated from the laboratory school at Southeastern University High School and attended Southeastern University in Hammond, Louisiana. There he met and married Marion Louise Bassin Brown. They were married for 49 years until her death in 2010.

Leon began working as a sales clerk for the **JCPenney Co.** in 1960. He advanced quickly in management and continued his career with JCP for 30 years, working in Metairie, La., Mobile, Ala., Roanoke, Va., Newport News, Va., New Orleans, La., and finally in Orange Park, FL, where he managed the JCP store from it's opening in 1980 until his retirement.

Leon was an active member of Orange Park United Methodist Church since 1980. He was a past President and active member of Orange Park Rotary Club. Leon loved to cook and had a passion for Cajun/creole cooking. He was famous for his Gumbo, Red Beans and Rice, and strawberry shortcake. In December 2019, he

suffered a stroke and a badly fractured ankle which required him to move to assisted living just before the pandemic hit. As an avid gardener, he used his time during COVID restrictions to plant a sanctuary garden in the courtyard of the care center.

Leon is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marion Bassin Brown. He is survived by their four children, Cheryl Marino of Winter Haven, FL, David Brown (Cindy), Michael Brown (Jennifer) of Green Cove Springs, and Paul Brown (Patricia) of Tucson, AZ; eleven grandchildren, Maegan Alvarado (Brian), Catherine Marino (Spencer), Paul Marino, Lauren McClure (Kevin), Boyd Brown (Caitlin), Samantha Brown, Carolyn Haymon (Austin), Courtney Babcock (Michael), Sarah Brown, Bryce Brown, and Aiden Brown; six great-grandchildren, Bryon Alvarado, Henry Alvarado, Cooper McClure, Rhett McClure, Theo Marino, Penelope Marino, and Michael Babcock.

In honoring his wishes, memorialization is by cremation. Graveside memorial services will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday January 2, 2021. Leon will be laid to rest with his wife in the Garden of Prayer at Jacksonville Memory Gardens, 111 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, FL. Friends are asked to please be mindful of distancing guidelines, and the use of a protective mask is encouraged.

Leon was a great animal lover. He rescued and cared for many creatures over the years including feeding wild ducks and geese. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to Safe Animal Shelter in Middleburg, FL. <https://safeanimalshelter.com/donations/donate>. All are invited to share remembrances of Leon on the Tribute Wall here.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Leon Eugene Brown, Jr. please visit our [Tribute Store](#).

Mowry, Cynthia Grace (nee Billmyer) (Dec 10, 2020) Mowry, 68 of North Charleston, former resident of Baltimore, MD, beloved wife of the late Norman Ross Gienow, passed away on Thursday, December 10, 2020.

Survivors include: devoted brother: William E. "Bill" Billmyer (Dianna); beloved aunt of Dawn Tolle, Albert Billmyer, Jennifer Wilkins; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents: Albert and Marie Billmyer; sisters: Diane Phillips and Betty Diggs; brother George Billmyer

She started her career at **JC Penney** 40 years ago in Baltimore, MD. She retired as store manager in Charleston, SC in 2015 after 17 years. She was a store manager in Dyersburg, TN, served in a management capacity in various stores as well as District Staff out of Alexandria, VA. Cindy was loved and respected by staff. She will be dearly missed by family, the yahoo's: Jeanne, Susan and Kathy. A memorial service will be planned at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made in Cindy's name to American Breast Cancer Association, 113 Redbud Lane, Augusta, GA 30907

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at www.jamesadyal.com. ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERSVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Cynthia Grace Mowry please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Ellzey, Watson Eugene "Gene" (Dec 7, 2020) Ellzey, a native of Mobile, AL, born May 27, 1947, passed away December 7, 2020 in a local hospital following an illness.

Gene Ellzey retired from **JCPenney** in 2000 after 30 years with the company.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Watson and Hortense Ellzey. He is survived by Rebecca Clapp Ellzey, his wife of 52 years, and his daughters, Elizabeth DeRocher (Jeff), and Marian Hartsell (John). He is also survived by five grandchildren, Laura DeRocher, Matthew DeRocher (Avery), Christopher DeRocher, Sarah Hartsell, and Anna Hartsell, his brother, sister, and other relatives.

