

OBITUARIES

South Bend Tribune

Thursday, May 17, 2018

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Arline E. Crothers
Dec. 3, 1921 - May 15, 2018
MISHAWAKA - Arlene E. Crothers, 96, of Mishawaka, passed away on Wednesday morning, May 16, in the Hospice House of South Bend. Arlene was born in Chicago, Illinois to the late John W. and Elsie Langhoff Crothers. Arlene married the love of her life, Leonard L. Crothers, on April 15, 1949 in Butler, Indiana. He preceded her in death on August 24, 2008. She retired from 1943 of Ball Bend in 1981 after 26 years. Arlene was a 1963 graduate of Berchid High School. She enjoyed reading and working crossword puzzles, playing Mahjong, and cheering on the Chicago Cubs, but her greatest joy came from spending time with her family. Arlene is survived by her son, Richard (Georgene) Crothers of Mishawaka, along with her daughter-in-law, Mary Crothers of Mishawaka. She was the proud grandmother of 7, Brian Crothers, Michael Crothers, Timothy (Brendy) Crothers, Lisa Crothers, Leslie (Mark) Crothers-Wood, Ronald (Gemma) and Lori (Robert) Unklesall, a great grandmother of 11, and a great-grandmother of 1. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Beverly Ginnick, a son, Terry Crothers, grandchildren-in-law, Kim Crothers and Kim Ginnick, and 2 sisters, Lorraine Crothers and Ethel Dawson. Friends may visit with the family on Friday, May 18 from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM in the Stubb Funeral Chapel, 3910 N. Main St., and one hour prior to the service. A celebration of Arlene's life will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, May 19 in the funeral chapel. She will be laid to rest next to her husband in the St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park in Granger. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Foundation, 201 Comfort Place, Mishawaka, Indiana 46545. Arlene's family wishes to thank Dr. Opatosh and his staff for the wonderful and compassionate care of Arlene through the years.

Steve A. Deak
Dec. 3, 1921 - May 15, 2018
BRISTOL - Steve A. Deak, 96, of Bristol, died at 3:35 p.m., Monday, April 30, 2018, at his residence after an extended illness. He was born May 29, 1942 in Mishawaka to John and Edna Kringski Deak. Steve was a lifetime high school graduate. He had worked at CTS for over 40 years. He loved fishing and gardening, and enjoyed traveling. He is survived by his daughters, Christine (Mark) Hartman and Brenda (Don) Miller, both of Elkhart, and Dawn (Pete) Montrose of Mishawaka, grandchildren, Aaron (Blanch) Hartman, Ben (Alyssa) Hartman, Amy (Brad) Metlach, Josh (Martha) Deak, Dale (Lyle) Miller, Anne (Steven) Trux, Madison, Michael and Max Montrose, 16 great-grandchildren, and 30+ great-grandchildren. Steve is preceded in death by his wife, Edna (Blanch) Deak of Elkhart, both of Elkhart, and Ann Deak of Elkhart. He was preceded in death by his son, John Deak, great-grandsons, Colin and Tyler Miller, and his parents, John and Edna Deak. Family and friends may call from 2-4 p.m., Tuesday, May 22, 2018, followed by Memorial Services at 4 p.m., all at Thompson Lutzsch & Son Funeral Home, Walrusus. Pastor Owen Murrell, of Vineyard in South Bend, will officiate. Burial will take place after the services in Olive Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be given to St. Jude's.

