

# Obituaries

## Leonard Dwight Fowler

Leonard Dwight Fowler, 70, of Cornersville, TN, died Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, at Ascension Saint Thomas West.

He was a native of Marshall County, the son of the late Ezell Fowler and Lacy Gup-ton Fowler. He was a carpenter and attended the Church of Christ.

In addition to his par-ents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Doyle Fowler.

He is survived by



one son, Josh (Brenda) Fowler of Savannah,

TN; one sister, Debra (Darrell) Barlar of Cor-nersville; two grandchil-dren, Julian and Maya Fowler; three nieces, Kim Fowler, Dana Edde, and Deanna Barlar.

A graveside service was conducted Satur-day, Feb. 4, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Lone Oak Cem-etry, 200 Lone Oak Drive, Lewisburg, TN.

London Funeral Home and Crematory is hon-ored to assist the family with the arrangements.

## Irine Holt Oechsel

Mrs. Irine Holt Oech-sel, 72, of Shelbyville, TN, formerly of College Grove, TN, died Feb. 3, 2023, at her residence.

Visitation was Tues-

day, Feb. 7, 2023, from 1 until 1:30 p.m. at the Beard Cemetery and the graveside service was conducted at 1:30 p.m. Interment followed

the service.

Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Inc. in charge of arrangements.

## Ruth Sweeney

Mrs. Ruth Sweeney, 85, of Chapel Hill, TN, died Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, in Lewisburg, TN. She was born in Marshall County, TN and was a daughter of the late Hubert Scott and Hannah Sue Lunn Scott. Mrs. Sweeney attended Forrest School in Chapel Hill, TN and was a member of Chap-el Hill Church of Christ.

She was a homemaker and had retired from Genesco, Inc. in Chapel Hill after many years of service. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Morris "Buddy" Swee-ney, Jr. in 2009, sisters, Sara Tucker and Faye Lamb, and a brother, Kelly Lunn.

Mrs. Ruth loved her family time, especially with her grandchildren and great-grandchil-dren.

Mrs. Sweeney is



survived by her sons, Ricky (Beth) Sweeney of Chapel Hill, TN, Ran-dy (Shelia) Sweeney of Chapel Hill, TN, Ken-ny Sweeney of Chapel Hill, TN, Jerry (Con-nie) Sweeney of Chapel Hill, TN, Bobby (Tere-sa) Sweeney of Chap-el Hill, TN; sisters, Madge Tomlin Trisdale of Hendersonville, TN, Alice Harris of Lewis-burg, TN; eight grand-children, Ed (Missy) Sweeney, Jill Sweeney, John Sweeney, Ryan (Vanessa) Sweeney,

Amanda (Jared) Rob-inson, Lauren (Craig) Callaway, Brittany (Kendall) Knight, Me-gan (Coy) Shultz; even great-grandchildren.

Visitation with the family took place Sat-urday, Feb. 4, 2023, from 5 until 8 p.m. at Lawrence Funeral Home. Funeral ser-vices were conducted at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023, from the chapel of Lawrence Fu-neral Home with Isaac Bourne officiating. In-terment followed in Swanson Cemetery in Chapel Hill, TN.

For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to For-est High School Alum-ni Scholarship Fund.

Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., Chapel Hill, TN in charge of arrangements, 931-364-2233, [www.law-rencfuneral.net](http://www.law-rencfuneral.net).

## Iva Sanders (Sandy) Wassermann

Iva Sanders (San-dy) Wassermann, 89, of Lewisburg, TN, died Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023, at her home.

She was a native of Little Rock, AR, the daughter of the late Harvey Sanders and Ethel White Sanders. She was a supervisor at Teledyne for many years. She was a devot-ed Christian and had an in-depth knowledge of the Bible.

In addition to her parents, she was pre-ceded in death by her husband, Leonard Was-sermann; six brothers, Claude, Roy, Harvey, Jr., Gene, Donald Glenn, and Ralph Sanders.

She is survived by two sons, John Christopher (Kimberly Ann) Wasser-mann and David Daniel



(Kimberly Diane) Was-sermann both of Lewis-burg, TN; one sister, Ru-by Baker of Murphys-boro, IL; granddaughter, Lauren (Morgan) Abri-go; great-grandchildren, Lincoln and Shepherd Abrigo; step-grandchild, Ryan Derryberry; sever-al nieces and nephews.

Her funeral service was conducted Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. from the chapel of London Funeral Home, 324 West Church Street, Lewisburg, TN 37091, and burial followed in Short Cemetery.

Visitation with the family was Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. until the fu-neral hour.

In lieu of flowers, do-nations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Re-search Hospital, Wound-ed Warriors, or the Mar-shall County Animal Shelter.