There will be a family graveside service on Friday, December 11, 2020, at Pine Crest Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Dora Welch Scholarship Fund at the University of Mobile, or gifts to the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries would be appreciated. Arrangements are by Ascension Funeral Home, 1016 Hillcrest Road, Mobile, Alabama 36695.

Mantel, Sara (Oct 23, 2020) *No obit Note from husband Bob:* Sara has had extended health problems, Unfortunately, she passed away on October 23. She was in a hospice facility in Orlando and received excellent care in the final few weeks

Kesley, Roy M (Oct 10, 2020) Roy, of Cleveland, 77, received his final promotion on October 10, 2020, in his beloved daughter's home, surrounded by loved ones. Born on November 18, 1942, he grew up in the McDonald, TN area and graduated from Bradley Central High School in 1960.

He married his high school sweetheart, Katherine Cook, on December 28, 1963 at Mineral Park Baptist Church. He served in the US Army, before starting his lifelong career with the **JC Penney Company**. His successful career began in Chattanooga, TN, in 1960, sweeping the stock rooms and filling in for the Men's Department Salesmen one night a week. He began to outsell that gentleman in his one night per week and his sales ability was quickly noted. In 1966, he was promoted to Atlanta, GA. In November 1971, while living in Atlanta, Roy and Katherine adopted a 5-week-old baby girl and named her Mary Katherine. He was promoted in 1972 to Knoxville, TN. In 1975, age 33, he received his first opportunity as a Manager in store Opelika, AL. In 1976 he became Manager of the Treasure Island store in Marietta, GA. He opened a store in Florence, AL as Manager in 1978. From 1980 to 1983, he was in Atlanta. The next move in 1983 was Colfax, NC. He returned to Chattanooga in 1994 as Store Manager until his retirement in 1997.

A member of First Baptist Church of Cleveland since 1994, he was saved at age 12 in a local revival in McDonald, along with his older brother Kenneth, and their father, Robert. Roy and Katherine were members of the Rodney Fitzgerald Sunday School Class at FBC and had many treasured friends there. He loved antique cars and was an active member of the Antique Automobile Club of America. He's remembered here in Cleveland for his award-winning '57 Chevy cars featured in the monthly Cruise-In on the Cleveland Square. He is survived by his wife of nearly 57 years, Katherine Cook Kesley(residing at the TN State Veteran's Home in Murfreesboro, TN); one devoted daughter, Mary Katherine Hughes and her husband, Jimmie; four grandsons who love their "Poppa": Cody and his wife Brie, Matthew, Isaac and Levi; three special sisters in law, nieces and nephews. He would want you to know that his JC Penney HCSC group of friends were considered family to him. Also two very dear and close friends, Tommy Hunt(Mary Ann) and Bill Womac(Roberta) were dear friends who were like family.

He was predeceased by his parents, Robert P. Kesley and Delia F. Kesley McDaniel; four brothers, Donnie, Russell, Kenneth and Wayne; father- and mother-in-law, Sherman and Mary Cook; and a number of other family members including three "perfect" grandchildren in heaven.

Arrangements are as follows: Visitation will be on Thursday October 15th at First Baptist Church, Cleveland, from 1:00pm until 4:30pm with the funeral service, officiated by son-in-law, Jimmie Hughes, following at 5:00pm at the church. Interment will follow in the Lee Cemetery. The family wishes for donations to be made in lieu of flowers to the Tennessee State Veterans Home on behalf of Katherine Kesley. Contact information is Tyler Madsen, 345 Compton Rd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129 in memory of Roy Kesley, Katherine Kesley's husband.

You are invited to share a personal memory of Roy or your condolences with his family at his online memorial located at www.companionfunerals.com. Companion Funeral and Cremation Service and the Cody family are honored to assist the Kesley family with these arrangements.

Bitter, William Edward (Aug 6, 2020) Bitter, age 94, passed away in Louisville, KY. He was born in Quincy, Illinois, was a graduate of the University of Missouri and a veteran of World War II. He was employed by the **JCPenney** Company for thirty- seven years and was a member of Christ Church United Methodist.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Martha, of 51 years of marriage. Survivors include his daughters, Susan Bitter Ross (David), Sara Bitter Hines and Barbara Bitter; grandsons, William, Jonathan, Robert Hines and Alexander Ross. He is also survived by one sister, Barbara Carson of Seattle, Washington.