Arlene Dillavou
Sept. 13, 1922 - May 14, 2018
NILES - Arlene E. (nee) Dillavou, 95, of Niles, passed away on Monday, May 14, 2018 at a Raytheon Manor in St. Joseph, Michigan, following an extended illness. She was born to the late Arnum Guy and Dorothy A. (Weaver) Kizer in Niles on September 13, 1922. After graduation from Niles High School, class of 1943, she married James Sak and the couple had three children; the marriage later ended in divorce. She married Bill Edgcomb and enjoyed many wonderful years before he passed. Some years later, she was blessed to have married Donald Dillavou. Arlene worked for Keweenaw in Niles and Electro-Voice in Buchanan for many years. Along with her brother, Al, she was a former owner of AA Timburlines in Niles and was an avid bowler for many years. Arlene loved playing Mahjong, card games, crossword puzzles, and reading. She mostly valued time spent with her family and will be remembered for her sweet disposition. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Bill Edgcomb, and Donald Dillavou, a young son, James Sak, Jr., two brothers, Guy Kizer, Alvin Kizer, and Marvin Kizer, a sister, Helen LaCombe, a great-grandson, Cody Sak, and a son-in-law, Robert "Bob" McGregor. Arlene is survived by her son, Jeffrey (Barbara) Sak of Niles, a daughter, Linda McGregor of Niles, and a granddaughter, Robin (Don) Laughlin of Elkhart. She is also survived by her six grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren, and a sister, Vanda Franklin Jackson of Elkhart for her.

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Robert Fitting, Sr.
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LAKE WALES, FL - Robert Fitting, Sr., passed away at the age of 88 on May 22, 2018 in central Florida with his beloved wife of 64 years by his side. Preceded in death were his parents, Cecil and Ruth Fitting of South Bend, Indiana, and daughter, Diana. Above all, Bob loved his wife, Joan, and his children, Robert, Mike (Andrea), Tim, and Pam, two grandchildren, Beth, Amber, Josh, Jacob, and Tess, and his one and only great-granddaughter, Arlynn. His family has loved him for his kindness, gentle, and sometimes mischievous nature. Bob was an Army veteran, having served between WWII and the Korean War. After the service, he took up flying and often could be seen above South Bend in his yellow Piper Cub. After his move to Florida, he turned to boating and loved being on the water on Crooked Lake, just outside his door. He also loved the American West and its history, and often said he was born a hundred years too late. Bob had been a prior most of his working life, working for Associates in Niles in South Bend, Indiana, and for Warner University in Lake Wales, Florida, for his wife and he moved there in 1979. He will be missed by his family and the many people who had come to love him.

Allen G. Gerard
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GRANGER - Allen Gerard, 96, died on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM Friday, May 18, 2018, with visitation 10:00-11:00 AM, at St. Paul X Catholic Church, 25553 Fir Road, Granger, IN. Full obituary at Palmer Funeral Homes website.

Mary Allene Green
Sept. 1921 - May 15, 2018
NILES - Visitation for Mary Green, age 96, of Niles, will be held Friday, May 18 from 5-8 PM at Cris Family Funeral Home in Chicago. Graveside service will be held at 10 AM Saturday, May 19 at Silverbrook Cemetery in Niles. Please visit our website for details.

Lyle LaVine
Nov. 12, 1921 - May 15, 2018
PLYMOUTH - Life Edward LaVine, 96, of Plymouth, Indiana, died on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. He was the son of the late Walter LaVine and Pearl (Wendell) LaVine of Wyatt, IN. He is survived by his wife, Edna (Walter) LaVine, the love of his life, whom he married March 3, 1955 in Bremen. Surviving is a sister, Terry (Roger) four children, Jerry (Lynette) LaVine, Susan (John) Torney, Janet (Richard) LaVine, and Roger LaVine, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He is preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Edna (Blanch) LaVine, and four brothers, Alfred, Morris, Richard, and Burnett. There will be no funeral or burial. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home, Niles.

