LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Carol L. Beers

POLO — Carol L. Beers, 76, of Polo, IL, passed away Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the Polo Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

Carol was born December 26, 1946, in Sterling, IL, the daughter of Russell and Dorothy Shuman.

Carol worked for Imeco in Polo for many years until closing. She then went to work at Polo Rehabilitation and Healthcare doing what she loved to do, help others. Carol enjoyed being with family and friends going camping, spending time at the river and keeping up with her grandchildren's sports and activities throughout the years.

Survivors include sons Daryl (Sherri) Beers of Polo and Jeff Beers of Texas; sister Patty Hokanson of Port Byron, IL and sister-in-law Arletta Shuman of Sterling; brothers Jim (Diane) Shuman of Oregon, Ron Shuman of Polo and Jody Shuman of Polo; five grandchildren Megan, Dylan, Ally, Adam and Josie Beers and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her Parents; sister Judy Kitzmiller; brother Harry Shuman; sister-in-law Beverly Shuman.

A celebration of her life will be Wednesday June 7, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Polo Family Funeral Home, 110 E. Dixon St., Polo.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established her name.

Visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.

Paul 'Ladd' F. Behan, Jr.

OREGON – Paul "Ladd" F. Behan, Jr., age 69, went to his heavenly home after a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford, IL.

He was born August 19, 1953, in Elgin, Illinois the son of Paul and Laura (Blazer) Behan. He worked over 35 years at White Pines State Park near Oregon.

Paul loved spending time with family, making people laugh with his silly personality, gardening, golf, dogs, and vacationing at Disney World. Paul maintained a positive outlook, a witty sense of humor, and a stubborn streak throughout his cancer diagnosis.

Paul touched many souls in his lifetime; he will be greatly missed.

He was predeceased by his parents.

Paul is survived by his children Kandi Behan of Madison, Wisconsin and Michael Behan of Austin, Texas, grandson Kaden Stumpf, and sister Katherine Behan of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A Christian Funeral Mass will be held 11:00AM, Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oregon, Illinois with the Rev. Joseph Naill officiating. Burial will be at the St. Mary's Cemetery near Oregon, IL.

A memorial fund is established in Paul's name and may be directed to his family.

Family would appreciate your memories of Paul and condolences at www.farrellhollandgale.com

Michael 'Mike' L. Bowlin

POLO — Michael "Mike" L. Bowlin, 67, of Polo, passed away peacefully with family by his side on Sunday, May 14, 2023 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, IL.

Mike was born on September 11, 1955 in DeKalb, IL, the son of Reece & Betty (Short) Bowlin. He grew up in Forreston and Polo with his best friend and brother, Larry. He graduated from Polo Community High School in 1973. He had two beautiful daughters, Angie and Kayla, with his former spouse Christy who remained a co-parent and friend.

He was an avid baseball player and excelled at pitching, even receiving opportunities to be scouted by minor league baseball scouts. Along with baseball, he enjoyed playing in various men's softball leagues where he made countless friends.

Throughout his life, Mike held many jobs that he loved including working for McKean Masonry where he earned the nickname "Bones", Imeco/York International, and most recently PCI Pharma Services in Rockford where he worked up until his cancer diagnosis. Mike was known for his great sense of humor, his love for Stevie Ray Vaughn and the St. Louis Cardinals, and most importantly his undeniable pride and love for his girls whom he referred to as Sweetie and Goof.

Mike is survived by his daughters, Angie Bowlin and Kayla (Zach Quaco) Bowlin of Polo; mother of his girls and lifelong friend, Christy Bowlin of Polo; grandpup, Oakley; nieces, Meghan Bowlin and Haleigh (Justin) Thibault and great nephew, Camden Thibault all of Blue Springs, MO; special aunts, Irene Short of Polo and Linda (Pete) Meyer of Adeline; uncle, Homer (Glenna) Bowlin of Morristown, TN; as well as numerous beloved extended family members including those from his previous marriage; and many friends from all walks of life.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; parents; brother, Larry Bowlin; uncle, David Short Sr.; as well as numerous beloved extended family members including those from his previous marriage.

The family would like to give a special "thanks" to Serenity Hospice and Home. The staff there is incredible and their dedication and compassion during such a difficult time never went unnoticed.

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, June 2, 2023, from 5:00-7:00pm at Polo Family Funeral Home, 110 E. Dixon St., Polo. A short graveside service will follow on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at 10:00am at Fairmount Cemetery in Polo, where he will be laid to rest with his parents.

