

Obituaries

MAZIE MARIE FERGUSON COPLEY of Dunlow



MAZIE MARIE FERGUSON COPLEY "Granny", 94, of Dunlow, WV joined her Lord and Savior and the love of her life Charley Copley on Friday, July 7, 2017. She was born on June 25, 1923 in Dunlow, WV a daughter of the late Joseph and Fannie Ferguson. Mazie was a member of the Fairmount United Baptist Church. She served her Lord for 71 years, witnessing to all she seen. She was a member of Crum OES Chapter #160.

Granny loved to make quilts for her loved ones and was loved by all who knew her. We love you granny! In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Charley Copley; three daughters, Lorene, Dorene and Fannie Lee; one son, Sherman Copley; seven brothers, Luke, Arthur, Lee, Homer, Sherman, Raymond and Jim Ferguson; two sisters, Myrtle Dotson and Hazel Lee Stamper; three sons-in-law; John Cox, Ray Lovejoy and Larry Murphy. Survivors include three daughters; Pauline Lackey (Grady), Millie Cox and Juanita Murphy all of Dunlow, WV; a sister Irene Jarrell; son-in-law, Ronald Cox; daughter-in-law, Peachie Copley;; sister-in-law, Jewell Ferguson; 28 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren, 14 great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, neighbors and church family. Her grandsons will serve as pallbearers. A special thanks to all who helped care for granny, especially Dunlow EMS, Dr. Clifton Bolinger and the staff at St. Mary's Women and Family Care and Julie Brewer at Women's Health Service.

Funeral services will be conducted at noon on Monday, July 10, 2017 at Fairmount United Baptist Church, Dunlow with Brother Emanuel Ferguson and Jess Allen officiating. Burial will follow at the Twin Oaks Cemetery, Big Branch. Visitation will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, July 9, 2017 at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, Wayne and one hour prior to the service at Fairmount United Baptist Church.

BARBARA MAE GIBSON of Huntington



BARBARA MAE "GIBBY" GIBSON, 66, of Huntington, died Thursday, July 6, 2017 in St. Mary's Medical Center. She was born September 29, 1950 in Huntington a daughter of the late Fearl and Flossie Ann Romine Gibson. Barbara also had a sister, JoAnn Wolfe and a brother, Bobby Fearl Gibson precede her in death. She retired as a patient care specialist from St. Mary's Medical Center after 40 years' service. She attended Spirit of Faith, Kenova, WV. Survivors include her sister and brother-in-law with whom she made her home, Carolyn L. and David Howard of Huntington; the loves of her life who she helped raise, Joyce Brooks, Travis Adkins and his wife, Amanda Adkins, Amber Howard, and Brandon Howard; great nieces and nephews, Evan Mullen, Gavin Adkins and Gage Adkins, Kansas Brooks, and Zakhia Booth and Autumn Booth; and a host of other nieces, nephews, and friends. Funeral services will be conducted 2:00 pm Monday, July 10, 2017, at Chapman's Mortuary with Pastor Tim Crabtree officiating. Burial will be in Wyant Cemetery, Milton. Friends may visit one hour prior to services Monday at Chapman's Mortuary and send condolences to www.chapmans-mortuary.com

Funeral services will be conducted at noon on Monday, July 10, 2017 at Fairmount United Baptist Church, Dunlow with Brother Emanuel Ferguson and Jess Allen officiating. Burial will follow at the Twin Oaks Cemetery, Big Branch. Visitation will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, July 9, 2017 at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, Wayne and one hour prior to the service at Fairmount United Baptist Church.

CLYDE WILLARD LAMBERT of Norfolk, Va.



CLYDE WILLARD LAMBERT, 93, of Norfolk, Va., passed away July 9, 2017, surrounded by family. He was a native of Louisa, Kentucky, son of the late Edmund and Eliza Hardin Lambert. He was predeceased by his wife, Ina Wilson Lambert and two brothers, Karl W. Lambert of Chesapeake, Va., and William J. Lambert of Virginia Beach, Va. He is survived by his devoted sister, Lois Lambert Fluty; two brothers, Edmund Lambert of Louisa, Ky., and C.H. Lambert and wife Betty of Virginia Beach, Va.; and a host of nephews, nieces, and longtime friends. A Journeyman Printer, he retired from Landmark's Virginian Pilot.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home, Tidewater Drive Chapel. Following the visitation There, Mr. Lambert will be transported to Young Funeral Home, Louisa, Ky., for services at 2 p.m. Friday, July 14, 2017, with burial to follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, Louisa, Ky.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until time of service on Friday at Young Funeral Home Chapel. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.hollomon-brown.com or www.young-funeralhome.com.

M. ELAINE SPEARS RATLIFF



M. ELAINE SPEARS RATLIFF, lovingly known as "Granny," died peacefully at the home of her daughter on July 6, 2017, in Titusville, Fla., at the age of 95.

