

# Obituaries

## Charles Lachlan Sparks

On Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, at 8:13 p.m., Charles Lachlan Sparks ran into the arms of his heavenly father surrounded by his parents and grandparents. No longer encumbered by walkers and leg braces, he is hunting squirrels with his uncle, Steve Salmons, and taking long walks with his grandmas, Marti Mudd and Miki Sparks.



Charles led an active life with friends and family. He enjoyed riding his Ranger around his hometown of Mentone, horseback riding at Magical Meadows and participating in triathlons with My Team Triumph. Charles will be deeply missed by his Rosie Place family, where he went to take a break from his parents.

Charles enjoyed attending Warsaw Community Church, where he had to be in the front row rejoicing with the praise and worship team.

Surviving family are his parents, Shaun and Eva Mudd (Christon Sparks); siblings, Jocelyn Salmons, James Mudd and Noah Mudd. Grandparents are Raymond and Carol Salmons, Ron Mudd, and Clint and Dianah Sparks.

We invite you to join us in remembering Charles at Warsaw Community Church in the lower level today, Feb. 21 at 5 p.m. Tears and laughter are welcome.

Go run high on that mountain son. We will see you soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

Memorials to the places that meant a lot to us and Charles. The My Team Triumph organization helps kids participate in 5k's and triathlons. A Rosie Place provides a place for medically fragile kids to get away from their parents for a weekend. The Angelman Syndrome Foundation and the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics are on the threshold of a cure for Angelman Syndrome, and last, but most definitely not least, The Ronald McDonald House of Indianapolis. They were very good to us in the time we spent there. They provide a nice place for families to be close to their kids in the hospital.

Times Union  
Feb 21, 2020



OBITUARIES

Roger A. Moriarty

Sept. 9, 1948 - Feb. 25, 2020



Roger A. Moriarty, 71, Mentone, passed away at 1:25 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020, at his residence.

Roger was born on Sept. 9, 1948, in Rochester to Lyndol Charles and Phyllis May (Reed) Moriarty.

He married Sandra Nelson on Aug. 24, 1968, at the Mentone United Methodist Church. She survives.

Roger was a 1966 graduate of Triton High School and later graduated from Indiana University of Fort Wayne with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and the International Business College of Fort Wayne with an associate degree in business. He was inducted into the Triton Hall of Fame in 2015 for basketball.

He was the owner of the Neighborhood Department Store and Moriarty Insurance and later started teaching. He taught special needs and in later years he was a very well-liked substitute teacher.

He was a member of the Mentone United Methodist Church where he had been the chair of the endowment committee. He had been a longtime member of and president of the Mentone Lions Club. He had also been the chair of the Mentone Bell Memorial Pub-

lic Library. In years past, Roger had been president of the chamber of commerce and the Mentone Youth League.

He began coaching golf at the junior high level in 1985 and had been in charge of both the girls and boys high school programs from 1989 to 2015. Rog boasted 500 wins to go with nine Three Rivers Conference championships. He has also had eight teams qualify for the regional and his 2000 boys team advanced to the state finals. He had coached more than 50 total seasons in 30 years which included golf and boys and girls basketball.

Roger was always a big supporter of his family and the community. He was always on the sidelines rooting and coaching. He was an avid Notre Dame fan and enjoyed golfing and fishing, especially in Minnesota. But most of all, he adored his grandchildren, and being Grandpa was his greatest job.

Survivors include his wife, Sandy Moriarty, Mentone; his son, Stephen and wife Jenny Moriarty, Rochester; his grandchildren, Molly, Grady and Charles; his sisters, Julia Ann and husband Gary Teel, Mentone, Marla Jo and husband Rodney Krefl, Tippecanoe, and Nikki Moriarty, Fort Wayne; his brothers, Patrick and wife Melissa Moriarty, Pickerington, Ohio, Timothy Moriarty, Fort Wayne, Kevin Moriarty, Fort Wayne, and Kirk and wife Tawana Moriarty, Fort Wayne; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Phyllis May and husband Bill Martin and Lyndol Charles and wife Fran Moriarty.

His funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 2, 2020, at King Memorial Home, 101 N. Tucker St., Mentone, with Pastor Jason Rice officiating. The burial will be in the Mentone Cemetery. Visitation hours will be from 1-6 p.m. Sunday, March 1, 2020, at King Memorial Home, Mentone.

Donations may be made in his memory to Mentone United Methodist Church. Family and friends may share a memory or send an online condolence at www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com.

Rochester Sentinel Feb 27 2020



## Donald Gary Prater

Donald Gary Prater, age 74, and a longtime resident of Warsaw, passed into eternal rest on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020, at 3:20 p.m. at his home.

The son of Virgle Preston Prater and Pearlie Adams Prater, he was born on Sept. 21, 1945, in Brainard, Ky. He was one of 10 children born to the pair and spent his formative years in Kentucky, moving to the Warsaw area in 1960.



A mechanic by trade, Don, as many knew him, was truly a Jack of all trades. He worked in automotive maintenance for many years, in salvage for Mike Gill and Clyde Gregory, was a licensed auctioneer and was the groundskeeper at the Kosciusko County Fairgrounds for many years. He raced stock cars at the Warsaw Speedway for many years and helped to run the track for several years. He was a fan of NASCAR, especially Dale Earnhardt, and of 1950s Chevys.

In his down time, Don liked to watch Westerns, particularly those with Roy Rogers. He was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan and enjoyed watching wrestling. A regular member of God's Highway to Heaven Church, Don was a loving, friendly man. He was also good at telling tales and could sell anything to nearly anyone.

On June 11, 1965, Donald Gary Prater was united in marriage to Judy Burk. Together they have shared nearly 55 years. Judy (Burk) Prater survives at home. Also surviving are their three children: daughter, Pam (Joe D. ) Crace, of Warsaw; son: Kelly (Jennifer) Prater, of Claypool; and daughter, Tammy (Carl) Kendrick, of Claypool; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and eight siblings: Juanita Shepherd, Cliff Prater, Geneva Prater, Mary Prater, Barb (Darrell) Prater, Arnold (Amy) Prater, Ron Prater and Phyllis (Greg) Varney.

In addition to his parents, those who received Don into heaven include his son, Donald Lee Prater; brother, Wilford Prater; brother-in-law, Nate Shepherd; and sisters-in-law, Jan Prater and Carol Prater.

A Life Celebration will be held at Warsaw's Titus Funeral Home, 2000 E. Sheridan St., where viewing will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26. A funeral which celebrates Don's life will be held in the funeral home on Thursday at 11 a.m., with Pastors Bob Brown and Mike Kelley officiating. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

Memorials to K21 Cancer Fund, P.O. Box 1810, Warsaw, IN 46581.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.TitusFuneralHome.com](http://www.TitusFuneralHome.com).

*Times Union  
Feb 25, 2020*



# OBITUARIES

## Charlotte Mason Slabaugh

BOURBON - Charlotte Mason Slabaugh, 91, of Etna Green, died on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, with family members by her side, after having lived her life to the fullest.



Born on June 4, 1928, to Ralph and Avis Iden Mason, she graduated as valedictorian from Etna Green High School in 1946 and married fellow classmate/sweetheart George Slabaugh four years later. As a young woman, Charlotte worked at the Etna Bank founded by her grandfather, Seth B. Iden. She and George raised five sons.

Together, the couple started a modular home business, Village Green Homes, which they operated for a number of years. Charlotte then started her antique dealership, Village Green Antiques, buying/selling merchandise at estate auctions, malls and shows in Northern and Central Indiana for many years.

Charlotte was a faithful member of the Etna Green Church of Christ, where she taught the Pairs and Spares Sunday school class, served in the Dorcas Missionary Society, played the organ in her younger years, and authored a history of the church.

