

# NEWS/OBITUARIES

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## Deaths from cancer make historic drop

### Rates of disease in United States fall for first time in seven decades

By MIKE STOBBE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### ATLANTA

For the first time in more than 70 years, annual cancer deaths in the United States have fallen, a turning point in the war on cancer likely achieved by declines in smoking and better tumor detection and treatment.

The number of cancer deaths dropped to 556,902 in 2003, down from 557,271 the year before, according to a recently completed review of U.S. death certificates by the National Center for Health Statistics.

"Even though it's a small amount, it's an important milestone," said Dr. Michael Thun, who directs epidemiological research for the American Cancer Society.

It's the first annual decrease in total cancer deaths since 1930, according to a cancer society analysis of federal death data.

For more than a decade, health statisticians have charted annual drops of about 1 percent in the cancer death rate, the calculated number of deaths per 100,000 people. But the actual number of cancer deaths still rose each year because the growth in total population outpaced the falling death rates.

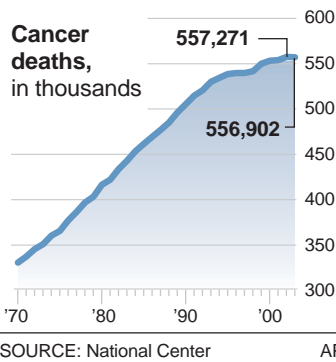
"Finally, the declining rates have surpassed the increasing size of the population," said Rebecca Siegel, a Cancer Society epidemiologist.

Experts are attributing the success to declines in smoking and the earlier detection and more effective treatment of tumors. Death rates have fallen for lung, breast, prostate and colorectal cancer, according to American Cancer Society officials, who analyzed the federal death data.

Those are the four most common cancers, which together account for 51 percent of all U.S. cancer deaths.

### Fewer dying from cancer

For the first time since 1930, annual U.S. cancer deaths have decreased. Experts attribute the success to declines in smoking and the earlier detection and treatment of tumors.



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics

The breast cancer death rate has been dropping about 2 percent annually since 1990, a decline attributed to earlier detection and better treatment. The colon and rectum cancer death rate, shrinking by 2 percent each year since 1984, is also attributed to better screening. The prostate cancer death rate has been declining 4 percent annually since 1994, though the reasons for that are still being studied.

The lung cancer death rate for men, dropping about 2 percent a year since 1991, is because of reductions in smoking. The lung cancer death rate for women, however, has held steady, a sign that reflects a lag in the epidemic among women, who took up smoking later.

The total number of cancer deaths among women actually rose by 409 from 2002 to 2003. Among men, deaths fell by 778, resulting in a net decrease of 369 total cancer deaths.

## Study casts doubt on herbal remedy for enlarged prostate

By STEPHANIE NANO  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### NEW YORK

A popular herbal pill used by millions of men doesn't reduce the frequent urge to go to the bathroom or other annoying symptoms of an enlarged prostate, a rigorous new study concludes.

The yearlong research found the plant extract, saw palmetto, was no more effective than dummy capsules in easing symptoms for the 225 men in the study. The results contrast with previous research that showed it helped.

"This certainly sheds some doubt on whether the product's effective and suggests that it might not work," said the lead researcher, Dr. Stephen Bent, of the San Francisco VA Medical Center. More than 2 million American men take the herb to treat an enlarged prostate and it is widely used in Europe, the researchers said. Until their results are confirmed, men who take saw palmetto and feel it works should probably keep using it, Bent said.

The findings are published in today's New England Journal of Medicine.

The prostate is a walnut-sized

gland that surrounds the urethra, the tube that carries urine from the bladder. Benign enlargement is a common condition as men age, and it causes problems with urination. This condition has nothing to do with prostate cancer.

The saw palmetto is a small palm native to the southeastern United States. The extract comes from its olive-size berries and is sold over-the-counter in capsule form.

It is the third-highest-selling herbal dietary supplement in the United States, after garlic and echinacea, according to the American Botanical Council. Unlike prescription drugs, dietary supplements do not need government approval.

#### INDIANAPOLIS

##### Arthur F. Culmann

Arthur F. Culmann, 75, died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include two sons, Carl and Don Culmann; a daughter, Barbara Carnes; and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Frieda Culmann; and his wife, Jacqueline I. "Jackie" Culmann.

A service will be conducted at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at G.H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home, 5141 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home, with a Masonic service at 7 p.m. Entombment will be at Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to Indiana Masonic Home Foundation, P.O. Box 44210, 525 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, IN 46244.

#### GREENWOOD

##### Curtis Ronald Harris

Curtis Ronald Harris, 65, of Greenwood, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006, after a lengthy illness.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; son, Jason Curtis Harris (Beth) of Morgantown; two grandchildren, Curtis Cole and Alison Ann Harris of Morgantown; and a sister, Rebecca (Dan) Nichols of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Ron was born July 2, 1940, in Indianapolis, to Shelby Curtis and Naomi R. Harris. His father preceded him in death. His mother survives in Greenwood.

Ron graduated from Southport High School and served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Korea. He was a self-employed paint contractor and member of Emmanuel Church of Greenwood. He enjoyed singing in the choir, hunting, fishing, playing cards and bowling. Most of all, he enjoyed his grandson and granddaughter, great-nieces and -nephews.

A funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday at Jessen Funeral Home, 729 U.S. 31 North in Whiteland. Visiting hours will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Francis Hospice Care, 438 S. Emerson Ave., Greenwood, IN 46142.

#### WHITELAND

##### Kenneth Ray Lawrence

Kenneth Ray Lawrence, 61, Whiteland, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006.

Kenneth was born July 30, 1944, in Beech Grove, the son of Elza Roscoe Lawrence and Mary Frances (Cunningham) Lawrence Turner.

Kenneth was a graduate of Ben Davis High School in 1964 and Purdue University in 1975. He married Evelyn (Collicott) Lawrence on Sept. 8, 1968, and she survives.

Other survivors include a sister, Willadean "Dee" Hudson of Indianapolis; three sons, David Edward Lawrence of Florida, Keith Andrew Lawrence of Whiteland and Tracy Alan Lawrence of Bridgman, Mich.; and a granddaughter, LeAnna "Little Fox" Malaterre of Indianapolis. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Margaret Kitts; and his stepfather, Norman Dale Turner.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1968 and retired as a master sergeant from the U.S. Air Force in 1998. He was a veteran of the Gulf War.

He was employed as a project manager with the Indiana De-

partment of Transportation for 32 years.

Kenneth loved camping and traveling. He was a member of Greenwood United Methodist Church, Boy Scout Order of the Arrow and Coffee Pot Campers Chapter FCRV. He served as conservation/wildlife chairman of the Indiana Association of the National Campers and Hikers Association.

The Rev. Jeff Coon will conduct a service at 1 p.m. today at Crown Hill Funeral Home, 700 W. 38th St. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 11 a.m. until service time today at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Field of Valor of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to Indiana Association of NCHA, 8065 N. Richardt Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46256-1619.

#### FRANKLIN

##### Mary Lorena Marlin

Mary Lorena Marlin, 93, died Monday, Feb. 6, 2006. She was a resident of Franklin.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Ross Marlin.

Services are pending at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Vandivier-Tudor Chapel, in Franklin.

#### INDIANAPOLIS

##### Maria Ann Molloy

Maria Ann (Ray) Molloy, 58, died Monday, Feb. 6, 2006. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Rhea Ray.

Survivors include four children, Laurie A. (Brian) Davis, Patrick J. (Anita) Molloy, Anthony J. (Camra) Molloy and Mary E. (Stevie Davis) Molloy; two sisters, Diana Adams and Roseann Trivett; two brothers, Joseph Ray and Michael Ray; and 10 grandchildren.

A prayer service will be conducted at 9:30 a.m. Friday at G.H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home, 5141 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis. A funeral Mass will follow at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Entombment will be at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

#### FRANKLIN

##### Dorothy Peters

Dorothy (Earlywine) Peters, 71, died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006, at Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin. She was a resident of Franklin.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald L. Peters.

Services are pending at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home in Franklin.

#### GREENWOOD

##### Wilma J. Wilson

Wilma J. (Smith) Wilson, 70, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006, at her residence in Greenwood.

She was born Jan. 1, 1936, in Nashville. Her parents were



WILSON

Donald A. and Monzell (Hoo-ver) Smith. She married Billy Wilson on April 4, 1954, and he preceded her in death Sept. 27, 2000.

Survivors include a son, Jeffrey W. (Barbara) Wilson of Franklin; a daughter, Vicky L. (Timothy) Horton of Greenwood; five brothers, Donald E. Smith of Nashville, Forrest M. Smith of Morgantown, Fred G. Smith of Bloomington and Floyd A. Smith and W. Lee Smith, both of Nashville; three sisters, Thelma Keller of New Albany, Brenda East of Nashville and Treva Edwards of Taylorsville; three grandchildren, Michael W. (Melissa H.) Wilson, Joseph L. (Stephanie M.) Horton and Julie A. Horton; and six great-grandchildren, Haylie, Emma, Grace, Jacob, Chase and Coen.

She was preceded in death by a son, Billy Wilson Jr.; and a brother, Robert E. Smith.

Wilma was a graduate of Nashville High School. She was a homemaker and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Elder Danny Edwards will conduct a funeral service at 1 p.m. Friday at Vandivier-Tudor Funeral Home, Bargersville Chapel, 103 N. Main St. in Bargersville. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Legion Post 205, in memory of Billy Wilson, 1200 Park Ave., Franklin, IN 46131.

Online condolences may be sent to the Wilson family at www.wilsonspierre.com.

#### GREENWOOD

##### Robert Jay Winters

Robert Jay Winters, 66, died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006, at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis. He was a resident of Greenwood.

He was born March 28, 1939, in Des Moines, Iowa. His parents were Bill and Barbara (Beers) Winters. He married Sue McClanahan on June 30, 1969, in Davenport, Iowa. She survives. Other survivors include a son, Rob Winters of Greenwood; three daughters, Beth Bentall of Des Moines, Iowa, Peggy Simpson of Indianapolis and Becky Findley of Greenwood; a sister, Mimi Chedister of Michigan; three grandsons, Jake and Travis Findley and Nolan Winters, all of Greenwood; one granddaughter, Angela Simpson of Indianapolis; and one great-grandson, Luke Jeffries of Indianapolis.

He was a graduate of Dowling High School.

He was a manager for Georgia Pacific for 25 years, retiring in 1994.

He was a member of Royal Oak Country Club and belonged to a Masonic lodge in Evansville.

A service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Information: 535-9003

#### Obituary policy

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

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