

# OBITUARIES

## TODAY'S DEATHS

- Barbara S. Beidleman
- Thomas Edward Hardin, 89
- Lawrence Hess, 72
- Brandi Ellen McMurray Lawson, 45
- Johnny Sexton, 67, Marion, Va.
- Jerry Thomas Vanover, 70

Information and wording for obituaries are provided by funeral homes and are published as paid notices. Obituaries also appear online at [www.HeraldCourier.com](http://www.HeraldCourier.com). Obituaries must be submitted by 3 p.m. for publication in the following morning's newspaper.

### Barbara S. Beidleman

February 23, 1938 - January 22, 2023



Barbara S. Beidleman departed this life Sunday, January 22, 2023. Arrangements are incomplete. Professional service and care of Mrs. Barbara S. Beidleman and family are entrusted to R.A. Clark Funeral Service Inc. (423) 764-8584.

### Thomas "Tommy" Edward Hardin

April 26, 1933 - January 23, 2023



Tommy Hardin, age 89, of Bristol, Va., passed away peacefully on Monday, January 23, 2023, at home surrounded by his family.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Paratroopers 11th Airborne and was a faithful member of Beechgrove United Methodist Church for 64 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Nan Broce Hardin; two brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include his wife 65 years, Lone Hardin; daughter, Joyce McMurray and husband, Hugh; son, Guy Hardin and wife, Connie; granddaughters, Jordan Hardin and Morgan Hardin; grandson, Landon McMurray and wife, Tonya; and great-grandson, John Kyle McMurray.

A graveside service with Military honors will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, January 26, 2023, at Mountain View Cemetery with the Rev. Charles Leonard and the Rev. Scott Spence. Pallbearers will be Larry Wright, Bill White, Haskel Pendergrass, Danny Pullon, Scott Vanhoy, and Hugh McMurray. Honorary pallbearers will be Gene Barb, Steve Hardin, and Dr. Tom Mitoraj. There is no formal visitation at the funeral home, family and friends may call on the family at the home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the organ fund or the backpack program of Beechgrove United Methodist Church, c/o Vanessa Guffey, 156 Freedom Rd., Bristol, VA 24201.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at [akardfuneralhome.com](http://akardfuneralhome.com)

Akard Funeral Home, (423) 989-4800 is honored to be serving the Hardin family.



### Brandi Ellen McMurray Lawson



Brandi Ellen McMurray Lawson, 45, passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at her home in Wise, Va., surrounded by her loving family.

Brandi graduated with a BS degree in science and a master's degree in Physical Therapy from East Tennessee State University. She loved her job as a physical therapist and worked with both adults and children. She was the therapist at Preston Square and later at Mountain View

Long Term Care, and Southwest Virginia Outpatient Center. Brandi loved all animals but especially her cats.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Glenda Swindall McMurray. Surviving are her husband of 19 years, David; her pride and joy, Mia and Amanda; her father, Ron McMurray and wife, Phyllis; sister, Michelle (Evan) Sisson and her nieces, Isabella and Sophia; one brother, Seth Chester (Allison) and nieces, Claire and Lucy; her mother and father-in-law, Ron and Suzanne Lawson; brother-in-law, Mike Wheatley (Jessie); aunts, Ramona (Chuck), Karen Hawkins (Jimmy), and Gloria (Dan); uncles, Bruce Hayes (Carol) and Alan McMurray (Diana); and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Christ Lutheran Church on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, with visitations from 5 until 7 p.m.

Donations may be made to Christ Lutheran Church Memorial Fund. Please visit [www.sturgillfuneral.com](http://www.sturgillfuneral.com) to leave online condolences for the family.

### Lawrence "Everett" Hess

April 19, 1950 - January 19, 2023



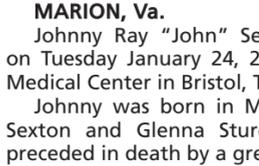
Lawrence "Everett" Hess, 72, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, January 19, 2023.