One of her passions was hosting gatherings for family and friends, especially during the holidays. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, canning, euchre club, taking up golf later in life, bowling league (competing in state tournaments), attending Triton High School and Indiana University athletic events and car trips across the country with her three sisters: Anna Lindsey, Roena Williams and Christine Flint. In her spare time, Charlotte read novels and three daily newspapers.

She was active in clubs and organizations such as O.N.O. (Our Night Out); Lydia's Ladies; the Etna Green Museum, which she helped found; and the Tippecanoe River Wythougan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which recently honored her on its Tribute Wall as a charter member for her dedication to the chapter.

She is survived by three sons: Seth (Katie) Slabaugh, Muncie; Todd (Davi) Slabaugh, Etna Green; and Steven (Elizabeth) Slabaugh, Auburn; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews with whom she was very close.

Charlotte was preceded in death by her husband; two sons: Frank and Mark; three sisters; and three brothers: Lewis, Seth and Charles Mason.

Calling hours are 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at Deaton-Clemens Funeral Home, Bourbon, and on Thursday, Feb. 27 one hour before the funeral service at Etna Green Church of Christ. Pastor Jordan Ickes will officiate, starting at 11 a.m.

Deaton-Clemens Funeral Home is privileged to be entrusted in assisting the family with arrangements.

\*\*\*\*\*

Memorials may be made to the church at 206 W. Broadway St., Etna Green, IN 46524.

Friends are invited to sign the online guestbook and share memories with the family at [www.deatonclemensfh.com](http://www.deatonclemensfh.com).

Times Union  
Feb 25, 2020



# OBITUARIES

## Lexie Adkins Stephens

Lexie Adkins Stephens, a longtime resident of Pierceton, was called home into eternal rest on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020, at 9 p.m. Aged 90, she was living at Paddock Springs Healthcare at the time of her death. She was the matriarch of a large, loving family to whom she was known as "Granny."



Born as Lexie Grace Conn on Aug. 24, 1929, near Printer, Ky., Lexie was the daughter of Wilburn and Tennessee Hamilton Conn and one of 10 children. She was married to Randall Adkins on Nov. 8, 1947, though he preceded her in passing on Jan. 12, 1955. Later on Aug. 29, 1958, she was married to Robert Stephens; he too preceded her in passing on Dec. 5, 1988.

Granny enjoyed cooking and baking and is remembered for her large country breakfasts, her homemade desserts and her huge vegetable garden. She loved time spent with family, playing cards and visiting. She was an avid bingo, Rook and Euchre player. She was previously a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Pierceton.

Those who survive with memories to cherish include sons, Don (Dian) Adkins, of Pierceton; Danny (Vicky) Adkins, of Hunstville, Ala.; Ronnie Stephens, of Warsaw; Gary (Cecelia) Adkins, of Milford; Junior (Melanie) Stephens, of Warsaw; Joe (Beth) Stephens, of Claypool; daughters, Faye Campbell, of Warsaw; Cookie (Bill) Bryant, of Warsaw; Debra (Terry) Thompson, of Warsaw; Rita (Kenny) Elder, of Pierceton; Lena (Joe) Ball, of Burket; Tena (Brooks) Huffer, of Warsaw; and Belva Stephens, of Warsaw; daughter-in-law, Paula Adkins; brothers, Curtis Conn, David (Pat) Conn and Troy (Joan) Conn, all of Louisville; sisters, Eunice Samons, of Martin, Ky.; Marceline Hyden, of Louisville; and Linda (Sherman) Martin, of Louisville. Also surviving are 49 grandchildren, 96 great-grandchildren, 18 great-great-grandchildren and an honorary son, Sam (Judy) Lambert, of Baxter, Tenn.

In addition to two husbands, the following preceded her in passing: sons, Dean Adkins and Ray Stephens; daughters, Okie Baker and twin infants Sharon and Karen; grandchildren, Stacy Bryant and Mark Sexton; sisters, Loretta Risner, Rose Hyden and Joan Lafferty; and her parents.

