

OBITUARIES

Fritz H. Risner Jr.

June 16, 1965 - May 1, 2020



Fritz H. Risner Jr., 54, Rochester, passed away on Friday, May 1, 2020, at 8:24 p.m. in Argos.

He was born on June 16, 1965, in Winamac, the son of Fritz and Virginia (Davis) Risner. On Jan. 27, 1990, in Rochester, he married Tracy Potter. She survives.

Mr. Risner had worked for Pike Lumber Co. in Akron for many years and had been involved in various other businesses. He had been an active member of the Fulton County Historical Society, volunteering over the years at numerous events including the Trail of Courage. He enjoyed going to auctions, woodworking, scrapping and collecting Budweiser memorabilia, salt and pepper shakers and Har-

ley-Davidson items. Most of all, he enjoyed spending his time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Tracy Risner, Rochester; children Cruz Risner, Jeff Risner, Shelbie Risner and Seth (Alecia) Templeton, all of Rochester, Ethan (Nicole) Hudson, Cedar Springs, Mich., and Karissa Hudson, Buchanan, Mich.; grandchildren Xayden Risner, Zeke Templeton, Xander Templeton and Zane Templeton, all of Rochester; mother Virginia Risner, Leesburg; father Fritz H. (Patricia) Risner, Winamac; sisters Tammy (Tim) Tilton, Leesburg, Sherry Risner,

South Carolina, Debra (Brian) Johnson, Lafayette, and Opy Rogers, Rochester; brother Adam Risner, Winamac; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Violet Risner; and brother Dean Adams.

Due to health guidelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, a private funeral service will be observed. Burial will be in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Rochester.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fulton County Historical Society. Arrangements are entrusted to Zimmerman Bros. Funeral Home, Rochester. Online condolences may be expressed at www.zimmermanbrosfh.com.

Rochester Sentinel
May 17, 2020

Rochester Sentinel May 6, 2020

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the pandemic, two additional If there's no internet access ed: Combined Community

The Rochester Sentinel

OBITUARIES

Ronald LeRoy Gagnon

Sept. 5, 1937 - May 3, 2020

Ronald LeRoy Gagnon, 82, Akron, died at 5:20 p.m. Sunday, May 3, 2020, at Woodlawn Hospital, Rochester.

He was born in Fulton County on Sept. 5, 1937, to Arthur and Violet (Hamilton) Gagnon. Ron had lived in Mentone and the Beaver Dam area, but spent most of his life in the Akron community. He graduated from Burket High School in 1955.

Ron married Carma L. (Middleton) Backus in 1959. They recently had a public celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary and now have been married 61 years.

Ron was employed at Sonoco in Akron for 20 years. After leaving there, he became a truck driver and did miscel-



laneous jobs. His last job was at Mid-West Spring, Mentone, where he retired in 2002.

He attended Silver Creek Church of God when his health allowed him to. He enjoyed hunting all kinds of animals.

Ron is survived by his wife, Carma, Akron; two children, Steven E. (spouse Kathy) Gagnon, Warsaw, and Barbara (spouse Tim) Heinbaugh, Wabash; one stepson, Steven D. (spouse Linda) Backus, Akron; one sister, Clara Brown, Houston, Texas; 10 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents; stepdaughter Debra L. Backus; stepson Daniel D. Backus; and brother Eugene Gagnon.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a private graveside service will be at Silver Creek Cemetery, Silver Lake, with Pastor Tom Craig officiating.

For those who wish to honor the memory of Ronald L. Gagnon, memorial contributions may be made to the Silver Creek Church of God, 6504 W. 1300 S., Silver Lake, IN 46982. Condolences may be sent to earllovefuneralhome.com. The staff of Earl-Love Funeral Home considers it a privilege and an honor to care for the family of Ronald L. Gagnon.

Times Union
May 11, 2020

Rocky L. Smiley

MENTONE - Rocky L. Smiley, 55, of rural Etna Green, passed at 7 p.m. Friday, May 8, 2020, at his residence after a short illness.

Rocky was born on March 8, 1965, in Warsaw, to Garry Laverne and Dora Jean Byrer Smiley.

He was a graduate of Tippecanoe Valley High School in 1983. He worked for AIA Countertops of Syracuse for 10 years. He loved nature and was an avid hunter and fisherman. Proudly, he displayed many mounted trophies of his best hunts. He also enjoyed walking the woods and mushroom hunting.

Survivors include his mother, Dora Jean Smiley, of Warsaw; sister, Dawn Kerlin, of Warsaw; niece, Lauren Kerlin, of Warsaw; nephew, Connor Kerlin, of West Lafayette; and several aunts, uncle and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Garry L. Smiley, in 2002.