A local service will be held 6 p.m. Thursday, January 26, 2023, at Claytor Rollins Funeral Home, Poquoson. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 28, 2023, at Greenhills Memory Garden, Cedar Bluff, Virginia, [claytorrollins.com](http://claytorrollins.com).

**CLAYTOR ROLLINS FUNERAL HOME**  
836 Poquoson Avenue,  
Poquoson, VA 23662

### Johnny Sexton

June 14, 1955 - January 24, 2023



MARION, Va.

Johnny Ray "John" Sexton, age 67, passed away on Tuesday January 24, 2023, at the Bristol Regional Medical Center in Bristol, Tenn.

Johnny was born in Marion, Va., to the late Jack Sexton and Glenna Sturgill Sexton Evans and was preceded in death by a great-grandson, Tyler Lowe.

He worked at Harwood Manufacturing for 13 years and at Utility trailer for 13 years. Johnny enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was an organ and tissue donor, giving the gift of life.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Connie Sexton; daughter, Brandy Davis and husband, Mike; stepson, Joshua Dowell and wife, Robin; brother, Tom Sexton and wife, Betty; sister, Donna Cassell and husband, Dallas; grandchildren, Jessica Lowe and Dalton Smith; step grandchild, Emmaline Dowell; nieces, nephews and cousins.

A private burial will be held at Attoway Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at [www.bradleysfh.com](http://www.bradleysfh.com).

Bradley's Funeral Home is serving the Sexton family.

**BRADLEY'S FUNERAL HOME**

938 North Main Street, Marion, Va.



Bradley's Funeral Home & Crematory

### Jerry Thomas Vanover



Jerry Thomas Vanover, age 70, entered Heaven, on Friday, December 16, 2022, at his home in Bluff City, Tennessee. He was in the presence of his loved ones in his final moments.

He is survived by his three children, Melanie Vanover, Jennifer (Chris) McCracken, and Jonathan (Jordan McRee) Vanover, all of Bluff City, Tennessee; three brothers, Wiley Vanover, Gary (Brenda) Vanover, and Mark Vanover, all of Bristol, Tennessee;

two sisters, Barbara Beeler and Elizabeth (Larry) Kirk, all of Bristol, Tennessee; four grandchildren, Joseph and Troylee Woodby of Bristol, and Kailyn and Ethan McCracken of Bluff City; and one great granddaughter, Callie Pope.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 5 p.m. at Tetrick Funeral Home of Bluff City, 245 Main Street, Bluff City, TN 37618. The family will receive friends from 4 until 5 p.m. in the funeral home chapel prior to the memorial service on Saturday.

Words of comfort can be sent to the Vanover family through our website, [www.tetrickfuneralhome.com](http://www.tetrickfuneralhome.com). Tetrick Funeral Home-Riverside Chapel, 211 North Riverside, Elizabethton, TN 37643, (423) 542-2232 is honored to assist the family of Mr. Jerry Thomas Vanover.



### ÁLVARO COLOM, 71

## Former president of Guatemala dies

SONIA PÉREZ D.  
Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY — Former Guatemala President Álvaro Colom, who governed from 2008 to 2012 and supported a United Nations anti-corruption mission that later investigated him, died Monday, lawmakers from his party announced. He was 71.

"I deeply lament the death of ex-President Colom, a man of profound democratic convictions and great social sensibility," said Guatemalan lawmaker Orlando Blanco, leader of the center-left National Unity of Hope Party in Congress.

Current President Alejandro Giammattei expressed his condolences to Colom's family and friends via Twitter. No cause of death was given.

Colom won office in a runoff election in 2007, defeating retired Gen. Otto Pérez Molina. It was his third attempt for the presidency.

An industrial engineer, Colom was Guatemala's first leftist president in more than 50 years when he took office in January 2008, but said he wanted Guatemala to chart its own path rather than falling in with established leftist leaders like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez at the time.