A memorial service will be held at Christ Church United Methodist at 4614 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207 on August 14th, 2020 at 2:00 pm. In lieu of visitation, condolence cards will be provided before the service. To be respectful of present-day circumstances, the service will be available via livestream at: (<http://yourstreamlive.com/events/1602246>. Password: Bitter).

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be scheduled at a later date. A private burial service will be held in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the Animal Care Society, 12207 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40245 or the Disabled American Veterans (dav.org).

Murphey, Ben Paul William (Aug 6, 2020) Murphey, age 96, is preceded in death by his sweet loving wife Dixie Dean Bradley Murphey of 67 years, parents Walter A & Nettie Smith Murphey, brothers Joe Frank Murphey & Richard Boyd Murphey, sisters Annalene Murphey Bays & Reatha Murphey Robinson.

Ben was a long time resident of Mobile and native of Crossett, Arkansas attending University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He spent 42 years working for **J.C. Penney Company** retiring in 1985. He enjoyed hunting & fishing. He was always a man in motion, enjoyed life, a leader, mentor, good husband and father treating everyone with respect and open heart. He was a member of the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Mobile Symphony, Opera, President of the Springdale Mall Merchants Association and Board of the American Red Cross. In the 1960's he worked with local civic leaders, business leaders and African American leaders blazing the way during integration as the first major business in Mobile to place African Americans working with customers. An avid dancer he learned and taught dancing at Little Rock Arthur Murray Dance Studio helping pay his way through college. He served honorably in WW II from 1943 to 1946 with the 25th Infantry Division in the Pacific Theater fighting in the Battle of Luzon and Korean War 1950 to 1951 with the 1st Calvary Division. In WW II he patrolled Hiroshima after the Atomic bomb taking part in the occupation, dismantling and destruction of the Japanese war machine.

He is survived by his daughter Paula Dean Lee, son Ben Alan Murphey. He leaves behind his cherished grandson Garrison Murphey (Meghan) and beloved great grandchildren Collin Michael Murphey, Kendall Maree Murphey and Chase Alan Murphey residing in St. Louis Missouri, nephews Greg Murphey, Richard Murphey, Billy Bays all of Crossett Arkansas and niece Sheila Murphey Farmer of Conway Arkansas. Other survivors and cherished friends Joe Adamo, Donald Cranford (Gwen), Lyman Holland (Leannah), Joe Baldwin(Lynda), Debbie Reynolds, Diane Porter (Mike), Robbie Summers, Tom Sharp (Lydia), Alvin Walls & Barbara Cart..

Serenity Funeral Home Theodore, AL will arrange his final journey to Harris Funeral Home Morrilton, AR and laid to rest 12 Sept 2020 at Cedar Creek Cemetery Jerusalem Arkansas next to his wife. In lieu of flowers his request is donations sent to Cedar Creek Cemetery Fund, P. O. Box 53 Jerusalem Arkansas 72080.

Minter, John Kester (July 16, 2020) John, age 87 years , died at Hospice House in Fort Pierce, FL."A LIFE WELL LIVED AND WELL LOVED." John is survived by his wife Theresa, three sons, Steve M., Robert B., John D Minter, two stepdaughters, Leslie A., and Theresa M. "Tara" Stecher, 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his former wife, Juanita "Nita" Montgomery.

John was born in Martinsville, VA to parents Robert Octavius Minter and Isabel Kester Minter. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a BA in Commerce. He was a member of the PIKA Fraternity and served in the U.S. Air Force, retiring at the rank of Captain.

John spent most of his career (33 years) as a store manager with **J.C. Penney Company**, retiring in 1993 in Slidell, Louisiana. John loved fishing, always looking to catch "That Big One", golf, always looking to capture that "Hole in One", boating, spending this quiet time spiritually connecting with the "Godly One".

He was a Christian who lived a life full of love and respect for his fellow beings.

