

Nancy Jean Shafer Dotson

AKRON — Nancy Jean Shafer Dotson, 85, passed away the morning of April 13, 2022, at Woodlawn Hospital, surrounded by a mob of family members, a few friends and numerous coffee cups — she was loving it!



Nancy was born at home in Miami County on Aug. 25, 1936, the first of Evelyn and Chester Shafer's six children. She went to school at Gilead from first grade through 12th, graduating along with eight of her best forever friends in 1954. She worked at Finger Dry Goods her senior year, an experience she never forgot.

She spent a year at Ball State, which gave her a never-ending respect and admiration for education and for escaping her younger siblings. She worked a variety of jobs, always making friendships and stories with her when she left each one due to family needs or life changes. One of her favorite jobs was as a waitress at the Steer Inn restaurant near Silver Lake, when her boss stood in the doorway to the kitchen and threatened to fire her if she broke "one more cup." As he turned to leave, she dropped a cup. He kept on walking.

She married Lester Dotson Jr. "Junior" on Dec. 20, 1955. They shared many years, an interruption and much love, as well as three daughters, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Junior preceded Nancy in death on Jan. 13, 2013.

Almost as much as her family, Nancy loved traveling. She went to Ireland with friends twice — once as the designated driver; her friends all survived. She made her home in Oregon, Montana, Pennsylvania and Kentucky at different points in her life and even though they weren't all happy times, she took good memories from each place.

She was so many things to so many people. She was the bread-baker, pie-maker and cook. Her friend Julie taught her to decorate cakes. If you won her disapproval, she'd very likely refer to you as a heifer. Her grandsons learned to identify the "death look." Her favorite things to be were Granny, Mom, sister, aunt and friend, in no particular order — she had enough love to go around.

The earth is poorer now, our hearts emptier, without Nancy sitting at her kitchen table ready for coffee and conversation, and we know the ones who preceded her — her parents and husband; her sister, Christine; her brothers: Tom and Dan; and some beloved friends and pets — were waiting on the other side. They are catching up on their stories. Some of them may even be true!

Left to mourn and be grateful for her life are her daughters: Sharon (Ronnie) Conley, Karen Kyler and Wendy (Tom) Ellet; two grandsons: Ryan (Melissa) Dotson and Brook (Melissa Johnson) Stevens; two granddaughters: Caitlin and Tenessa Ellet; five great-grandchildren: Brianna, Miranda, Caydence, Lexi, and Colton; one brother, Joe (Sadie) Shafer; one sister, Liz (Duane) Flaherty; special family, Ida Walter and Kerry Keaffaber; and more nieces, nephews and kids-of-the-heart than could be named here.

Memorial visitation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 23 at Hartzler Funeral Home, 305 W. Rochester St., Akron.

Memorial contributions can be made in her memory to

Times Union
April 16-17, 2022

James 'David' Justice

ANGOLA - James "David" Justice, 49, of Angola, passed away at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana on Thursday evening, April 14, 2022.



David was born on July 3, 1972, in Warsaw. He graduated from Warsaw Community High School in 1990.

After high school he enlisted in the Army Reserves and was a veteran of Desert Storm. He later attended Indiana University and then graduated from Tri-State University, Angola, in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in business and accounting.

David worked as a manager at Dockside's Bar and Grill for many years, Mad Anthony's in Auburn, Pilot Travel Plaza for 10 years and, currently, was the restaurant manager of Glendarin Golf Club in Angola.

David is survived by his parents, Jeanetta Justice, of Angola; and James H. (Sharon) Justice, of Etna Green; his brother, Jason (Mandy) Justice, of Angola; stepsister, Jenny Lynn Robinson; and stepbrother, Matt Blue, both of Etna Green. Also surviving are his nephews, Carter and Cannon Justice; and his niece, Tinsley Stephens, of Angola; along with lots of aunts, uncles and cousins. Preceding in death are his grandparents, Esther and Earnest Riddle, of Morehead, Ky; and Polly and Sandy Justice, of Martin, Ky.

David's most favorite job was being Uncle Dave to Carter, Cannon and Tinsley. He loved spending time with them.

David had a bigger than life personality and everyone that knew David, loved him. He never met a stranger and he touched the lives of so many in our small town.

Dave is from a large family, with lots of aunts, uncles, cousins on both sides. Some of his favorite childhood memories were always of our family reunions and family vacations.

He enjoyed being on a golf course with his friends and playing golf, playing pool and watching his favorite sports on TV or attending live sporting events.