Granny's Life Celebration® is planned with Titus Funeral Home, 2000 E. Sheridan St., Warsaw, where visitors may gather on Friday, Feb. 28 from 2 to 8 p.m. On Saturday, Feb. 29, a funeral which celebrates her life will be held at Warsaw Family Worship Center, 1250 Husky Trail, Warsaw, beginning at 10 a.m. with gathering for one hour prior. Pastor William Whitaker will officiate with burial following in Hillcrest Cemetery, Pierceton.

\*\*\*\*\*

Memorials to Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana, PO Box 13611, Fort Wayne, IN 46865; or to Night to Shine Prom c/o Warsaw Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 210 S. High St., Warsaw, IN 46580.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.TitusFuneralHome.com](http://www.TitusFuneralHome.com).

*Times Union  
Feb 26, 2020*



### Betty Ford Tully

Betty Ford Tully, age 95, and a long-time area resident, passed away quietly on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, in Paddock Springs Healthcare, Warsaw.

Born on Oct. 21, 1924, in Wabash, she was the daughter of the late Noah Carrolton Morrison and the late Erba Rae Beigh Morrison. She graduated from Claypool High School and attended Manchester College and was married to Victor Dean Ford on Dec. 13, 1943.



Together the pair would share more than 60 years before his 2003 passing.

Betty was a kind, giving person. She had a servant's heart, and this showed in everything she undertook. She was active in the Salvation Army Auxiliary for many years and a member of the Red Hat Society. She was also a longtime member of Claypool United Methodist Church, was active in United Methodist Women and the Jolly Homemaker's Club

Betty was rarely seen without a smile, but she could also be witty and loved to laugh. Time spent with family was precious to her and she loved cooking for them, hosting them at holidays and family gatherings. True to her helpful, caring ways, she was always sure that everyone ate before she would sit down. She liked to keep busy and always had things to do. Professionally, she was the secretary of Claypool School for 23 years.

Fondly remembered by many, Betty's family includes son, Jim (Debra) Ford, of Mansfield, Ohio; daughter, Julie (Stuart) Watkins, of Claypool; and seven grandchildren: Lisa (Craig Charlton) Hay, of Leesburg; Lori Method, of Warsaw; Cassandra (Kyle) Newcomer, of Cardington, Ohio; Cristen (Drew) Gilbert, of Lexington, Ohio; Kyle (Elissa) Ford, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Chase (Alex Pegg) Watkins, of Greensboro, N.C.; and Evan (Ally) Watkins, of Warsaw. Also surviving are eight great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and two stepdaughters.

She was preceded in passing by her first husband, Victor Dean Ford; second husband, Claude Tully; daughter, Vickie Rae Ford Shoemaker; and a brother, Robert Earl Morrison.

A Life Celebration® is planned at Claypool United Methodist Church, 302 E. Section St., Claypool, on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. with doors open for one hour prior. Friends may gather Monday, Feb. 24 at Titus Funeral Home, 2000 E. Sheridan St., Warsaw, from 4 to 7 p.m. Burial will follow in Graceland Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

Memorials to Kosciusko Home Care and Hospice, P.O. Box 1196 Warsaw, IN 46581-1196; or to the Salvation Army.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.TitusFuneralHome.com](http://www.TitusFuneralHome.com).

*Times Union  
Feb 22/23, 2020*

at  
ar  
m  
ve  
Si  
ve  
se  
ti  
H  
is  
to  
if  
re  
e  
S  
C  
S  
s  
a  
s  
v  
r  
v  
h  
2  
P  
o  
t  
v  
T  
r  
C  
e  
v  
2

Times Union  
Feb 26 1 20 20

### Deanna Kay Grubbs Wilson

Deanna Kay Grubbs Wilson, 81, of Warsaw and formerly of Mentone, passed at 2:54 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, at her residence.