John wishes are to be cremated with no formal service. In lieu of flowers please support the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Condolences can be sent to Theresa at: 15

Harbor Isle Drive, West

Unit #103

Ft. Pierce, FL. 34949

Hacker, Jr., David Lyttle (June 18, 2020) David, 86, of Burlington, NC, was born November 16, 1933 to David Lyttle Hacker, Sr and Claire Baisley Hacker in Hyden, KY, he graduated from Somerset High School in Somerset, KY in 1951 where he played basketball, baseball and football. He started college and then served in the US Army from 1954-1956, completing his BS in Business at the University of Kentucky in 1958. He married Mildred Traugher on August 29, 1959 in Paducah, KY.

In 1960, he began his 35 year career with **JCPenney**. For the first 15 years, he traveled extensively and served in regional staff positions in Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Colorado and Pennsylvania before he managed stores in Akron, OH, Wilson, NC and Colonial Heights, VA. He retired in 1995, having made many lifelong friends through his career.

David and Mildred retired to Lake Gaston in Littleton, NC and loved hosting all the grandkids for boat rides and fishing, before moving closer to family in Burlington, NC in 2000.

He was a dedicated career man yet was a faithful husband, father and grandfather, providing for, serving and loving his family well through his steady, strong but quiet ways. He and Mildred enjoyed being active and involved in all the grandkids' lives attending their sporting and special events. He took his family to church every time the doors opened and served as Deacon and in leadership roles in each church they attended over the years. Through all their moves, he and Mildred made many close friends. He enjoyed watching and participating in various sports.

He was an active leader of several community and business organizations including Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Rotary Club, and Planning and Zoning Commission. He received numerous JCP awards including Manager of the Year and the Chairman's award and community recognitions such as Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year and United Way's President's Award of Excellence.

David was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Burton. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Mildred, children Beth (William) Inabnit of Burlington, NC, Sara (Walter) Rosenberger of Roanoke, VA and David Wade (Faith) Hacker of Woodstock, GA; grandchildren Will and Matthew Inabnit, Aaron (Arianna), Ben, Paul, and Anna Rosenberger, Hannah, Jed, Jeffrey, Johnny, Asher and Hallie Hacker.

Due to COVID-19, a private family memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, his family requests remembrances be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2686, Burlington, NC 27216.

Bailey, Patricia "Pat" Melba Hensley (June 13, 2020) Loving wife, devoted mother, "Nana". Patricia, age 76, passed away at her home in Oak Ridge, TN. Pat had suffered with a serious lung disease, identified as Interstitial Pneumonia with Auto-immune Features (IPAF) since December, 2018.

Pat was born on January 8, 1944, in Fontana Village, NC, where her father, Edwin Hensley, was working on TVA's Fontana Dam. She and her parents moved to Oak Ridge in the summer of 1944 when her father took a job working on the Manhattan Project.

She attended Elm Grove and Highland View elementary schools, Robertsville Jr. High School and graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 1962, where she was a member of the National Honor Society, Tennessee All-State Chorus and President of the Pep Club. She went on to graduate from Appalachian Bible College (nee Institute) with a major in Christian Education and a minor in Music. Pat was a gifted soloist and she also enjoyed playing the piano. Pat was a contestant in the 1962 Miss Oak Ridge Pageant; always attractive on the outside, her inner beauty shone through even more.

Pat married Jack L. Bailey, Jr. (her high school sweetheart) on June 4, 1966, and they enjoyed 54 years of marriage together. They were blessed with two children, Katherine "Kathy" Nicole Bailey and Darrell Scott Bailey. She loved her husband and children deeply and reveled in being "Nana" to her two grandchildren, Noel Charles "Charlie" Price and Claire Ruth Price. She drove from her home in Tampa, FL, to Atlanta, GA, monthly during the first 18 months of Charlie's life, she so enjoyed being "Nana." She delighted in granddaughter Claire just as much when she completed the family.