Elaine was born on December 3, 1921, to Taylor and Bertha Philpott in Williamson, W.Va. She graduated from Fort Gay High School and married Charles Spears who preceded her in death in 1953.

Elaine worked as a postal clerk at the Fort Gay Post Office, was a member of the Eastern Star and attended Fort Gay United Methodist Church. She later married John Ratliff. They lived in Louisa, Ky., and Wheelersburg, Ohio, before moving to Titusville, Fla., where she lived out the remainder of her years and attended Truth Freewill Baptist Church. Elaine is survived by her daughter Sandra Spears New (Bob); her granddaughter Lisa New Landen (Jim) of Titusville, Fla.; grandson Robert New (Donna) of Berea, Ky.; as well as three great-grandchildren, Austin Landen, Lindsey New Garrison (Daniel), and Joshua New; two great-great-grandchildren, Harper and Canaan Garrison and step-granddaughter Bianca Ratliff Lycans (Steve) and children Sarah and SJ of Louisa, Ky.. She will also be missed by a niece, Donna Sue Maynard Harbaugh (Paul) of Mansfield, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her parents, Taylor and Bertha Philpott; her sister Elizabeth Maynard; her spouses Charles Spears and John Ratliff; and her nephew David Maynard.

A visitation is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, 2017, at Young Funeral Home, Louisa, Ky.

Funeral services will be conducted 11 a.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017, at Young Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Richard Maynard officiating the ceremony. Burial will follow at Fort Gay Cemetery, Fort Gay, W.Va. The family would like to thank her caregivers, April, Sharon, Sue, Michelle and Janice. We also are very thankful for Hospice of St. Francis, which provided the best care possible. Donations may be made in Elaine's name to Hospice of St. Francis, 1250-B Grumman Place, Titusville, FL 32780.

LUTIE COOK SLUSSAR of Westerville, Ohio



LUTIE COOK SLUSSAR, 98, of Westerville, Ohio, passed away Sunday, July 9, 2017. She was born December 28, 1918 in Radnor, W.Va., a daughter of the late Dock and Malta Cook. She was also preceded in death by her husband Robert Lee Slussar; infant daughter Malta Mae Slussar; two brothers, Earl and William Cook; one sister, Mary Fern Gilliam; and son-in-law David Morris. Lutie loved gardening, canning, and enjoyed quilting.

Survivors include her son Harvey (Cheryl) Slussar of Marshallville, Ohio; daughter Susie Morris of Westerville, Ohio; four grandchildren, Brian (Karen) Morris of Buckhannon, W.Va., Kim (Scott) Gaskins of Westerville, Kyle Slussar of Middleburgh Heights, Ohio, and Ashley Slussar of Lakewood, Ohio. Also surviving are three great-grandchildren, Drew Gaskins and Claire Gaskins, both of Westerville, and Daren Daughtery of Buckhannon.

Funeral Services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at Johnson Tiller Funeral Home with her grandson Reverend Kyle Slussar officiating. Burial will follow at Elmwood Cemetery after which a reception will be held at the funeral home. Friends may call after 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

HOMER RICHARDS of Wayne



HOMER RICHARDS, 85 of Wayne, W.Va., formerly of Chapmanville, W.Va., went to be with the Lord Monday, July 10, 2017, at his residence. He was born November 14, 1931, at Chapmanville, W.Va., a son of the late Warren and Lena Stollings Richards. Mr. Richards was a Protestant, a retired coal miner, and member of the UMWA. In addition to her parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Mary Elizabeth Richards, infant daughter Brenda Sue Richards, brother Ransom Richards and sister Nettie Wallace. Survivors include his two daughters, Juanita (Richard) LaDuke of Pawtucket, R.I., and Vicki (Greg) Jackson of Wayne, W.Va.; three grandchildren, Christopher LaDuke of Pawtucket, R.I., Brittany Jackson of Boone County, West Virginia and Brenda Evans of Chesapeake, Ohio; seven great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, James, Emma, Hailey, Trenton, Olivia and Braxton; six siblings, Maggie Browning, Donna Miller, Nellie Richards, Leroy Richards and Tivis Richards all of Chapmanville and Cletis Richards of Barboursville, W.Va.; two very special friends, Kevin D. Harshbarger and Gary Sullivan; and a very special girlfriend, Christine Robinson. Also the family extends a special thank you to Hospice of Huntington for all their support and help. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017, at the Evans Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Chapmanville, W.Va., with Kevin D. Harshbarger officiating. Entombment will follow in the Forest Lawn Cemetery Mausoleum, Pecks Mill, W.Va. Friends may call from 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday at the Evans Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Chapmanville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Huntington, P.O. Box 464, Huntington, WV 25709 Attn: Development Department. Evans Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Chapmanville is serving the Richards family.

