

# OBITUARIES/NEWS

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## INDIANAPOLIS

### Peggy Ann Bixler

Memorial services for Peggy Ann Bixler will be conducted at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Southern Dunes, 8220 S. Tibbs Ave., in Indianapolis.

Peggy was born on March 30, 1924, to Lena Harsin and Edwin J. Zintel in Indianapolis, where she lived for 81 years.

Devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Peggy Ann Bixler passed away Sunday, Jan. 29, 2006.

After a short career as a map maker during World War II, she was married for 54 years to south-side dairy farmer and commercial developer George M. Bixler Jr., who preceded her in death.

Loved by all, she gave much to friends, church and charities, but the greatest gifts were to her family as a good listener and loyal advocate. As a seamstress, painter, antique collector and gourmet cook, she inspired her children to love the arts. Her spiritual foundation and joy of life touched all who knew her.

Peggy was a lifelong member of the Sixth Church of Christ Scientist.

Many fun-loving hours were spent on Sanibel Island, Fla., as she and George made wonderful memories for their children and grandchildren. Her infectious smile and love of life will long be remembered by family, friends and acquaintances.

She is survived by daughters, Becky Higbie, Cindy Bixler Borgmann and Kelli Bixler; son-in-laws Ed Higbie, Lou Borgmann and Dan Rushing; and grandchildren, Holly Higbie, Mike Higbie, Todd Borgmann and Brittani Borgmann. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Betty Sickafoose and Martha Jane Reed.

Memorials may be made to the Sixth Church of Christ Scientist, 7625 McFarland Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

Wilson St. Pierre Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, is handling arrangements.

## INDIANAPOLIS

### John L. Carlstrom

John L. Carlstrom, 99, died Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include two daughters, Barbara Luckey of Indianapolis, Beverly Joan (Richard) Connell of Dunnellon, Fla.; a son, John David Carlstrom of Tucson, Ariz.; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Linnea (Haglund) Carlstrom; and his parents, John and Charlotte (Sodren) Carlstrom.

A memorial service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday at Friedens United Church of Christ, 8300 S. Meridian St. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 10 a.m. until service time Friday at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Friedens United Church of Christ, 8300 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46217.

## INDIANAPOLIS

### Suzan C. 'Suzy' Clair

Suzan C. "Suzy" Clair, 53, of Indianapolis, passed away Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006.

Suzy was born July 14, 1952, in Indianapolis to Erma C. Francis and Jack L. Whitaker Sr. She married Ernest R. Clair on March 5, 1982, in Greenwood. He survives. Other survivors include two sons, Daniel D. Hawkins III and Christopher E. Hawkins, both of Greenwood; three stepchildren, Darlene S. Halcomb of Indianapolis, Ernest R. Clair Jr. of Greenwood, and Eric K. Clair of Tell City; four brothers, Jack L. Whitaker Jr. of Indianapolis, Glen R. Wines of Indianapolis, Edward G. Bridges Jr. of Greenwood and Richard A. Francis of Greenwood; three sisters, Diana F. Whitaker, Margie J. Vandiver and Mary J. Francis, all of Greenwood; a grandson, Timothy W. Hawkins; five stepgrandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother, Erma C. Francis; and two brothers, Thomas and Timothy Francis.

Suzy attended Southport High School and received her bachelor's degree in accounting from Clark Business College.

## Franklin

Jack 'Pat' Patterson, 70  
Leah Jean Whitaker, 89

### Providence

Michael Denning Miller, 64

### Johnson County

George A. Sutton, 56

### Indianapolis

Peggy Ann Bixler

John L. Carlstrom, 99

Suzan C. 'Suzy' Clair, 53

### Elsewhere

W. Milburn Dougherty, 89

Harold Floyd McMurray, 84

She was employed for 24 years at Indiana State Division of Child Support.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday at Special Occasions Banquet Hall, 4300 S. Meridian St. in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, c/o breast cancer research, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

## ACTON

### W. Milburn Dougherty

W. Milburn Dougherty, 89, formerly of Acton, died Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, in Greentown.

He was born Nov. 11, 1916, in Marion County, the son of Harry and Vannie (Wicker) Dougherty. On Feb. 24, 1940, he married Helena (Perry) Dougherty in Madison.

Milburn graduated from Clark Township High School.

He worked for the railroad in Beech Grove, at Eli Lilly and Co., and retired from General Electric in Shelbyville in 1979 after 23 years of service.

He was a member of Acton Baptist Church and a life member of Pleasant Lodge No. 134 in Acton.

He loved music, traveling, boating on the Ohio River, gardening and tinkering in his garage.

