

In Memoriam

Alfred William Norman

Alfred "Al" William Norman, Johnstown, Ohio, 86, passed away peacefully on February 25, 2026, at Cherry Blossom Senior Living in Columbus, Ohio.

He was born on August 14, 1939, in Liberty, Pa., to the late Howard Lawrence Norman and Dorothy Mary Norman. He grew up on Normandell Farms, a Registered Jersey farm, with eight siblings, several of whom continue to work in the dairy industry.

A country boy at heart, Al carried the farm and family with him everywhere he went. He never ceased to talk about home and the love and laughter of the Norman family and farm. Al was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association.

He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, serving as a photographer and photo developer at the White House, and worked for both the University of Nevada, Reno and New Mexico State University as a dairy extension specialist.

He then moved to Ohio, where he worked for the American Jersey Cattle Club as the superintendent of records from July 1989 to March 1992. His wife of 33 years, Karen Sharp-Norman, also worked for the national Jersey organizations from April 1981 to September 1993.

Al eventually changed his career path, working many years for J.B. Hunt as a long-haul truck driver.

Though he officially retired, Al never really stopped working. He continued to "cut wood," was active with the American Legion and volunteered for the Central Ohio Bluegrass Association. He and Karen were also active members of the Johnstown United Methodist Church.

Al always enjoyed a good joke and loved to dance, as the Cherry Blossom staff recalls with fondness. He was a kind and generous person, often serving others without fanfare or praise, and was eager to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

In addition to his wife, Karen, he is survived by two children, Holly (Scott) Dodge and Jeffrey Norman; two stepchildren, Anita Steele and David Pfleager; siblings Marilyn Norman, Ernest Norman, Duane Norman, Donald Norman, Ruth Morse, Dorothy Brubaker and David Norman; seven grandchildren; and a host of other family, friends and loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Janice Farmerie.

William H. Diley Jr.

William "Bill" H. Diley Jr., Washington Court House, Ohio, 81, passed away on April 1, 2026, at Mount Carmel East Hospital after suffering cardiac arrest on the farm "Up Home" on March 30.

He was born on the family farm in Canal Winchester, Ohio, on July 31, 1944, in a house built in 1854. Son of the late William H. Diley and Martha L. Diley, he graduated as a co-salutatorian from Pickerington High School in 1962. In school, he earned his state FFA degree and was selected to attend the National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

Bill received his undergraduate degree in agriculture in 1966 and a master's degree in agriculture education in 1972, both from Ohio State University.

From 1966 to 2002, he was the vocational agricultural teacher and FFA advisor for the Miami Trace school system. During summer vacations, he was superintendent of the dairy barn at the Ohio State Fair and junior fair dairy superintendent.

Bill operated Diley Farms, a registered Jersey farm, with his family in Canal Winchester. He was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and the Ohio Jersey Breeders' Association.

Over the years, he received many awards and recognitions. He was inducted into the Fayette County Agricultural Hall of Fame, received a Jim and Eddie Kirk award for service to the Fayette County Fair, won the Distinguished Service Award from Ohio Farm Bureau and earned an honorary American FFA degree.

Bill had four loves: his many students (and later friends), his Jersey cows, the many pets he rescued over the years, and D.B. Yummers BBQ sauce, the star of a company he co-founded with his wife, Debra.

There is not enough space to list the many accomplishments of his students, FFA chapter and Jersey cows, all of which he took great pride in.

A near brush with death event in June 2023 prompted Debra to host a combination 80th birthday and celebration of life for Bill the following July at Miami Trace High School, with the Nashville band, Rockland Road, performing. Bill cherished that time spent with friends, former colleagues and students. Therefore, there will be no calling hours or service.

In addition to his wife, Debra Duff, he

is survived by his brothers Neal; brother David (Lisa) Duff and their sons and father-in-law, John Rhoad; the "son he never had," Chris White; along with a host of friends and former students and employees whom he cherished like family.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1991, his mother in 2004, and his youngest brother, John, in 1979.

Memorials may be made to the Fayette Regional Humane Society, 4 Commercial Ave., Washington Court House, OH 43160, or the MT FFA Alumni, c/o Miami Trace FFA.

Thomas Edgar Noyes

Thomas "Tom" Edgar Noyes, Wooster, Ohio, 82, passed away on April 6, 2026.

He was born on November 11, 1943, in Providence, R.I., to the late Edgar and Stewart Noyes and Dorothy (Cruthers) Noyes. He received an undergraduate degree in animal sciences from the University of Rhode Island and then a master's degree in animal sciences nutrition from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Tom married Rosalie Wilder on May 1, 1964. Until his passing, Tom operated Cantendo Acres-Grazeland Jerseys with Rosalie and their daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and Russell King, in Creston, Ohio. The herd is enrolled on REAP and has a 2025 lactation average of 20,885 lbs. milk, 1,081 lbs. fat and 769 lbs. fat and an appraisal average of 86.3%.

Tom was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and a longtime educator with Ohio State University, retiring as the Wayne County extension dairy educator after more than 30 years.

He enjoyed spending time at the farm and a portion of his winters in Florida. He also enjoyed visiting family in Rhode Island, cheering grandchildren at sporting events and playing golf. He was a member and past president of the Wooster-Madisonburg Evening Lions Club.

In addition to his wife of 61 years, Rosalie, and daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and Russel King, he is survived by a son, Thomas II (Diane) Noyes; a daughter, Donna (Leonard III) Heim; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Donald Noyes.

Memorial contributions may be made to Buckeye Agriculture Museum and Education Center, 877 W. Old Lincoln Way, Wooster, OH 44691.