### VICTOR NAVASKY, 90

## Historian and The Nation editor dies

HILLEL ITALIE  
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Victor Navasky, an award-winning author and journalist who for years presided over the liberal weekly *The Nation* and wrote influential books on the anti-Communist blacklist and Robert F. Kennedy's justice department, has died at age 90.

Navasky's death was confirmed Tuesday by a spokesperson at *The Nation*, who did not immediately have additional details. The magazine's publisher, Katrina vanden Heuvel, tweeted that Navasky had changed her life and thousands of others' lives. Those he edited included such prominent liberals as David Corn, Eric Alterman and Katha Pollitt.

"Victor was a true believer in the power of independent media — quietly fierce in his convictions, kind and generous to so very many," vanden Heuvel wrote.

A bearded man with a professorial presence and diplomatic manner, Navasky was long a familiar name and face in the literary and political scene — as an editor and publishing columnist for *The New York Times*, as founder of the satirical magazine *Monocle* and, from 1978 to 2005, as editor and then publisher of *The Nation*.

Navasky also was known for his books on political and cultural history. "Naming Names," winner of a National Book Award in 1982, was a lengthy account of the Cold War and blacklisting of alleged Communists that was praised as thorough and fair-minded. He called the book a "moral detective story" and drew upon interviews with actor Lee J. Cobb, screenwriter Budd Schulberg and others who informed on their peers, dramatizing not just the attacks from Sen. Joseph McCarthy and other Republicans, but the conflicts among liberals over how to respond.

A decade earlier, Navasky wrote "Kennedy Justice," which offered some of the first sustained liberal analysis of Kennedy's brief time as attorney general, his recruitment of such gifted underlings as future Supreme Court Justice Byron White and Nicholas Katzenbach and his tiring battle to control FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. Some scholars thought Navasky romanticized Kennedy, although the author did chastise Kennedy for his record of appointing segregationist judges to the federal courts.

"No aspect of Robert Kennedy's Attorney Generalship is more vulnerable to criticism," he wrote. "For it was a blatant contradiction for the Kennedys to forego civil rights legislation and executive action in favor of litigation and at the same time appoint as lifetime

litigation-overseers men dedicated to frustrating that litigation."

In recent years, Navasky was publisher emeritus of the *Nation* and an occasional contributor. He also taught journalism at Columbia University, chaired the Columbia Journalism Review and served on the board of numerous organizations, including the Authors Guild and the Committee to Protect Journalists. A book on political cartoons, "The Art of Controversy," came out in 2013.

Navasky married Anne Strongin in 1966. They had three children.

A native of New York, Navasky was liberal from the time he knew what the word meant. He went to grade school in Greenwich Village and would speak of classmates whose parents were unemployed because of their politics. For high school, he attended the Little Red School House, which was inspired in part by the progressive educational theories of John Dewey.

"We had one Marxist history teacher who taught a straight Marxist view of history," Navasky told *The Guardian* in 2005. "I remember he once asked where diamonds got their value. Someone said, 'because they're beautiful.' He said, 'no, no.' Someone else said, 'supply and demand.' He said, 'no.' Someone else said, 'from the sweat of the workers in the mines!' And he said 'right!'"

He majored in political science at Swarthmore College, where he edited the student newspaper, and received a graduate degree from Yale Law School. At Yale, he helped start *Monocle*, which ran from 1959 to 1965 and was credited as a predecessor to the absurdist, topical humor of Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. One *Monocle* contributor, Nora Ephron, would remember Navasky as a man "who knew important people, and he knew people he made you think were important simply because he knew them."

Navasky wrote a monthly column on publishing for *The New York Times* and managed an unsuccessful Senate campaign by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. In 1977, he was hired to edit *The Nation*, a century-old publication often cash poor, but rich in dissension.

Columnists such as Alexander Cockburn and Christopher Hitchens were as likely to attack each other as to take on conservatives. The genial Navasky himself was often criticized, whether for being too being cheap with his employees ("The wily and parsimonious Victor Navasky," his friend and *Nation* contributor Calvin Trillin called him) or for being too nice.

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