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PUBLICATIONS  
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Our email address is:  
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DEADLINE is  
Monday 2:00 p.m.



FLAGS  
FOR SALE

Is your flag getting faded, torn and tattered? If so, the Alma American Legion Auxiliary has 3x5 nylon flags for sale for \$25.00. These are all weather flags with embroidered stars. Contact Marie Miller at 785-765-3908, or Trish Ringel at 785-765-3434, to purchase a new one. We will take your old flags so that they can be retired in the proper manner.


Proudly display your flag! And God bless our country and the men and women fighting to defend her!



# Obituaries



Mary Katherine (McKnight) Barnum



Mary Katherine (McKnight) Barnum, 85, beloved wife and mother, and docent at the Smithsonian, passed peacefully in her home in Washington, D.C., on the afternoon of December 27, 2024, her family by her side.

Born on the Fourth of July, 1939, to Rowena Cordon McKnight and Dr. Ellis Buford McKnight (who was also the delivering doctor), Mary was raised in Alma, Kansas, amid the rolling Flint Hills of Wabaunsee County. She attended the public elementary school and high school, and played the baritone horn in her school band and the organ for Alma United Methodist Church. She attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence (KU) where she earned her bachelor's degree in History and enjoyed sorority life with her Pi Beta Phi sisters. At KU, she met Howard Barnum, a math major, economics major, and passionate pianist, whom she married in 1961.

Mary was admitted to graduate school in History at the University of California at Berkeley, but did not attend, instead devoting herself to her husband and young children, her relatives, and her friends. After Howard earned a Ph.D. in Economics at Berkeley and began teaching at Dartmouth College, Mary taught reading in Hanover, New Hampshire, and in nearby Norwich, Vermont, and Thetford, Vermont.

Howard's work brought the family to Paris, France, in 1972 and 1973. This was a memorable and cherished time for the entire family. Mary took cooking lessons, shopped at neighborhood markets, boulangeries and charcuteries, hosted visitors from the U.S., and organized family travel, and outings to concerts, exhibitions and cultural sites. Meanwhile, Howard worked at the OECD (Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development) and the children attended public school, learned French and studied music. As always, Mary made space, time, and opportunity for her family to thrive.

Back in Hanover and in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Mary continued dedicating her time and talent to her family until both children were in college and Howard began working for the World Bank, in Washington, D.C. Through twenty years of country missions, Mary often accompanied Howard, sometimes providing administrative support. Together they traveled and worked in China, Russia, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Palau, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and elsewhere.

Mary served as a docent at the Smithsonian American Art Museum for over thirty years (class of 1990), and served a term as president. She delighted in researching artists and artwork and creating tours of the museum's collections and special exhibitions. Her tours engaged visitors, school classes, and groups from around the U.S. and the world.

Mary always enjoyed spending time with her fellow docents as they planned and participated in trips to visit artists and collections throughout the country.

In all she did, Mary was easy going, well-liked, and fun to be with. Her quiet wisdom, free spirit, sense of humor, and supportive nature are greatly missed.

Mary was a lifelong member of the Wabaunsee County Historical Society and Museum.

Mary is survived by her loving husband, Howard Barnum; son, Howard Barnum (Nona Girardi); daughter, Katherine Skura (Peter); grandchildren, Miriam Barnum, George Barnum, and Siena Moraff; sisters-in-law Suzanne (Sue) McKnight, Phyllis Sandifer (Richard), and Winifred Barnum Newman; and many nieces and nephews and their spouses and children.

Mary was predeceased by her parents; sister, Margaret Schroeder; brother, Frank McKnight (passed on October 15, 2024); niece, Laura Holdridge; and nephew, John Sandifer. She was the last member of the Alma McKnight family to pass.

A ceremony of remembrance was held on Friday, January 17, at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

John C. Shumaker

John C. Shumaker, 76, of Alma, Kansas, passed away at Midland Hospice House, Topeka, Kansas, on June 14, 2025. He was born on April 7, 1949.

A complete obituary is pending.

Cremation arrangements are in the care of Campanella & Stewart Funeral Home, Wamego, Kansas.

John Dirk Henderson

John Dirk Henderson died on June 13, 2025, at Stormont Vail in Topeka, Kansas.

A graveside service will be held in his honor at 1:00 p.m. on June 19, 2025, in the Eskridge Cemetery with the Fort Riley Army Detail and the American Legion Post #172 performing Military Honors.

A Complete obituary is pending and will be announced by Campanella & Stewart Funeral Home of Wamego.

LaVere  
Louise Meinholdt



LaVere Louise Meinholdt, 87, of Emporia, Kansas, formerly of Wamego, Kan., died Saturday, June 14, 2025, at the Presbyterian Manor in Emporia. LaVere was a life-long resident of the Alma and Wamego communities until her move to Emporia in 2009 to be closer to family. Service times and obituary information is pending

Betty J. McCormick


Betty J. McCormick, age 79, of Alma, Kansas, passed away on June 13, 2025, in Topeka, Kansas. She was born November 29, 1945.

A full obituary is pending and will be announced.

A visitation will be held on June 22, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Campanella & Stewart Funeral Home located at 4370 Salzer Rd., P.O. Box 48, Wamego, KS 66547.

A funeral service will take place on June 23, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the Paxico/McFarland United Methodist Church, 305 Newbury Ave., Paxico, KS 66526.

Memorials are suggested to the church and may be payable to the Paxico/McFarland United Methodist Church. Those may be sent in care of Campanella & Stewart Funeral Home, P.O. Box 48, Wamego, Kansas 66547.



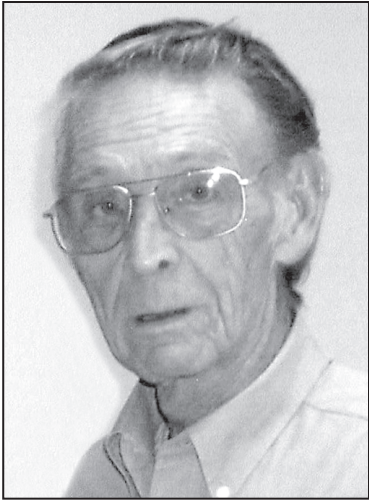
Ronald "Ron" Edward Walsh

Ronald Edward Walsh, 81, known to many as Ron, embarked on his final journey on June 6, 2025, at the Good Shepherd Homecare and Hospice in Manhattan, Kansas, surrounded by the love of his family.

Ron was born on December 11, 1943, in Westmoreland, Kansas, to parents Edward Michael and Betty Arletta (Releford) Walsh.

Ron married Ruth Elaine Dekat on June 18, 1962, in St. Joseph Catholic Church, Flush, Kansas. They shared 63 years; Ruth survives at the home.

Ron was a skilled drywall finisher, dedicating many years to resi-




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