

# Obituaries

## JACK BYRON BLACKARD

Jack Byron Blackard, 80, died Oct. 4, 2012, in Brandenton, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie; five brothers; and four sisters.

Mr. Blackard is survived by three daughters, Rebecca (Gene) Parks, Brandenburg, Kathleen (Clint) Klusmeier, and Stacia (Stewart) O'Bryan, all of Louisville; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held Oct. 20, from 5-7 p.m. at Woodbridge Clubhouse, 1000 Glenridge Drive in Louisville.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to the Kidney Foundation.



## DAVID LEE CLAIR

David Lee Clair, 73, Brandenburg, died Oct. 8, 2012, at his residence. He was born June 27, 1939, in Parsons, W.Va., to the late Henry G. and Madeline Digham Clair.

He worked for American Finance for over 19 years, where he helped start First Fenwick Mortgage Company in Maryland and Virginia Beach, Va. He and his wife moved to Brandenburg when he retired, so they could be close to his children.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and four siblings, Norma Atchley, Mildred Bradshaw, Barbara Kuntz, and John Clair.

Mr. Clair is survived by his wife, Allison F. Clair; three children, Debra (Scott) Saunders, Ekron, Sally Clair, Brandenburg, and Frank (Jeani) Clair, Custer; and many beloved pets.

Funeral services will be held Oct. 13, at 2 p.m. EDT from the chapel of the Bruington-Jenkins-Sturgeon Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Cap Anderson Cemetery.

Family and friends may call at the funeral home Oct. 12, from 5-7 p.m. EDT; and Oct. 13, after 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

Condolences may be left online at [www.bjsfunerals.com](http://www.bjsfunerals.com).

## JOSEPH ANTHONY HAMILTON

Joseph Anthony Hamilton, 86, Flaherty, died Oct. 8, 2012, at Floyd Memorial Hospital in New Albany, Ind.

He was a member of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Flaherty. He was a former member of the board of directors for RECC and Big Rivers. He was also a lifelong farmer in the Flaherty area.

He was preceded in death by Mary Ann Hamilton; and two siblings, W.A. Hamilton Jr. and Martha Rattazzi.

Mr. Hamilton is survived by his wife, Betty Hamilton, Flaherty; eight children, Judy Hamilton (Jim) Guidone, Greensboro, N.C., John (Kathy) Hamilton, Bowling Green, Timothy J. (Denise) English, Jimmy (Pam) English and Mike (Carrie) English, all of Brandenburg, and Logan E. English, Cathy (Pat) Jones and Joey (Amy) English, all of Flaherty; 22 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, at the St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Flaherty, with the Rev. Kevin Bryan officiating. Burial will follow in the St. Martin Cemetery.

Friends and family may call at the chapel of Coffey & Chism Funeral Home on Oct. 10, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and after 9 a.m. on Oct. 11. A prayer service will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 10, at the funeral home.

Condolences may be left online at [www.coffeyandchism.com](http://www.coffeyandchism.com).

## GLADYS WANDA KOVACH

Gladys Wanda Kovach, 71, Louisville, died Oct. 2, 2012, at St. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital. She was born Oct. 11, 1940, in Los Angeles, Calif., to Eva Duncan Davis and the late George William Davis.

She was a former resident of Brandenburg, and moved to Louisville in 1986. She was a huge University of Kentucky fan. She loved to read, crossword puzzles and talking. She was Baptist by faith. She also volunteered at Nicholas Elementary School and West Point Elementary School.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Daisy Yvonne Lambert; and a son, Roy Kovach.

Mrs. Kovach is survived by her husband, Roy S. Kovach, Louisville; her mother, Eva Davis, Roseburg, Ore.; three daughters, Eva (Jerry) Slayton, Flaherty, Jeri (Phillip) Tabor, Williamstown, and Susan Kovach, Louisville; two sons, Michael (Melanie) Kovach and David Kovach, both of Louisville; a sister, Georgia Reedy, Roseburg, Ore.; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Oct. 5, from the chapel of Bruington-Jenkins-Sturgeon Funeral Home. Burial was in Cap Anderson Cemetery, with the Rev. David Campbell officiating.

Condolences may be left online at [www.bjsfunerals.com](http://www.bjsfunerals.com).

## GOLDIE F. TRENT

Goldie F. Trent, 78, Battletown, died Oct. 2, 2012, at Harrison County Hospital in Corydon, Ind.

She was a member of Cold Spring Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Freeman and Susie Whelan Eldridge; her husband, Claude Trent Sr.; three children, Julia Haney, Ella Mae Trent, and Paul Trent; and a grandson, Timothy Fluhr.

Mrs. Trent is survived by five children, Robert Eugene (Debbie) Trent, Louisville, Claude (Paula) Trent Jr., Wolf Creek, Jeffrey Trent, Anthony L. Trent, both of Battletown, and Barbara E. (Mark) Marquez, Elizabethtown; two sisters, Nancy Humphrey, Battletown, and Nell Carlisle, Corpus Christie, Texas; 15 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Oct. 6, from the chapel of the Hager Funeral Home, with the Rev. Stewart Skaggs officiating. Burial was in Marve Bennett Cemetery.

Condolences may be left online at [www.hagerfuneralhome.com](http://www.hagerfuneralhome.com).