To send condolences please visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com

Betty J. Brunner

OREGON — Betty J. Brunner, 91, passed away peacefully at Allure of Pinecrest Nursing Home in Mt. Morris on May 23, 2023. She was born in Oregon, IL on August 4, 1931 the daughter of Rossell and Grace (Buhs) Brunner. She lived her entire life in Oregon. She graduated from Oregon High School in 1949 but never really left as she was secretary to the principal and superintendent until she retired in 1993. She was also the Sunday school secretary for the Oregon United Methodist Church. She loved sewing, quilting, handcrafts and her family and friends. Her family sincerely thank her devoted friends who sustained our precious "B" in her golden years, Shirley Mains and Sandy Sullivan.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents Rossell and Grace (Buhs) Brunner; baby sister Ruth Elizabeth Brunner; and her sweetheart Dick Krizan.

She is survived by her brother Roger Brunner or Oregon; Nephew Kenneth Brunner (Kathy) of Oklahoma; Niece Cynthia Fegter of Florida; great nephew Noah Fegter (Melanie); great niece Amber Fegter; great-great nieces Lindley and Natayln Fegter; and many cousins.

A private Graveside service will be held on Friday, May 26th, 2023. A public Celebration of Life will take place in her honor at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Oregon, IL on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The family is also going to be setting up a scholarship fund in Betty's name to be awarded to a worthy Oregon High School Graduate next year. Please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com for upcoming details regarding the Betty J. Brunner Scholarship fund. You may also leave an online condolence at the funeral home website.

Alice J. Keller

DAVIS JUNCTION — Alice J. Keller, 75, of Davis Junction passed away Saturday, May 20, 2023, at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, IL. She was born January 31, 1948, in DeKalb and was the daughter of Walter and Bertha (Riippi) Huhta.

Alice graduated from DeKalb High School in 1966. She worked in the cost accounting office of Swenson Spreader in Lindenwood, IL. She was an avid reader, loved TV, keeping in touch with friends and spending time with family.

Her survivors include; daughter; Donna Keller of Davis Junction, IL, son; Alex (Mahia) Keller of West Lafayette, IN. Grandchildren; Matias Keller, Kayler Yoxtheimer, Kamee Yoxtheimer. Great grandchild; Isabella Howard. Brother; Harry Huhta and nephews; Hans, Joel and Kirk Huhta. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Daniel, sister Kathleen, sister-in-law Sue and father of children Donnie Keller.

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 10:30am at Finch Funeral Home in DeKalb with Pastor Bob Hansen officiating. Burial will be immediately following the service at Fairview Park Cemetery in DeKalb. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 9:30am until the time of service at the funeral home. Memorials can be made to the family to be established at a later date.

Arrangements were entrusted to Finch Funeral Home 310 Oak St. DeKalb, IL 60115 815-758-3841.

Bonnie (Murray) Merrill

Bonnie (Murray) Merrill passed away May 20, 2023 due to multiple years of COPD and most recent bout of lung and adrenal gland cancer.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her older brother Ken Murray, her father and mother Marvin and June Murray and many uncles, including her most recent lost, Jim Daugherty, who she loved very much, and many aunts, grandparents and many of her friends. Bonnie is and will always be missed by all who knew her. Bonnie loved her home, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and loved her soulmate and best friend, her husband, for sharing 53 years together up or down, good and bad.

We all thank her for being a great person to everybody and especially a one-of-a-kind wife, who I miss deeply. You will never be forgotten.

-Your husband.

Eden, Carlson awarded St. Paul Lutheran Church scholarships

Since 1996 St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oregon has been disbursing interest earned through their endowment fund investments. This year the recipients are Miss Carly's in Rockford, St. Elias Christian Church in Chicago, Come Go with Us (a Christian mission organization in Zambia) and our high school senior scholarship recipients, Levi Eden and Lauren Carlson. Pictured are Eden and Carlson receiving their checks from Sandy Strohecker, chairman of the endowment fund.

ADVERTISING DISCLAIMER

Advertisers please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes, notify us immediately. We will make changes for errors made on our part and we will adjust bills accordingly, but only provided we receive notice immediately following the first time the ad appears. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper, which also reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser, and not this newspaper, is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval, and may be refused at any time for any reason.

The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

USPS (004-083) ISSN (1045-3059)

Published every Monday by Rochelle Newspapers, Inc. at 211 Hwy. 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068-1183. Subscriptions in our service area are free on a requester basis. Periodicals Postage Rates paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper, P.O. Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068-9801. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have carrier delivery and your paper fails to arrive by 7 p.m. on Monday, telephone our office at 732-2156, if your paper fails to arrive by mail telephone our circulation office at 562-4171, ext. 112. For subscriptions, call the LIFE office at 815-732-2156.

Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Oregon Police, Byron Police, Polo Police, Mt. Morris Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception.

Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.