

Obituaries

FRANCES LARE

Frances Ellen Lare was born in Ukiah, California on October 11, 1947, to Edwin and Norma Hosheit. Fran grew up in the Redwood Valley, where she found peace among the towering trees, hunting and camping alongside her father. Though she moved to Kansas in her freshman year of high school, the spirit of the Redwoods remained in her heart, as did the memories of visiting Fort Bragg, where her father had been stationed, and the ocean she adored. Her adventurous spirit led her and Gary to explore 47 states and three different countries, embracing the beauty and diversity of the world. Gary and Fran could often be found driving across the country to visit family and friends.



After Kansas became home, she met Gary, and in 1967, they married, soon settling in McPherson, where they built a life together for 58 years. Fran loved her work, spending 48 years preparing taxes at H&R Block, 44 of those as owner of the business. She loved helping others, forming lasting friendships and serving her community with dedication and care.

Fran had a way of making things happen, never afraid to commit to something she believed in. She inspired Gary’s involvement in Boy Scouts with a simple statement: “By the way, you’re a Webelo leader now.” Her determination was evident in every aspect of her life, including the hand-dug swimming pool the family built when the kids were in elementary school, just one of the many ways she created lasting memories for those she loved.

Family was her greatest joy. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were always in her thoughts, and her love extended to an ever-growing number of nieces and nephews, each holding a special place in her heart.

Fran peacefully passed away on May 23, 2025, at the age of 77. As we say goodbye, we hold on to the love and laughter Fran shared with us. Her spirit lives on in the cherished memories she leaves behind, and the many lives she touched along the way. Fran’s life was a testament to love, adventure, and determination; qualities that made her truly unforgettable.

She is survived by her husband Gary; children Tracy, Cory (Heather), and Kelly (Brandi); granddaughters Mikayla, Emma, Macey, and Maci; grandsons Kolton, Camryn, Jett, and Rhys; great-grandsons Liam, Waylon, and Weston; and sister Patty (Gary).

She was preceded in death by her father Edwin, mother Norma, brother Eddie, nephew Brandon, and great-nephew Gage.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, July 11, 2025, at 10:30 AM, at Stockham Family Funeral Home.

Memorial donations can be given to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in care of Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 North Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460.

Personal condolences may be sent to the family at www.stockhamfamily.com.

ALICE DECKER

Halstead, Kansas: Alice Nelson Decker was born July 12, 1931, at McPherson Kansas, the daughter of Walter and Jennie Nelson and died May 31, 2025, at the age of 93. She graduated from Galva High School and worked as a bookkeeper at banks in McPherson, Lawrence, and Kansas City. She married Donald Decker on June 1, 1952, and subsequently lived in Lawrence, Kansas City, and Wichita, Kansas, Pensacola and Jacksonville Beach, Florida, and Prairie Village, Kansas before settling in Halstead, Kansas. She was known for her beautiful smile and pleasant disposition. She was a gifted entertainer of family and friends in her home.



She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers Walter Jr. and Paul Nelson. She is survived by husband Dr. Donald, son Terence, daughter Jennifer, and sister Trisha Crouse.

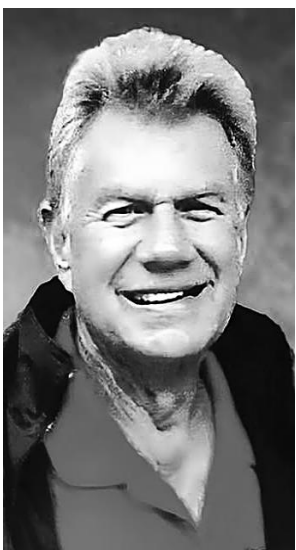
A private graveside service will be at Empire Cemetery, rural Galva, Kansas.

Memorials are suggested to Kansas Learning Center for Health, Halstead, KS in care of Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 North Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460.

Personal condolences can be sent to the family at www.stockhamfamily.com.

DENNES FREDERICK

Dennes Roy Frederick was born September 26, 1944, in Chicago, Illinois, the oldest son of Donald R. and Faye Teach Frederick. He died May 24, 2025, at the age of 80 in his home in Danville, Kentucky. Dennes moved with his parents to McPherson, Kansas, as a toddler and graduated from McPherson High School in 1962. He spent one year at McPherson College before transferring to the University of Kansas, where he and a mix of hometown and college friends formed a rhythm and blues band called The Fabulous Flippers. The Flippers traveled extensively throughout the Midwest in the 60’s and 70’s, also performing in Lawrence at the Red Dog Inn, inviting fans to join them for a “Flipper Dance.” Many fans looked forward to dancing to the Flippers’ version of “The Harlem Shuffle”. Later the Flippers were inducted into the Kansas, the Iowa, and the Nebraska Rock and Roll Halls of Fame. The band reunited in 2003 to play for the inauguration celebration of Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius.



Dennes moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1970, to pursue a career in music as well as to complete a degree in history. While attending MTSU he met and married the former Sheron Wilee. They performed together as a duo called Sheron and Fred, but eventually divorced. Moving on from the music profession, Dennes began working in Nashville as a chemist. Dennes married Vicki Latimer in 2008. They were the parents to many well-loved dogs and cats over the years.