## ROSINA KATHRYN WHITFIELD

Rosina Kathryn Whitfield, 78, Brandenburg, died Oct. 6, 2012, at Indian Creek Healthcare Center in Indiana. She was born March 8, 1934, in Meade County, Kentucky, to the late Robert and Geraldine Wathen Russell.

She was a member of Cold Spring Baptist Church; a proofreader for the *Meade County Messenger*; a telephone operator for the Brandenburg Telephone Company; and an active member of the Milan Homemakers for many years.

She was preceded in death by a son, Jerald Alan Whitfield and a brother, James Earl Russell.

Mrs. Whitfield is survived by her husband of 56 years, Jon A. Whitfield; four children, Dr. James Mattox (Vickie) Whitfield, Boiling Springs, N.C., Jon English (Cheryl) Whitfield, Louisville, Suzannah Stith Whitfield, Brandenburg, and Deborah Woolfolk Whitfield (David) Salinas, of Texas; two sisters, Jackie Russell, Battletown, and Brenda (Joe) Stenbridge, of Georgia; two brothers, Charles Wayne (Judy) Russell, and Ralph (Loretta) Russell, both of Brandenburg; and four grandchildren, Douglas Anthony Whitfield, Evan Daniel Whitfield, Sydney Katherine Salinas and Allie Kennedy Salinas.

Funeral services were held Oct. 10, at Cold Spring Baptist Church in Battletown. Burial was in Cap Anderson Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to the WHAS Crusade for Children or to your local animal shelter.

Condolences may be left online at [www.bjsfunerals.com](http://www.bjsfunerals.com).



### NOTICE

The Meade County Messenger will print a picture of your loved one in the obituary column. We need to receive the picture by noon Monday of the week the obituary is in the paper.



## Minister's Corner



By  
"HAPPY"  
CHANDLER

Rock Haven  
Baptist Church

Winston Churchill was involved in a discussion with a fellow Parliament member about Churchill's old political rival, Clement Attlee. "I find Mr. Attlee is a man of great humility," said Churchill's colleague. "Mr. Attlee has a great deal to be humble about," Churchill replied. The old prime minister was known for his sarcastic wit.

Humility has been in short supply for some time in our present culture. It certainly isn't the character trait displayed when the television cameras catch a pro football player, following a touchdown, strike some strange pose or enact some innovative dance. You won't see much humility present at the numerous Hollywood award shows, galas, and film premieres where today's latest actors and actresses of note walk the carpet before stopping to pose for the paparazzi who snap up images that will be posted in tabloids, on websites, and entertainment - watch TV programs. This

desire to be noticed is certainly evident for those of us caught up in the "Facebook" movement where daily we receive status updates of the most mundane activities and assorted insights that some feel merit attention on the worldwide Web.

In this election year, I am reminded of the first genuine national celebrity of what was then a newly-birthed nation. This man who would become quite famous, spent his life attempting to dodge the spotlight. George Washington understood the need for humility and practiced it in both his public and private life. Most of us don't know that Washington's only aspiration in life was simply to farm his Virginia land. When the war for American independence broke out, Washington did not want to accept the task of commanding the Continental Army because he did not feel he possessed the skill or ability to do so. Once he took the job, he endured numerous setbacks and defeats at the hands of the British and became "indispensable" in holding together a demoralized army of patriots by encouraging them to stay focused on the goal of freedom. When the tide turned and Washington's army

earned important victories that culminated at Yorktown, he was hailed as a national hero - a status he rejected whenever it was referenced.

When the Continental Congress ratified a Constitution and established the office of the presidency, Washington was the overwhelming choice for the job. He reluctantly accepted the honor, but refused any attempt to make him a "king" in his new role as chief executive. He served two terms and oversaw the nation's first steps, but refused a third election. He never believed the presidency or the American story was about him. He went home to Mount Vernon, the place where he dreamed of being from the start.

Jesus Christ makes it clear that humility is an attitude dear to the heart of God the Father. Christ tells those who want to be His followers that must become "servants" if they desire to see greatness in the Father's eyes (Matthew 23:14). Earlier in the same Gospel, Christ is clear that in His coming to earth "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life (as) a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Further, Jesus says that many who

want to be first in all things related to this world will be the least in relation to eternity (Matt. 19:30). Isaiah 53 prophesies of a Messiah who will come as a "suffering servant" in order that humanity might know the hope of eternal life. Christ provides the ultimate picture of His humility in service to others when He kneels the night before going to the cross to wash the feet of His disciples (John 13:1-12), thereby giving them the model for how they were to serve others.

Humility is not about some pretentious form of self-depreciation. When we look to Christ's death for sin, we are struck by the overwhelming value the Creator places on each of our lives. True humility realizes that we can never achieve a right relationship with God through our own works or accomplishments. Glory belongs to Christ and Christ alone for the hope of redemption. True humility is found when we look away from ourselves and look to Jesus who has now made the way for each of us to be right with God. It is in that humility and desire to love and serve others that we discover our genuine self-worth to the Father.

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The family of **Joseph Walter Rhodes** wishes to express our sincere thanks for all the prayers and expressions of sympathy extended to our family during the illness and loss of our dear loved one.

We are so blessed to have such wonderful family members and friends in our lives. Your kindness will be in our hearts forever.



Our deepest thanks,  
May God bless you all.