

◆ OBITUARIES ◆

Mary Ann Griggs Adams

Mary Ann Griggs Adams of Kearney, Mo., passed peacefully in her home with family by her side September 09, 2019. She was 76.

Mary was born July 29, 1943, in Braymer, Mo., to parents Russell and Marjorie Griggs. Mary was the oldest of five children. She had various careers in her early life but ultimately found her true purpose in the early 70s with accounting. She was able to fulfill a dream of opening her own business, APG Services of Kearney, Mo., giving her the opportunity to not only serve her clients but to make personal relationships, which she cherished over the years. While she prided herself in her work, her true passion was her family and her fierce love for them.

She was a single mother to two children and cared for her mother until her recent passing for close to 40 years. She was known for putting the needs of others before her own and was loved for her fiery spirit and laughter.

Mary was preceded in death by her father, Russell L. Griggs; mother, Marjorie G. Griggs; and her two brothers, Russell C. Griggs and Robert L. Griggs. Mary is survived by her brother, Frank E. Griggs and wife Denise; her sister, Kathy K. Paquin and husband Paul; and sister-in-law, Shirley Griggs; her children, Ronald L. Patrick and Leanna D. Adams; 6 grandkids; and 4 great-grandkids.

Visitation was held Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at Fry-Bross & Spidle Funeral Home followed by a graveside service at 1:00 PM at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, 10507 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO.

Arrangements: Fry-Bross & Spidle Funeral Home- Kearney, MO (816) 628-4411.

Lois Marie Cassidy

Lois Marie Cassidy, 94, of Blue Springs, died Thursday, September 12, 2019.

Survivors include sister, Glenn Ellen Hutchison (Dudley) of Green Valley, Arizona; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at Lindley Pitts Funeral Home, Braymer, on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., with visitation at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be held at Evergreen Cemetery, Braymer.

Arrangements are under the direction of Lindley Pitts Funeral Home, Braymer.

Myra Mae Devine

Myra Mae Devine, 92, of Pleasant Valley, MO, passed away Friday, September 13th, 2019 at Pleasant Valley Manor.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for 1:00 pm Saturday, October 5th, 2019 at Church-Acher-Pasley Funeral Home, 119 E Franklin St, Liberty, MO.

David F. Glenn

David F. Glenn, age 89, of Lathrop, MO and formerly of Liberty, MO, passed away September 10th.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the Wounded Warriors Project in care of the funeral home.

Memorial services: 5:30 PM Tuesday, September 17th, 2019, Stith Family Funeral Home, Lathrop. Visitation: 4:30 PM (1 hr. prior) at the funeral home. Inurnment: Glenridge Cemetery, Liberty, MO.

Arr: Stith Family Funeral

Home, Lathrop. www.stith-familyfunerals.com.



Charlene O'Dell Kelley

Charlene, formerly of Liberty, passed away on August, 13th in St. Louis. She was 87.

She leaves behind daughters, Denise Garfield, Rhonda Armstrong, Leslie Walther; and sisters, Janice O'Dell and Sharron Chambers; additionally, eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held October 5th at the Liberty Christian Church at 1:00 pm. Luncheon follows at the church. Private burial.

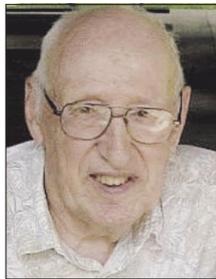
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Queen of Peace Center, Attn. Development, 325 N. Newstead Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63108.

Timothy Craig McCracken

Timothy Craig McCracken, 59, of Lee's Summit, passed away on Sept. 9, 2019.

No services are planned at this time.

Arrangements: Langsford Funeral Home 115 SW 3rd ST. Lee's Summit, MO 64063 (816)524-3700.



Orville E. Melvin, Sr.

Orville Eugene Melvin, Sr., 91, of Liberty, MO, and formerly of Blockton, IA, peacefully entered into rest on September 11, 2019, with his wife of 70 years at his side.