Denny had a gift for finding and sharing the humor in everyday situations. Family gatherings at a campsite or the family home in McPherson became a delightful adventure when Denny was there. We will all miss the vibrant spark he brought to the campfire, as well as his appreciation of the fine arts, love of nature, but most of all, his wonderful smile.

Dennes was preceded in death by his parents and by his brother-in-law, James Ralston. He is survived by his wife, Vicki, and her son Brad Latimer, Knoxville, Tennessee, her daughter Ashley Fletcher of Nashville, Tennessee, and seven grandchildren. Other survivors include his siblings, Susan Frederick Ralston, Joel (Diana) Frederick, and Carol Frederick (Brian) McFall, all of Lawrence.

Nieces and nephews include Meghan Ralston Adams (Nick) of Lenexa, KS, Natalie Ralston Makenna (Chris Santos) of Los Angeles, CA, Amanda Frederick (Ryan Stander) of Lawrence, Joshua Frederick of Dallas, TX, Allison McFall of Lawrence, KS, and Mallory McFall of Kansas City, MO.

Great-nieces include Olivia and Phoebe Adams of Lenexa, KS, and Cordelia Stander of Lawrence, KS.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Clinton Lake Overlook Shelter #1 on Friday, June 13, from 5-7 PM. Burial will be in Lawrence, KS.

Donations to AFTD (Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration) would be appreciated. Condolences can be sent to Rumsey-Yost Funeral Home, Lawrence, Kansas. www.Rumsey-Yost.com.

GARY SPEER

Gary Dean Speer age 79 of Emporia, Kansas, passed away May 29, 2025.

There will be a come and go visitation with family not present, Monday June 2, 2025 from 11 am to 4 pm. There will be a funeral service, Tuesday June 3, 2025 at 1 pm. Both at Resthaven Mortuary, 11800 W. Hwy 54, Wichita, Kansas, 67209.



Gary served in the United States Air Force and is a Disabled American Veteran.

He is preceded in death by his parents; survivors include his brothers; Ronald G Speer of Park City, Kansas and Charles E. Speer of Emporia, Kansas; many nieces and nephews.

ROBERT YODER, JR.

Robert “Bobby” Marvin Yoder, Jr., 57, formerly of McPherson, KS, passed away May 15, 2025, in Sedona, AZ. Arrangements are with Stockham Family Funeral Home, McPherson.



SANDRA SMITH

Sandra “Sandi” Kay Smith, 46, of McPherson, KS, passed away on June 1, 2025, surrounded by family at Kenwood View Health & Rehabilitation Center in Salina, KS. Arrangements are with Stockham Family Funeral Home, McPherson.

TERRI DUNCAN-WATT

Terri Lynn Duncan-Watt, 67, of McPherson, KS, passed away Sunday, June 1, 2025, at Hospice House, Hutchinson, KS.

Terri was born in Iola, Kansas on November 27, 1957, the daughter of William Dean Duncan and Dorothy Faye Duncan-Treat.

She attended Iola Grade School and graduated from Iola High School in 1975.

She was the Owner-Operator of a Green House and a Real Estate Agent in Texas.

Terri was united in marriage to George Watt on March 26,1997 in Reno, Nevada.

She is survived by her husband, George Watt; her children, Brandon Duncan and Ryker Duncan, all of McPherson, KS; and a sister, Carolyn Sebbert of Texas.

Terri was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Floyd “Bub” Lee Duncan.

No services will be held at this time.

Goss to serve as National Grant Reviewer

provided by McPherson County Community Foundation

Becky Goss, president and CEO of the McPherson County Community Foundation (MCCF), has been invited to serve as a grant reviewer for the 2025 J.M.K. Innovation Prize, a prestigious national program administered by the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

The fund awards 10 prizes, each including a \$150,000 cash grant and \$25,000 in technical assistance. Participation as a reviewer is by invitation only and is seen as a rare opportunity to engage with bold, early-stage projects in the fields of heritage conservation, the environment, and social justice.

The J.M. Kaplan Fund was founded in 1945 by Jacob Merrill Kaplan following the sale of his business, Welch’s Grape Juice Company. For more than three generations, the fund has remained a strong force in philanthropy. Its current focus areas include the environment, heritage conservation, and social justice.

Launched in 2015, the Innovation Prize supports social entrepreneurs working to address some of society’s most urgent challenges. The prize is awarded every two years and receives more than 3,200 applications nationwide. In the first round, more than 500 reviewers

evaluate submissions. The top applications then advance to a review committee of 30 experts. Fifteen finalists are selected, and 10 ultimately receive the prize.

One notable past recipient is Wikitongues, a New York-based nonprofit that won in 2021. The organization is dedicated to preserving the world’s linguistic diversity, over 3,000 languages are at risk of extinction within the next generation, according to co-founder Daniel Bögre.

Wikitongues maintains an open-source platform where speakers and cultural leaders can submit videos, oral histories, and other materials to help preserve their languages. One of its standout contributors, Jacqueline Brixey, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, has built a dataset of more than 300,000 Choctaw words, along with a chatbot and speech-to-text software to aid in revitalization efforts. According to Wikitongues fewer than 7,000 people are considered native speakers of the language.

Goss said she’s honored to be part of the review process and sees it as valuable experience for MCCF.

“This opportunity is brilliant for (MCCF),” Goss said. “It gives us a look at how large organizations approach grant review, and hopefully inspires new ideas to expand and innovate our own process.”

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