Well known for her kindness and sweet spirit, Pat was a deeply committed Christian from the time she was a young girl. Growing up in Oak Ridge, she was a member of Oak Ridge Bible Church and then belonged to nine different Methodist churches throughout her adult life as the family relocated from Oak Ridge to Danville, VA, Knoxville, TN, Dothan, AL, Jacksonville, FL, New Orleans, LA, Statesville, NC, Tampa, FL, and ultimately back to Oak Ridge in retirement in 2006. Through the years she enjoyed choir and was a featured soloist on numerous occasions, as well as serving as a Sunday School teacher, curriculum writer and Certified Lay Speaker. Her main interests were church and family, but Pat also enjoyed travel, golf, genealogy, reading and attending sporting events, notably University of Alabama football and Major League baseball games. Jack and Pat enjoyed a golfing honeymoon at Callaway Gardens, GA, and during their marriage they were fortunate to play such notable golf courses as St. Andrews, Carnoustie and Turnberry in Scotland, Ballybunion and others in Ireland, Pebble Beach, CA, Pinehurst # 2, NC, and Kapalua in Maui, HI, among others. She enjoyed traveling and visited most of the states in the U. S. and a number of foreign countries with family and friends. With her Scots-Irish heritage, Pat's favorite was Scotland!

Pat was a member of The Rotary Club of Oak Ridge for several years and was recognized last year as "The Quiet Rotarian of the Year" for the way she quietly and effectively represented Rotary. As her health declined, she was named an Honorary Member of The Rotary Club of Oak Ridge, a very special recognition.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, Edwin and Melba Hensley, an older half-brother, William "Billy" Hensley and her in-laws, Jack and Mary Frances Bailey.

Survivors include her husband, Jack L. Bailey, Jr. (**JCPenney**), daughter Katherine "Kathy" Nicole Bailey Price, son-in-law Noel Todd Price and grandchildren Noel Charles "Charlie" Price and Claire Ruth Price, all of Aiken, SC, and son Darrell Scott Bailey of Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. Other survivors include an older half-brother, Robert "Bobby" Hensley and wife Barbara and a younger brother, Thomas A. Hensley, nephew Kenny Self, Jr., his wife Carol and daughter Madison Self Cox and husband Thomas Cox, all of Tennessee, and nephew Ryan Hensley, his wife Susan and daughters Taryn, Quinn and Piper of California.

Receiving of friends will be at Weatherford Funeral Home on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, from 5-7 pm, followed immediately by the funeral service, which will be conducted by Rev. Dr. Craig Kallio of Oak Ridge. Burial will be at Oak Ridge Memorial Park in the Garden of Valor on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 10 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Appalachian Bible College, 161 College Drive, Mt. Hope, WV 25880 or The Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693. Weatherford Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Share a memory online at weatherfordmortuary.com

Thanks to Dr.'s Joao deAndrade, Erin Wilfong and Leslie Crofford, all of Vanderbilt Medical Center, as well as her family doctor, Dr. Dan LeNoir, the staff at Methodist Medical Center and very special thanks to the

wonderful staff at Amedisys Hospice, notably Shelby, Ashley, Cindy and Dee, and Brittany of Silver Angels for their compassionate care during Pat's illness. A special thanks to all her friends and family who supported her during this time with their cards, notes, gifts and especially the prayers.

An interview with Pat is available on-line at Center for Oak Ridge Oral History and entering Coroh.oakridgetn.gov/corohfiles/videojs/Bailey_Pat.htm

Hennessee, Patricia Ann "Pat" (June 10, 2020) Pat, wife of Joel R. Hennessee (JCPenney retiree) lived in Mt. Sterling, KY. She was an 88-year-old native of Orangeburg County, South Carolina, daughter of the late Festus and Leola Gantt, a homemaker and retired employee from the US Census Bureau, and member of the First Presbyterian Church.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son, Joel B. (Sherrie) Hennessee, a daughter, Teresa Jumper, 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and 2 brothers. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Lisa Coyle, a sister and a brother.

Her funeral will be 2:00 Monday at Herald & Stewart Home for Funerals, Pastor Rob Warren presiding, with burial in Machpelah Cemetery. Visitation is 11-2:00 Monday. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Patricia Ann "Pat" (Gantt) Hennessee, please visit our [floral store](#).