Funeral services will be conducted 11 a.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017, at Young Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Richard Maynard officiating the ceremony. Burial will follow at Fort Gay Cemetery, Fort Gay, W.Va. The family would like to thank her caregivers, April, Sharon, Sue, Michelle and Janice. We also are very thankful for Hospice of St. Francis, which provided the best care possible. Donations may be made in Elaine's name to Hospice of St. Francis, 1250-B Grumman Place, Titusville, FL 32780.

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is that they value employment, a steady paycheck, self-esteem, and in no way wish to return to receiving the government assistance checks brought about by prolonged periods of unemployment.

Appalachia's most valuable resources are abundant and, in no particular order, include:

- An enthusiastic, salt-of-the-earth workforce.

- CSX and NS Rail Lines.

- Easy access to interstate highway systems and river transportation.

- Existing electricity generation and transmission facilities and infrastructure.

- Cheap energy produced by natural gas and coal, and quickly.

Where am I going with this?

I would call your attention to two geographic areas of the country that within the past 60 years or so have parlayed new technologies and/or ready-made resources into explosive job creation. One of those regions is the area in and around Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, which several years ago faced similar economic distress and uncertainty on a scale similar to what we're experiencing here in Appalachia. Fortunately for the North Carolina region in question, it had a ready-made resource: access to an abundance of skilled professionals from a concentrated cluster of highly regarded universities. To their credit, government officials in North Carolina had the foresight and willingness to use those universities as a platform for creating what today we know as "The Research Triangle." Today, the Research

Triangle area has one of the highest employment rates in the nation.

The other geographic region of the country to which I call your attention is Silicon Valley, so named because of its leaders' willingness to step forward and capitalize on a new technology that required the use of silicon chips in the manufacture of computers. This innovative technology improved the speed and performance of computers by many powers of magnitude.

Question: Does this sound somewhat familiar to the MIT-created technology that is now giving rise to the Braidley Industries plant?

As Mr. Bouchard states, "Our team recognizes an opportunity to make incredible impacts both in the global aluminum industry and in bringing well-paying jobs to Eastern Kentucky."

This begs yet another - and certainly more aspirational - question:

Could the Ohio Valley become to the steel industry what the Silicon Valley is to the computer industry?

While this may sound like a pipe dream and little more than "wishful thinking" on my part, there's one thing of which I'm 100 percent certain: Virtually every successful business model and economic turnaround in history has started with positive thinking and a can-do attitude. Indeed, when it comes to resilience and creating economic vitality and vibrancy for the area I know, love and call home, I'm with Aniekee Tochukwu Ezekiel, author of "Psychology of Friendship for Leadership," who once wrote, "There's

always a moment that separates the past from the future, and that moment is now."

Robert Slagel is president, CEO and owner of Portable Solutions Group (PSG), parent company of four rivately held businesses whose products are sold throughout the U.S. and around the world. They include Modular Security Systems Inc., Dropbox, Inc., Industrial Sanitation, Inc. (DBA, Johnny on the Spot and Storage on the Spot). He resides in Ironton.

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another intercontinental ballistic missile which its leaders hope can deliver a nuclear bomb to the Golden Gate Bridge! Some incident, i.e. shooting down an enemy military jet in Syria, the collision of a U.S. military vessel and a Japanese container ship, or a terrorist attack anywhere in the world get all stirred into the common, everyday Washington, D.C., cesspool of obstruction over this or that.

It's enough to drive a sane man bonkers!

Just the other day, in our local post office, a lady glanced up at the television (which is generally set on the Weather Channel) and said to nobody in particular, "We're going to keep on 'til we start a war with Russia!" I heard her,

and I thought, "Lady, it might take a war with Russia to get us back on track!" It startled me when I realized what I had said, but nothing seems to bring us together better than a good old-fashioned international crisis.

I'd like to think that Franklin Delano Roosevelt was right when he said, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself," but he said those words long before the age of nuclear weapons.

When will everything no longer work out well in the end?

Milt Hankins is a theologian, former pastor and local author. His website is columnistwithaview.com.

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Something To Think About

D.C. Morris, Lic.

JAPANESE FESTIVAL OF THE DEAD

As long as our departed parents and grandparents continue to influence our lives, they will live on in our hearts. Many cultures encourage the continued remembrance of deceased ancestors among their surviving relatives through formal visitations. Just as Americans regularly visit graves on holidays, birthdays, and days of final departure, the Japanese take time off each August to pay homage to their dearly departed. During that time, people flock to the cemeteries to visit ancestral graves, to pray, and to ask for their ancestors' intercession in hopes that it will make a difference in their lives. The Festival of the Dead, "o-Bon," provides a way to bridge the gap between past and present and the living and the dead.

Many people find solace in taking the time to visit the resting place of departed friends and loved ones. Losing someone causes tremendous grief. The caring staff is here to provide the compassionate support that you need in your time of loss. We are here for you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You are invited to tour our tastefully appointed facility. *We have been serving Wayne County since 1932. Learn how we have earned our superior reputation.*

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*"Life and death are one thread, the same line viewed from different sides."
- Lao Tzu*