Visitation will begin at 2:00 pm, followed by a service celebrating Orville's life at 3:00 pm, on Saturday, September 21, 2019, at Park Lawn Northland Chapel, I-35 at State Route 291, Liberty. Burial at a later date at Hopkins Cemetery in Hopkins, MO.

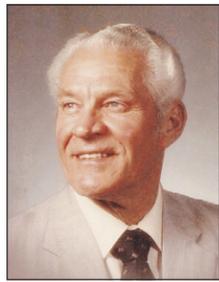
In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Liberty Baptist Church, 1000 Birmingham Road, Liberty, MO 64068.

Orville was born April 2, 1928, in Taylor County, IA, the eldest of six children of James Woodford and Inez Ruth (Booze) Melvin. He grew up on a farm near Hopkins, MO, where he attended Plum Grove School and graduated from Hopkins High School. Orville was united in marriage to Mary Louise Goodrich on July 3, 1949, on her family's farm in Grundy County, MO, near Trenton. They soon moved to Blockton, IA, where Orville operated Melvin Hardware, Plumbing and Heating from 1957 until 1993 when he retired. Orville and Mary moved to Liberty in 2002 to live near family. They were members of Liberty Baptist Church.

Along with his parents, Orville was preceded in death by two siblings, Bill Melvin and Phyllis Ulmer. Survivors include his wife,

Mary; children, Nancy Nappi (Victor), Gene Melvin (Lisa), Steve Melvin (Janis), Richard Melvin, Annette Tracy (Matt) and Tim Melvin (Tracy); sisters, Evelyn Watts, Helen Marriott and Norma Wuester; as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Arrangements: Park Lawn Northland Chapel (816) 781-8228.



Louis Raymond Merrell

Louis Raymond "Ray" Merrell, 96, a longtime Liberty resident, passed away peacefully on September 9, 2019, at Liberty Hospital with family at his side.

Visitation will begin at 9:00 am, followed by a service celebrating Ray's life at 10:30 am, on Saturday, September 14, at Park Lawn Northland Chapel, I-35 at State Route 291, Liberty, MO. Burial with military honors will follow at Resurrection Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Toys for Tots.

Ray was born December 11, 1922, in Carrollton, MO. He proudly served as a U.S. Marine Corps Raider in the Pacific during World War II. Ray was united in marriage to Helen Treece on Easter Sunday, April 21, 1946, in Sweet Springs, MO.

One of Ray's first jobs was working as a manager for MFA at Carrollton, Hamilton and Moberly. He later worked 28 years as a meat department manager for Schoeller's United Super Grocery in Liberty, and was a real estate agent for Century 21 in Liberty when he retired.

Ray was a member of the Liberty Christian Church, was a 65-year Mason affiliated in Hamilton and Liberty, and was a member of Liberty American Legion Post 95 and Liberty VFW Post 4043. He was also an Honorary Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest Merrell and Edith (Uhrig) Merrell; and siblings, Paul Merrell, Naomi Merrell, Ernestine Wheeler, Norma Jones, Mildred Malan and Harold Nelson.

Survivors include his wife of 73 years, Helen; children, Debbie Hopper (Jim) and Alan Merrell (Lee); grandchildren, Jason Ireland (Glenda), Richard Merrell and Lynn Merrell; great-grandchildren, Kolby, Chase, Lexus, Ryder, Krystal and Cheyenne; sisters, Dorothy Turner and Cora Lee Morris; as well as many nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

Ray never knew a stranger. He will be fondly remembered for his laugh, kind words and as a willing helper for others. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and will be greatly missed by all.

Arrangements: Park Lawn Northland Chapel (816) 781-8228.

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Allen Bright, a volunteer and member of Liberty Christian Church, works to paint shutters at a residence on Thornton Street Saturday, Sept. 14, as part of Rebuilding Together Kansas City's Rebuilding Day.