Following county, state, federal and CDC guidelines, private family services will be held at King Memorial Home, 101 N. Tucker St., Mentone, with Pastor Dennis Bollenbacher officiating. Private burial will take place in the Harrison Center Cemetery (Wooden), Etna Green.

Memorials to a wildlife charity of the donor's choice. Share a memory or send an online condolence at www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com.



Times Union
May 12, 2020

Ida M. Dotson

Ida M. Dotson, age 83, of Akron, passed away on Sunday, May 10, 2020, at 3:55 a.m. in Miller's Merry Manor, Warsaw.



Ida was born Dec. 15, 1936, in Floyd County, Ky., to Richard "Dick" and Ellen Brown Robinson. She was united in marriage to Andrew Dotson on Dec. 24, 1974, in Floyd County, Ky., who preceded her in death in 1991.

She has been a resident of Fulton County since 1974. She worked as a machine operator for Bryan Manufacturing, North Manchester. Ida was a member of the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church in Claypool.

Ida is survived by children, Diane (Jaime) Lozano, of Warsaw; Faye (Thomas) Bradford, of Mentone; William Jack Dotson, of Cave Creek, Ariz.; Charlene (Paul) Kramer, of Fort Wayne; 14 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew Dotson; sons, Andy Dotson and Robert Carl Clemons; seven brothers; and four sisters.

A visitation for Ida will be held on Wednesday, May 13 from 2 to 7 p.m. at McHatton-Sadler Funeral Chapel, Warsaw. A graveside service will be held on Friday, May 15 at noon at Dotson Family Cemetery, Floyd County, Ky. Burial will take place at the Dotson Family Cemetery.

To sign the guestbook or send a condolence, go to www.mchattonsadlerfuneralchapels.com.

McHATTON-SADLER FUNERAL CHAPEL
574-267-7123 Warsaw & Pierceton 574-594-2172
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Ronald 'Ron' Miller

Ronald "Ron" Miller, of Claypool, went home to be with his eternal father at 10:15 a.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020, at his home at the age of 64.

He was born on Jan. 20, 1956, in Warsaw, to Susie Hughes Miller and Green Miller. He was married to Tammy Chambers in 1987.

Ron was a 1974 Warsaw Community High School graduate and had lived his entire life in Kosciusko County. He retired after working for over 20 years for Morton Powder Coating in Warsaw and was a proud member of the Burket United Methodist Church. He was an avid NASCAR enthusiast, the biggest Florida Gators fan and a grill master. Ron was called a legend at the Indianapolis Bone Marrow Transplant Hospital ... no matter how many times they would say you have a few months to live, he smiled and continued to prove them wrong.

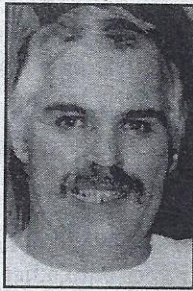
He will be lovingly remembered by his daughter who he adored, Melody Miller, Silver Lake; sister, Mary Miller, Warsaw; nephew, Jason (fiancee Michelle) Alspaugh, Chicago; niece, Whitney (Joe) Swanson, Etna Green; and three beloved great-nephews: Julian, Jamison and Jett Swanson, Etna Green. Ron had a special bond with many, most of who were his great neighbors who loved on him so well and were always there to lend a hand, share food, mow his lawn, a bonfire or share anything else they had. They were his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister.

A celebration of Ron's life will be held at a future date. Whenever you smell a great BBQ or see a really great fire going ... may you lovingly remember him.

Arrangements were entrusted to Redpath-Fruth Funeral Home, 225 Argonne Road, Warsaw.

Online condolences may be sent through the funeral home's website at www.redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/Ron-Miller.



*Times Union
May 13, 2020*

Times Union
May 13, 2020

David 'Soapy' Oaks

David Oaks, of Silver Lake, affectionately known by all as "Soapy," passed away at 2:49 a.m. on Sunday, May 10, 2020, at Kosciusko Community Hospital of Warsaw at the age of 66.



He was born on Oct. 11, 1953, in Scottsburg, to Vernie Smith Oaks and Elmer Oaks. On Aug. 4, 1976, he was married to Charlotte L. Wadkins Oaks. They shared 33 years of marriage before she passed away on June 22, 2009.