He is survived by his wife, Helena, of Kokomo; a daughter, Karen and her husband Emmett Herr of Greentown; two sons, Phil Dougherty and fiancée Donna Amthauer of Kokomo and Michael and wife Debbie Dougherty of Mooresville; a sister, Helen McClellan of Indianapolis; a brother, Norman Dougherty and wife Lois of Indianapolis; and eight grandchildren, Dr. Steven and wife Deanna Herr, Kevin and wife Tracy Herr, Melissa and husband Jeff Kremer, Mark and wife Beth Dougherty, Michael Dougherty, Kelly and husband Paul Watson, Bryan Dougherty and Travis Dougherty; and seven great-grandchildren, Brad and Megan Herr, Quintin, Nathan and Kaylyn Herr, Jayla Kremer and Declan Watson. Milburn was preceded in death by his parents and a sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and Howard Clark.

The Rev. Robert Wyrick will conduct a service at 2 p.m. Friday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service and Crematory, Stirling Gerber Chapel, 5950 E. Thompson Road, in Indianapolis. Burial will follow in Acton Cemetery. Friends may call 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Acton Baptist Church, 11039 Exchange St., Indianapolis, IN 46259.

## AVON

### Harold Floyd McMurray

Harold Floyd McMurray, 84, died Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, at Clarian West Medical Center in Avon. He was a resident of Avon.

Survivors include two daughters, Carolyn (Charlie) Love and Melia (Doyle) Baum; a son, Michael McMurray; three sisters, Rosemary (Floyd) Richardson, Janet Newlin and Linda (John) Fuchs; a special friend, Eva Thompson; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Juanita McMurray; and his parents, Chester L. McMurray and Dorris B. Thompson.

A funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at Conkle Funeral Home, Avon Chapel, 76 N. State Road 267. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Entombment will be at Maple Hill Cemetery in Plainfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hendricks County 4-H

Fairgrounds, 955 E. Main St., Danville, IN 46122; or Mark Fuchs Scholarship Fund, c/o Garfield Park United Church of Christ, 743 E. Pleasant Run Parkway S. Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46203.

## PROVIDENCE

### Michael Denning Miller

Michael Denning Miller, 64, of Providence, went to meet our Lord on Monday, Jan. 30, 2006.

Left to mourn is a son, Mark Andrew Miller of Franklin; daughter, April Farris of Iowa; brother, Steve Miller and family, of Morgantown; four grandsons; and numerous friends. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Bob and Opal (Denning) Miller.

Mike was a lifelong resident of Union Township. He graduated from Union High School in 1960.

He contributed much to his community through his active role in Providence Christian Church and Union Village Masonic Lodge. Upon his retirement from Arvin Automotive after 30 years of service, he donated much time to the Johnson County Museum and Historical Society. He was also on the Union Township Advisory Board.

The Rev. Steve Sorenson will conduct a memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at Providence Christian Church. Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home in Franklin is handling arrangements.

The family wishes to have memorial contributions be made in lieu of flowers to Providence Christian Church, in memory of Mike Miller, 4080 W. County Road 100N, Bargersville, IN 46106.

Information: www.flinn maguire.com

## FRANKLIN

### Jack 'Pat' Patterson

Jack "Pat" Patterson, 70, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2006, in Indianapolis. He was a resident of Franklin.

He was born Aug. 9, 1935, in Johnson County. His parents were Merrill C. and Eleanor (Henderson) Patterson. He married Joella (Boyer) Patterson on July 18, 1959, in Milroy. She survives. Other survivors include a son, David J. Patterson of Sparland, Ill.; a daughter, Diane L. Patterson of Nineveh; a grandchild, Kristina Cundiff of Nineveh; and a sister, Susan R. Adams of Whiteland.

He was a graduate of Clark High School and attended Franklin College.

Mr. Patterson recently retired from Reeves Buick-Pontiac in Greenwood. He previously was parts manager at Wiese, Berger and Woods Buick-Pontiac dealerships in Franklin.

He was a member of the Central Indiana Old Car Club. He previously served on the Johnson County Fair Board and was leader of the 4-H tractor maintenance club for 20 years. He was a frequent donor of blood platelets.

A memorial service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service, Vandivier-Tudor Chapel, 951 N. Main St. in Franklin. A memorial visitation will be conducted from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Indiana Blood Center, 3450 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208; or to the Indiana 4-H Foundation, 225 S. East St., No. 760, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Online condolences may be sent to the Patterson family at www.wilsonst pierre.com.

## JOHNSON COUNTY

### George A. Sutton

George A. Sutton, 56, Johnson County, passed away Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, in Indianapolis.

He was born Aug. 3, 1949, in Glasgow, Ky., to the late James

Earl and W. Ethel (Huff) Sutton. He married Kathy Stillwell on Sept. 18, 1966.

She survives. Other survivors include two sons, David C. (Wendy) Sutton and Allen W. (Margie) Sutton; one daughter, Melissa S. (David) Johnson; two brothers, James Earl Sutton and Dennis "Red" Sutton; two sisters, Mary Sizemore and Frances "Dicey"; nine grandchildren, Justin A. Sutton, David C. Sutton, Vanessa S. Johnson, Rachele L. Sutton, Haven E. Sutton, David R. Johnson Jr., George A. Sutton, Connor A. Sutton and Dylan A. Johnson.