Gene L. Manges
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BREMEN - Gene L. Manges, 96, of Bremen, left his worn out body behind and peacefully passed into the presence of Jesus at 11:58 a.m., Tuesday, May 15, 2018 in Signature Health Care of Bremen, where he resided for the past year. Gene was born on February 2, 1924 on a farm north of Bremen to the late Clinton and Florence (Stotes) Manges and grew up there with his four siblings. He attended Madison School where he graduated near the top of his class in 1942 and participated in band, tennis, FFA, and baseball. He continued serving as catcher on many baseball teams in the following years. Gene also enjoyed fishing, and his ideal vacation was spent with his family in a rented cottage on one of the small lakes in the area. Gene loved to sing and acted his clear, tenor voice to his church choir for many years. He also enjoyed singing in a barbershop chorus and graduated from Riley High School in 1952. He enjoyed baseball and football, and played competitive softball during his over 50 years of Army deployment. He married the love of his life, Janice Arick in 1957. Together, they made a home in the greater South Bend area, where Bob became known as an active family man, respected and fair business owner-operator, and a man of God who led by example. He'd say, "You can never make more money but you can't make more time." He was an avid bargainer and local enthusiast. His family's home has welcomed hundreds of summer guests over the past several decades. Bob loved a great meal, especially if he had a coo-poon. He enjoyed fishing, St. Louis, and antiquing. Through the Delta Company and the Deep Jean Factory Outlet on S. Main Street, as well as his abilities for corn, coffee, and Shippensburg, and his love for people, Bob made many friends. He made many family memories with his seven children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren: Debbie (Lynn) Borra with Jason (Sarah), Coral (Heidi) (Doug), Phyllis (Susan), Dan (Katie) Manges of Huntington, IN, Kathy (David) Kolbe of Chicago, IN, and all (Dick) Balmer of Madison, WI. He is also survived by his wife, Edna (Walter) LaVine, the love of his life, whom he married March 3, 1955 in Bremen. Surviving is a sister, Terry (Roger) four children, Jerry (Lynette) LaVine, Susan (John) Torney, Janet (Richard) LaVine, and Roger LaVine, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He is preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Edna (Blanch) LaVine, and four brothers, Alfred, Morris, Richard, and Burnett. There will be no funeral or burial. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home, Niles.

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Robert Fitting, Sr.
Dec. 6, 1929 - May 22, 2018
LAKE WALES, FL - Robert Fitting, Sr., passed away at the age of 88 on May 22, 2018 in central Florida with his beloved wife of 64 years by his side. Preceded in death were his parents, Cecil and Ruth Fitting of South Bend, Indiana, and daughter, Diana. Above all, Bob loved his wife, Joan, and his children, Robert, Mike (Andrea), Tim, and Pam, two grandchildren, Beth, Amber, Josh, Jacob, and Tess, and his one and only great-granddaughter, Arlynn. His family has loved him for his kindness, gentle, and sometimes mischievous nature. Bob was an Army veteran, having served between WWII and the Korean War. After the service, he took up flying and often could be seen above South Bend in his yellow Piper Cub. After his move to Florida, he turned to boating and loved being on the water on Crooked Lake, just outside his door. He also loved the American West and its history, and often said he was born a hundred years too late. Bob had been a prior most of his working life, working for Associates in Niles in South Bend, Indiana, and for Warner University in Lake Wales, Florida, for his wife and he moved there in 1979. He will be missed by his family and the many people who had come to love him.

Allen G. Gerard
Dec. 1921 - May 15, 2018
GRANGER - Allen Gerard, 96, died on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM Friday, May 18, 2018, with visitation 10:00-11:00 AM, at St. Paul X Catholic Church, 25553 Fir Road, Granger, IN. Full obituary at Palmer Funeral Homes website.

Mary Allene Green
Sept. 1921 - May 15, 2018
NILES - Visitation for Mary Green, age 96, of Niles, will be held Friday, May 18 from 5-8 PM at Cris Family Funeral Home in Chicago. Graveside service will be held at 10 AM Saturday, May 19 at Silverbrook Cemetery in Niles. Please visit our website for details.

Lyle LaVine
Nov. 12, 1921 - May 15, 2018
PLYMOUTH - Life Edward LaVine, 96, of Plymouth, Indiana, died on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. He was the son of the late Walter LaVine and Pearl (Wendell) LaVine of Wyatt, IN. He is survived by his wife, Edna (Walter) LaVine, the love of his life, whom he married March 3, 1955 in Bremen. Surviving is a sister, Terry (Roger) four children, Jerry (Lynette) LaVine, Susan (John) Torney, Janet (Richard) LaVine, and Roger LaVine, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He is preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Edna (Blanch) LaVine, and four brothers, Alfred, Morris, Richard, and Burnett. There will be no funeral or burial. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home, Niles.

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