David was a 1973 graduate of Argos High School, in Argos, and a longtime member of Full Gospel Tabernacle Church in Claypool. He worked for 43 years for R.R. Donnelley in Warsaw as a machine operator and retired in 2010. David worked hard all of his life and in his down time he enjoyed listening to oldies music, watching Kentucky basketball and the Detroit Lions. He was a great cook, enjoyed being outdoors, loved gardening and in his later years, he had fun shopping online. One thing everyone knew about David was that he had a heart for animals and loved to feed all types of God's creatures. He loved all of his brothers and sisters, but David had a special bond with his brother, John. David loved his children and LOVED his grandchildren. He never tired of spending time with them and taking them to the park. He will be dearly missed by all.

He will be lovingly remembered by his son, David R. Oaks, Mentone; two daughters: Joyce R. Prater, Warsaw; Cristy L. (Chad) Haselby, Mentone; and seven grandchildren. He also leaves behind five brothers: James (Susan) Oaks, Tennessee; Larry (Paula) Oaks, Indiana; Elmer (Julie) Oaks, Indiana; John Oaks, Indiana; Mark (Lorie) Oaks, Tennessee; three sisters: Wilma (Dale) Rock, Lorene (Jim) Hettler and Pearl Oaks, all of Indiana; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Charlotte L. Oaks; two sisters: Sharon Oaks, Brenda Campbell; and his brother, Billy Oaks.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 4 and 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at Redpath-Fruth Funeral Home, 225 Argonne Road, Warsaw. Due to the current, unprecedented guidelines limiting public gatherings because of the COVID-19 virus and safety concerns the visitation is limited to 25 people at a time. Please use good judgment in determining the length of your visit or if you should attend. There will be no congregating in the parking lot and physical distancing of 6 feet is mandatory.

David's life will be celebrated with a private family service on Saturday, May 16 at Full Gospel Tabernacle Church, 106 N. Main St., Claypool, and officiated by Pastor Johnny Dotson. Burial will follow with a private graveside service at Graceland Cemetery in Claypool.

Memorials to the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division - Northwest Indiana Office, 130 Red Coach Dr., Mishawaka, IN 46545; or to the COPD Foundation, Donations and Fundraising, 3300 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Miami, FL 33134 and would be appreciated by the family.

Online condolences may be sent through the funeral home's website at www.redpathfruthfuneralhome.com.

Editor's note: The deadline for submitting obituaries is 5 p.m. Sunday through Friday for publication in the next day's edition.

Times Union
May 15, 2020

Chris Bidwell

Chris Bidwell, 84, and a resident of Pierceton for the past 55 years, passed away quietly on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 4:05 p.m. at Paddock Springs Health Care where she'd lived for the past nine months.



Born on Nov. 20, 1935, in Atwood, she was the daughter of Arnold B. and Wilma J. Huffman Chrisenberry. She was a 1953 graduate of Atwood High School and went on to become an airline stewardess for Delta Airlines at age 21. She later returned to Atwood and was married to William Keith Bidwell on Aug. 30, 1958. The two were married for 37 years before Keith passed on May 15, 1995.

Professionally, Chris worked for First National Bank and Joe Mater Collections before earning a position as vice president of Helvey & Associates, where she retired in 1997.

Chris loved traveling with her husband and their sons. They enjoyed camping, snowmobiling and, later in life, she enjoyed traveling with extended family, too. She was able to visit all 50 states and England, enjoying many fun, memorable trips and cruises. Chris enjoyed playing cards, going to casinos, golfing and always liked to be "on the go." She belonged to many groups in the Warsaw area and was active in many community projects throughout her life. She volunteered with the American Red Cross, the Beaman Home, Pierceton Days Festival, where she was a judge and as a poll worker on Election Day. She was a longtime member of Pierceton Presbyterian Church and served in many roles there.

In addition to her husband, Keith, those who preceded in passing include her close friend, Dr. Paul Grossnickle; her parents; and her brothers, Gerald and Danny Chrisenberry.

Those who survive include her sons, Bryan (Pam) Bidwell, of Pierceton; and Steve (Sherri) Bidwell, of Muncie; five grandchildren: Krista (Bryan) Howard, Matt (Jacky) Tracy, Heather (Kevin) Potter, Michael (Lindsey) Bidwell and Emily (Seth) Christoffel; six great-grandchildren: Deegan, Claire, Carissa, Dawsyn, Carmen and Cohen; and her sister, Vivian Owens. She also has many nieces and nephews who adored her visits.

A Life Celebration® is planned with Titus Funeral Home of 2000 E. Sheridan St., Warsaw. Friends may join family for a time of visitation on Saturday, May 16 beginning at 10 a.m. The funeral will begin at 11 a.m. with burial following in Hillcrest Cemetery, Pierceton.

Memorials to the Beaman Home, P.O. Box 12 Warsaw, IN 46581; or to the American Red Cross, 1212 E. California Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.TitusFuneralHome.com.