Bertlshofer, John Charles (Apr 3, 2020) John, 80, passed away at Wayne UNC Health Care. John was born in Lexington, Kentucky on July 22, 1939 to the late John Paul Bertlshofer and Charlotte Squire Bertlshofer. Before his retirement, John served as the store manager of **J.C. Penney** in Goldsboro, NC but had served the company in management for over 35 years. He was a farmer at heart, and many of his happiest times were when he was tinkering on one of his prized tractors. John was a member of the International Harvester Collectors Chapter 37 Eastern North Carolina Club as well as the Eastern Carolina Vintage Farm Equipment Club.

John lived a life of dedication to his family and friends, and to his community. He served his community many ways as member of Pine Forest United Methodist Church and as a past member of the Rotary Club of Goldsboro.

A private graveside service for the family will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at Wayne Memorial Park with Rev. Madison Hankal officiating.

John is survived by his wife of 27 years, Mary Davis Lane Bertlshofer; children, Mary Elizabeth Bertlshofer and John Allen Bertlshofer (Jennifer) all of Arizona; step-daughter, Phyllis Lane of Goldsboro; grandchildren, Amber Lynn, Taylin, and Hagan; step-grandchildren, Jessica and Mary Jane; and sister, Elizabeth B. Swanson and husband Allen of Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in John's memory to Pine Forest United Methodist Church, 867 Hwy. 581 South, Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.seymourfuneralhome.com.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of John Charles Bertlshofer, please visit our [Tribute Store](#).

Wright, Peggy (Oct 21, 2019) It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to their beloved Peggy Wright (Kannapolis, North Carolina), born in Laurens, South Carolina, who passed away at the age of 94. You can send your sympathy in the guestbook provided and share it with the family. You may also light a candle in honor of Peggy Wright.

She was predeceased by : her parents, Edna Louise Denman Gibson and Major Dye Gibson. She is survived by : her husband Harold Wright, Jr.; her daughters, Karen L. Wright of Charlotte, Libby Wright Robinson (Tommy) of Mint Hill, Ruthie Wright Roberts (John) of Midland and Robin Wright Thomas (Mark) of Durham;

her grandchildren, Katherine Louise Robinson of Charlotte, Peggy Elizabeth Robinson Barnett (Jonathan) of Concord, Benjamin Roberts (Catharine) of San Diego, CA, Reagan Wright Thomas and Ella Karen Thomas of Durham; and her great grandchild Bentley Thomas.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Trinity UMC or Cabarrus Literacy Council at 27 Union Street North, Concord, NC 28025.

Sommer, Donald Henry (Dec 3, 2019) Donald, 78, of Ocala passed away at Legacy House in Ocala. Don was a native of Xenia, OH.

He was raised in Dayton, OH. He was a graduate of the University of Dayton with a BS in Music Education. He was a member of the Ohio National Guard and worked for **JC Penney** for 33 years.

During his employment with JCP, Don moved several times to follow the job from Columbus, OH to Massapequa, NY to Atlanta, GA to Plano, TX. Upon retirement, he moved to On Top of the World in 1998.

His hobbies included music, computers, travel and love for his cats. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Sara; daughter, Anne (Fred) Meyer of Rosharon, TX and son, Tony (Anela) Sommer of Wylie, TX; grandchildren Mia, Lea and Emily; brother-in law Lee Hagelberger of Bokeelia, FL. He is preceded in death by his father, Julius Anthony Sommer and mother, Bernadette Sophia Eyink; sister in-law, Susan Harper.

A funeral mass was held on December 17, 2019 at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 6455 SW State Road 200, Ocala, FL. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations may be made to the Hospice of Marion County, Post Office Box 4860, Ocala, Florida 34478-4860. Online condolences may be sent at www.hiers-baxley.com.

Wempe, John Robert (Jack) (Jan 11, 2020) John, 83, of Brooksville FL, passed away there at the HPH Hospice House surrounded by his family.

Jack was born in Topeka KS on Jan 23, 1936, the second of five sons of G.A. and Ruth J. Wempe. Before graduating from Hayden High School in Topeka, he was named an all-state athlete in basketball. He graduated from Washburn University in 1958.