AMANDA LUBINSKI/STAFF PHOTO



Rebuilding Day sees hundreds make home repairs for those in need

BY AMANDA LUBINSKI
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LIBERTY — Coming together to help dozens of homeowners across the Northland, hundreds of volunteers took to helping their neighbors complete home repairs as part of Rebuilding Together Kansas City's Rebuilding Day Saturday, Sept. 14.

During the day, the nonprofit organization dispatched groups of volunteers to residences of 20 families. Rebuilding Day is focused on eliminating unsafe and deplorable living conditions for homeowners who do not have the financial or physical means to complete the repairs themselves.

With a group of more than 20 volunteers from Liberty Christian Church at a residence on Thornton Street in Liberty, Cyndy Doyle of Liberty said the day gave her a chance to pay it forward after volunteers have been to her residence multiple times.

"To be able to give back is one of the greatest human things we can do," she said. "It's all about love and helping our fellow man."

Doyle said volunteers have completed involved projects at her home that consisted of pouring a new driveway, painting her house and remodeling the basement to remove toxic mold that was unsafe for her and her grandchild.

"It's just absolutely wonderful. ... It's about more than that though, I found a home church through it as well," she said of Liberty Christian. "I found my home and found a family."

While painting shutters at the Thornton residence Saturday, volunteer and Liberty Christian Church member Allen Bright said he was happy to be able to get

involved this year.

"Our church has been doing this for years," he said. "I like to come out and help when I can. I'm glad they moved it because usually they do this in October when I'm always busy. Doing this in September means I can help."

George Waddell, who along with his wife owns the Thornton Street residence, said he wanted all of the volunteers to know how appreciative he is of the work. At his home, more than 20 volunteers teamed up Saturday morning to complete work that included replacing siding, painting the residence along with window trim and garage doors, upgrading deck steps and renovating the existing deck.

Waddell said volunteers were not only generous with the amount of manpower they were dedicating to physical work at his home, but were thorough in planning and communicating with his family about what they needed to make sure their home was comfortable and safe.

"This isn't the Taj Mahal and I told them that. ... I've always lived by what the good book says, that is that you should be content with what you get but they went above that," he said, adding he is trying to think of a way to give back to the organization who gave his family so much.

Waddell said his health and income are such that he could not make the needed repairs on his own.

"As a man of faith, I also believe that these people are doing what our savior, Jesus, said, which is love your neighbor," he said. "I'll be 65 in November and I've never had help with anything in my life. ... I always thought help was for certain kinds of folks. Turns out, I just didn't know the right folks."

DEDICATED: Volunteer cares about Smithville children

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Montessori school.

"This is truly a love," Kobylski said. "The reason I started my school, we truly focus on education and helping children learn to love to learn. To love knowledge, I did not do this to make money."

All the funds taken in by the Montessori go to running the school and payroll, she said.

Looking forward and placing her school aside, she believes Missouri EATS will be what is most "near and dear" to her heart. It is going to be fun and rewarding, she said. MoEATS aims to provide a closer look at the local food system and help the community develop an action plan to strengthen that system and society as a whole.

"I am the type of person who can't just sit and complain about it, I have to make a difference. Complaining does nothing," Kobylski said. "I don't like seeing hungry children. I think that is why Missouri EATS is going to be big to me."

Being a regular volunteer, Kobylski said she is blessed to have a husband

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Kelly Kobylski
Smithville activist

who supports her efforts and her time away.

The biggest struggle of volunteerism for some, Kobylski said, is being spread thin. Differing from that notion, Kobylski was almost built for it as she doesn't get stressed out when there is a lot to do, she said.

"When something happens, I just move onto the next," she said. "I just keep rolling."

The biggest difficulty she sees, is funding for her beloved endeavors. Many people are willing to put in time, but funding is harder to find, she said.

"I just wish there was an endless supply," she said.

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