He loved spending time with his family, especially attending Cannon, Tinsley and Carter's sporting events. He loved being Uncle Dave to the kids.

He loved his work and work family that always treated him as more than just an employee.

We will be forever grateful to his Glendarin family for all their love and support of him.

There will be a celebration of life visitation from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, April 22 at Glendarin Hills Golf Club, Angola.

Local arrangements handled by The Weicht Funeral Home, Angola.

Memorial donations may be made for the Steuben County Cops for Kids Fund care of the Steuben County Community Foundation.

Condolences may be expressed online through our website:

Times Union
April 19, 2022

Dolores M. Gish

NORTH MANCHESTER – Dolores M. Gish, 91, Claypool, died April 16, 2022, at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne.

Dolores was born in Wakarusa to John and Laura Bainter Rockwell on Jan. 29, 1931.

She married Orvel M. Gish on July 6, 1952.

Family and friends may call April 19 from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the Eel River Old German Baptist Brethren Church, Silver Lake. Funeral services will be April 20 at 10 a.m. at the Eel River Old German Baptist Brethren Church. Burial will follow at the Eel River Old German Baptist Brethren Cemetery with the Home Brethren Officiating.

The family of Dolores M. Gish has entrusted McKee Mortuary, North Manchester, with care and final arrangements.

For those who wish to honor the memory of Dolores M. Gish, memorial contributions may be made to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation, P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061.

Condolences may be emailed to mckeemortuary.com.

McHATTON-SADLER
574-267-7123 Warsaw &

Times Union April 19, 2022

Hospitals for Children, Attn: Processing Center, PO Box 947765 Atlanta, GA 30394. Denote "Chicago Hospital" in the memo line.

Neal Patrick Smythe

MENTONE – Neal Patrick Smythe, 49, of rural Claypool, passed unexpectedly Sunday, April 17, 2022, at his sister's residence.

Neal was born on Sept. 6, 1972, in Warsaw, to David and Rainelle Davis Smythe. Neal was married on Feb. 14, 2010, to Elizabeth Francis in Gatlinburg, Tenn.; she survives.

He was a graduate of Tippecanoe Valley High School in 1991. He then graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and teaching. During high school and college he worked part-time for Ace Hardware of Mentone and Dalite Screen and Union Tool of Warsaw. After college he began working for RR Donnelley & Sons. Currently, he has been with the company for over 25 years, and most recently serving as a cylinder maker.

He loved all sports. He enjoyed golfing and all types of racing. Neal visited every NASCAR track, with the exception of Las Vegas. Since his childhood he was a fan of North Carolina Tar Heels basketball. He also became fond of the Miami Dolphins and had a Dan Marino autograph he cherished. He maintained a lot of lifelong friendships. He was a loving man and cared for his family.

He is survived by his wife, Liz Smythe, of Mentone; daughters: Kier, of Tippecanoe, and Grace, of Mentone; mother, Rainelle and husband Terry Dowell, of Mentone; father, David and wife Sandra Smythe, of Tippecanoe; brother, Skip and wife Kelly Smythe, of Warsaw; sister, Keri Glennie, of Claypool; niece and nephews: Paige, Mason, Tanner and Chase; and paternal grandmother, Gertrude Smythe.

Neal was preceded in death by his special stepfather, Dennis R. Overmeyer; maternal grandparents: Richard "Dutch" and E. Joan Davis; and paternal grandfather, Harrold Smythe.

A graveside service will take place at noon Thursday, April 21 in the Palestine Cemetery, Palestine, with Pastor Butch Troke officiating.

A celebration of his life will also take place at a later date.

The arrangements have been entrusted to King Memorial Home, 101 N. Tucker St., Mentone.

Memorial contributions can be made in his memory to the Beaver Dam United Methodist Church/Wheels on Fire.

Share a memory or send an online condolence at www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com.



Times Union April 19, 2022

Neal Patrick Smythe

Sept. 6, 1972 – April 17, 2022

Neal Patrick Smythe, 49, of rural Claypool, died unexpectedly Sunday at his sister's residence.

Immediate survivors are his wife Liz Smythe, Mentone; daughters Kiera,

Tippecanoe, and Grace, Mentone; mother Rainelle Dowell of Mentone; father David Smythe of Tippecanoe; brother Skip Smythe, Warsaw; sister Keri Glennie, Claypool.

Graveside service will be at noon Thursday in the Palestine Cemetery, with Pastor Butch Troke officiating. King Memorial Home, Mentone, is handling arrangements.

Rochester Sentinel April 19, 2022