Jack married Shirley Anne Brown on Aug 29, 1959 in Topeka KS and spent 60 wonderful years of marriage with her. She survives him along with their four children and their spouses: Susan and Glenn Erdman, Mount Dora FL; Sara and Ret. Lt. Col. Malcolm E. Earles, Monroe NC; Drs. David and Stacy Wempe, Spring Hill FL; and Brenda and Bob Wempe, Houston TX. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and four great grandchildren; Brothers Joe Wempe (Debbie) and Jim (Joan) Wempe, of Topeka KS and sisters in law Barbara (Larry) Van Meter of Sunrise Beach, MO and Ginny Hill of Bartlett TN. He was predeceased by his parents and brothers Jerry Wempe and Bill Wempe.

Jack began working for **JC Penney Co** in 1961 in Albuquerque NM. He had a distinguished career in local, district and regional management positions for 34 years and retired in 1996 in Greenville MS as a store manager. Jack's participation in the communities where he lived was extensive: Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus, United Way, Rotary, Mall Associations, Downtown Merchants Associations, and Economic Development Committees. Probably the most impactful project he undertook, as far as boosting a local economy, was organizing the first Mardi Gras parade in Bogalusa LA. Today, MCCA (Magic City Carnival Association) is one of the largest Mardi Gras parades outside of New Orleans LA.

A funeral mass will take place on Saturday, Jan 25, 2020 at 12 noon at St. Frances Cabrini Roman Catholic Church, Brooksville FL. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 1291 Kass Cr., Spring Hill FL 34606. Interment will take place at Mt Calvary Cemetery, Topeka KS, at a later date.

Pearce, Joe King (Jan 2, 2020) Joe was born on August 4, 1930 to Rex and Leone Pearce of Cotton Plant, Arkansas. His brother Rex was four years older. Joe and Rex spent their childhood playing football and baseball in Cotton Plant. They would often hitch a ride on a cotton wagon into town. Joe and his dog Monkey were

well-known citizens of Cotton Plant. Joe graduated number 12 in his class – out of 12 students. He served as his high school class President and excelled at several sports.

Joe hitchhiked to Arkansas State Teachers College with his cardboard suitcase in hand hoping to get a football scholarship, which was the only way he would be able to afford to attend college. He impressed the coaches and received a scholarship for tuition and worked in the locker room to pay for books and meals. While in college, he met his brown-eyed beauty, Martha Jo Mattox and his heart went pitty-pat. He also played football and baseball and was offered a contract with the Major League's Boston Braves. While playing ball and being acknowledged by Ty Cobb as one of the best new players, Joe was drafted to serve his country in Korea. He was proud to serve and protect the United States of America. He received the Bronze Star for his outstanding leadership ability and his personal interest in his men. His heroic actions resulted in many successful missions.

Following his service in Korea, he completed his college education and married Martha Jo on October 29, 1954. Joe was offered a job at **JC Penney** following graduation where he worked his way up from the sales floor to becoming a district manager and representing the company in Washington, D.C. He retired from the company after 30 years of service to live in Lakeway, Texas where they were close to good friends. They made many more great friendships in their 25 years in Lakeway playing golf and bridge and attending the Lakeway Church.

Martha Jo and Joe have 3 children who are the light of their lives. As the children were growing up, they could often be found spending weekends and vacations in Caldwell, Texas enjoying time at the ranch and spending time with their friends and neighbors in the country. Owning land was a lifelong dream and Joe loved walking the fence-line, tending to his cattle, riding his horses, and entertaining anyone who wanted to come for a visit.

Seven years ago, Joe finally fulfilled his dream to live at the ranch. Martha Jo and Joe built a beautiful home and enjoyed their years in the country where they renewed friendships, made many new ones, and were active members of the Caldwell Church of Christ.

Everyone who knew Joe loved him for his kindness, his wisdom and good advice, and his strong family values. He is well respected for his accomplishments as a soldier, a businessman, a friend, a father and a husband. He will be missed by all who knew him and especially by his loving family; his wife, Martha Jo, his children, Andy, Jo Ann and Mary Ellen, their spouses, Terri, Ron and John and his grandchildren, James, Allison, Jackson, Jeremy and Megan.

Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2020, at Lakeway Church, 2203 Lakeway Blvd., Lakeway, TX.