London Funeral Home and Crematory is hon-ored to assist the family with the arrangements.

## Frances Wigington



Mrs. Frances Wig-ington, 87, died Sunday morning, Feb. 5, 2023, at her home in the Holts Corner community. Mrs. Wigington was born, Sept. 11, 1935, in Ruth-erford County to the late Talmadge and Bes-sie Fagan Chrisman. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Thomas Vir-gil Wigington, Jr., who died in October of 2022; and a brother, Larry Chrisman.

Mrs. Wigington was a graduate of Forrest School in Chapel Hill. Frances was a mem-ber of Riggs Church of Christ and was also a member of the Dorcas Ladies Group at the church. She was a home-maker and in 1995, she retired from United Telephone Company of Chapel Hill, where she

had worked for many years.

Mrs. Wigington is survived by her daugh-ter, Jacque Perryman Dospil, Holts Corner comm.; son, Tommy Wig-ington, Lewisburg, TN; niece, Tammi (Doug) Pruitt, Chapel Hill, TN; grandchildren, Brad (Dana) Perryman, Ryan (Rachel) Perryman, Pat-en (Ashton) Pruitt, Lu-cas (McKinsey) Pruitt, Jesse (Ryleigh) Pruitt; great-grandchildren, Tayler Horvath, David

Andrews, Morgan Per-ryman, Cole Perryman, Caroline Perryman, Anna Perryman, Ella Perryman, Nora Pruitt; great-great-grandchil-dren, Avery Horvath, Jackson Horvath, Tyler Coward.

Family members re-ceived friends Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, from 5 un-til 8 p.m. at Lawrence Funeral Home. Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, from the chap-el of Lawrence Funeral Home with Paten Pruitt and Russell Wyatt offi-ciating. Burial followed in Swanson Cemetery in Chapel Hill.

Family members served as pallbearers.

Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Chapel Hill, TN, 364-2233, ([www.lawrencefuneral.net](http://www.lawrencefuneral.net)) in charge of arrangements.

## Free tax prep program kicks off across middle Tennessee

Individuals, fami-lies earning less than \$70,000 in 2022 are el-igible for free tax prep services

The United Way of Greater Nashville and partner agencies of-ficially kicked off the 19th annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) free tax prep program, at the start of February.

Through VITA, IRS-certified tax pre-parers provide free tax preparation services to individuals and families who earned \$70,000 or less per household in 2022, helping qualify-ing individuals receive important credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit that lift millions out of poverty each year. Now through April, United Way is partner-

ing to operate 20 VITA sites throughout Middle Tennessee, including one location in Mar-shall County: Marshall County Senior Center (230 College St., #140): Open Feb. 1 to April 12; Wednesday 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Appointment only. Call 615.830.7940 to sched-ule.

The average taxpay-er spends \$300 to have their taxes prepped and filed at paid tax service providers. Thanks to the VITA free tax prep pro-gram, volunteers help low- to moderate-in-come individuals save crucial dollars that could go toward rent, food, childcare and gas. Last year, VITA volun-teers completed almost 9,000 returns, helping taxpayers save more than \$2.7 million in tax

preparation fees.

"With expenses in Nashville increasing, now more than ever it is important to keep more of what you have earned," said Brian Has-sett, president and CEO of United Way of Great-er Nashville. "Our VITA free tax prep program works with so many of our neighbors to do just that. The VITA program helps thousands of in-dividuals save by keep-ing their full tax return in their pockets so they can use their income for essentials."

Taxpayers can find their nearest VITA site and more information about the program by visiting [unitedwayfile-free.com](http://unitedwayfile-free.com) or through United Way's 211 Help-line by calling 211 or texting their ZIP code to 898-211.

## A Moment in Black History

### Marshall Co. NAACP AARON TAYLOR

Aaron Taylor, Tennessee born black man who had only a fifth-grade education, was considered by lawyers on Cap-itol Hill as one of the best legal minds in the state. He left his native home in Giles County, TN and started employment as a porter in the state supreme courthouse library in 1902. He read and studied most of the more 30,000 law volumes in his charge. He became so familiar with the location of reference books, lawyers turned to him in their search for past cases on various points of law. It was not unusual seeing the lawyers and Taylor reading and dis-cussing points of law.

Taylor was named librarian in 1936 by unanimous consent of the judiciary state's attor-ney's and the Attorney Gen-eral's office. He was also featured in an article in the Nashville Tennessean magazine on De-cember 15, 1946.

Taylor was the grandfather of Rochelle Alexander and Can-dace McCord, both of Lewis-burg. We salute Aaron Taylor for being a forerunner in black history.



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