Deanna was born on Nov. 22, 1938, in Warsaw, to the late Herschel J. and Elsie E. Mathy Grubbs. She was married on Feb. 25 1995, in the Calvary Lutheran Church of Plymouth, to William D. Wilson; he survives.



She was a 1956 graduate of Mentone High School and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vincennes University. During her life, she worked for several companies in Warsaw, which included Sun Metal as a receptionist and Star Staffing as office manager.

Deanna enjoyed traveling from Florida to west and south Texas. She loved to show her quarter horse at shows and was an active member of the Quarter Horse Association.

She was a selfless woman who loved God and was a supporter of several Indian schools and animal rescue organizations. She was a member of the St. Anne Episcopal Church of Warsaw.

She is survived by her husband, William Wilson, of Warsaw.

Deanna was preceded in death by her parents, Herschel J. and Elsie E. Grubbs.

A memorial service held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27 in the St. Anne Episcopal Church, 424 W. Market St., Warsaw, with the Rev. Ryan Fischer officiating.

The final remembrance place will be in the Harrison Center Cemetery (Wooden) Etna Green.

\*\*\*\*\*

Memorials to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Ave., 16th Floor New York, NY 10001; or the National Pancreas Foundation and mail it to 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 700, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Share a memory or send an online condolence at [www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com](http://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com).



*Rochester Sentinel  
Feb 26, 2020*

**James O. Unzicker**

James O. Unzicker, 80, rural Claypool, died Monday at home.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Unzicker, Claypool; his daughters, Laura Silver, Mint

Hill, N.C., Sonya Galloway, Caledonia, Mich., and Tami Cameron, Matthews, N.C.; his sister, Barbara Eaton, Spring Lake, Fla.; and his brother, Bill Unzicker, Holland, Mich.

His funeral service will be at 3 p.m. Friday at King Memorial Home, 101 N. Tucker St., Mentone. Visitation is 2 p.m. to the time of the service Friday at the funeral home.



Printed at  
1700  
1977  
1977  
1977

### James O. Unzicker

May 16, 1939 - Feb. 24, 2020



James O. Unzicker, 80, rural Claypool, passed away at 8:25 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, at his residence.

Jim was born on May 16, 1939, in Brook to the late William P. and Melissa T. E. (Beschoner) Unzicker.

He married Mary F. Ladson on Nov. 18, 1961, at the First Baptist Church of Mentone. She survives.

He had been a grain and livestock farmer. He had worked from 1960-1974 as a bindery operator at R.R. Donnelley, Warsaw.

He was a 1957 graduate of Mentone High School. Jim was a member of the First Baptist Church of Mentone where he had served as deacon, song leader and Sunday school teacher. He had been on the Production Credit and Federal Land Bank Association boards. He enjoyed annually attending the Na-

tional Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky. His choice of machinery was always John Deere.

He also loved swimming, golf, and bowling. In earlier years, he also played basketball and football.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Unzicker, Claypool; his daughters, Laura and husband Bobby Silver, Mint Hill, N.C., Sonya and husband

Spence Galloway, Caledonia, Mich., and Tami and husband Scott Cameron, Matthews, N.C.; his grandchildren, Jeffrey and wife Jennie, Hannah, Lydia, Abigail, Carson and wife Meghann, Kendall and husband Zach, Jordan, Asher, Bella and Alma James; his great-granddaughter, Autumn; his sister, Barbara and

husband Jerry Eaton, Spring Lake, Fla.; and his brother, Bill and wife Sarah Unzicker, Holland, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son Robert Allan Unzicker in 1988; and sisters Rhoda, Betty, Luann and Alice.

His funeral service will be at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, at King Memorial Home, 101 N. Tucker St., Mentone, with Pastor Michael Willhite and Pastor Scott Cameron officiating. The burial will be in the Sycamore Cemetery, Mentone. Visitation hours will be from 2-3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, at King Memorial Home, Mentone. Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to Gideons International. Family and friends may share a memory or send an online condolence at [www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com](http://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com).

He also was a member of the Mentone Bell Memorial Pub-