Mr. Sutton owned Bob's Auto Sales.

He also was a member of Trinity Fellowship Church of God, where he served as a senior elder. He also was the treasurer and an adult Bible teacher at the church.

He was an avid racer for more than 30 years in the late-model division at the Indianapolis Speedrome and was an avid hunter. George was the best husband, father and grandfather.

Services will be conducted at 1 p.m. today at Trinity Fellowship Church of God, 440 St. Peter St. in Indianapolis, with calling there from 11:30 a.m. until service time. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to American Brain Tumor Association, 2720 River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

Online condolences may be made to the Sutton family at www.wilsonst pierre.com.

## FRANKLIN

### Leah Jean (Schafer) Whitaker

Leah Jean (Schafer) Whitaker, 89, passed away Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, in Vincennes. She was a longtime resident of Franklin.

She was born Nov. 7, 1916, in Franklin to the late Watts Andrew and Nelle Belle (LaGrange) Schafer. She married Herbert R. Whitaker on March 1, 1941, in Franklin. He preceded her in passing in 1971. Survivors include two sons, Michael Whitaker of Alachua, Fla., and Stephen Whitaker of Vincennes; two stepgrandchildren; and four great-stepgrandchildren. She was preceded in passing by one sister, Catheryn Service.

Jean attended Franklin College and was a 1939 graduate of the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing.

She was a registered nurse at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis for several years. Later she worked for Dr. Harry Murphy for several years. She then was employed by the Johnson County Auditor's Office as a deputy auditor for 26 years.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Pi Beta Phi and Kappa Kappa Kappa.

The Rev. Peter Jessen will conduct a graveside service at 10 a.m. Saturday at Greenwood Cemetery. Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home, 2898 N. Morton St. in Franklin. Burial will be at Greenwood Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shrine Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607-1460.

Information: www.flinn maguire.com

## Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary.

The custom obituaries on this page have been paid for.



Bobby Blalock, a worker at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, rearranges flowers left at the tomb of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in memory of his widow, Coretta Scott King, in Atlanta on Wednesday. Coretta King died Tuesday.

# Civil rights leaders want to keep focus on present, not past

## Advocates say recent deaths of King, Parks causing historical shift

By ERIN TEXEIRA

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amid their grief over the death of Coretta Scott King, black advocates say that her passing underscores a growing concern: As the movement's iconic leaders fade into history, much of the focus is on honoring the past rather than pushing for equality today.

"We will now celebrate Coretta Scott King as though the civil rights movement is finished ... but the work is not done," said NAACP president Bruce Gordon.

Social justice activists all said it's important to remember King for the decades of work she devoted to keeping alive her husband's push for equality through nonviolence. That work continued until her death Tuesday following a string of serious health problems.

But there's also a sense among advocates that modern activism is being overshadowed by a near-constant string of commemorations for bygone victories: the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education in 2004 and, last year, the 40 years since the historic march from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery, Ala., to win voting rights for African-Americans.

Inevitably, such remembrances intensify in the first months of each year with the mid-January holiday for Martin Luther King Jr. that his widow fought to win and with Black History Month, which

began Wednesday. In addition, each time an important civil rights figure dies, be it Rosa Parks or now Coretta Scott King, it renews the focus on the movement's history.

Some advocates are concerned about that eagerness to look back.

"Part of that over-focusing on history and not looking at current realities of racial discrimination is another form of denial," said Barbara Arnwine, executive director of the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights Under Law. "Many people find comfort in the notion that racial discrimination is a matter of the past — it's 'Oh, look at how far we have come.'"

Ronald Walters, a professor of political science at the University of Maryland, said he's also suspicious of commemorations.

"In some quarters, there's a feeling that the movement has passed its course," he said. "That's the reaction of the younger generation ... the post-civil rights generation."

Advocates note that it doesn't take much searching to find social justice battles left to fight. Hurricane Katrina unveiled stark racial disparities, and blacks still have more than double the rates of infant mortality, unemployment and poverty as whites, Gordon said.

Many mourned King's death even as they worried about how to keep her mission alive.

"I'm concerned that people don't take her passing as an opportunity to further antique the causes that she and her husband and others stood for," said Theodore M. Shaw, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Anybody who thinks that work is over is either terribly ignorant or willfully blind."

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DAILY JOURNAL

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Mother,  
Grandmother, & Great Grandmother

## DOROTHY MAE HUDSON (NENEE)

May 16, 1924 - Feb. 2, 2005

It's been one year since your accident and God called you home. Not a day goes by when you are not in our thoughts and prayers.

We have heartaches and often tears, but good memories of the time you were here.

Sadly missed but always loved!

Daughter, Patricia Backer & Jerry  
Son, Bruce Piercy & Yueh

Grandchildren  
Angela, John, Jim, Henry, Angie & Gabe

Great Grandchildren  
Lauren, Kelsi, Morgan, Nicholas,  
Daniel, Drew, Emily, Blake & Ashley

