

In Memoriam

Robert James Fleming

Robert "Bob" James Fleming, Delaware, Ohio, 81, passed away peacefully on June 23, 2022, at his residence surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on April 9, 1941, in Delaware to the late James Nelson and Helen (Sheets) Fleming. He graduated from Elm Valley High School and then earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural science from the Ohio State University (OSU).

Showing a Jersey calf at the age of nine was the beginning of his lifelong involvement in the dairy and agriculture industries. He developed leadership skills through FFA and 4-H. He was elected state reporter for the former and spoke before President John F. Kennedy during a citizenship trip to Washington D.C. for the latter. Bob was also president of Alpha Zeta fraternity for the 1961-62 school year.

While at OSU, he joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps as an officer in the U.S. Army, where he was named "best recruit" among 6,000 conscripts. He earned rank of captain and then served in the Army Reserve. During his service, he was an arms instructor at Fort Knox.

Upon graduation, Bob became the county 4-H agent for Madison County, initiating the counselor-in-training (CIT) program widely used today.

He eventually took over and developed the family farm, Ideal Jersey Farm, in Delaware. During the 1970s and 1980s, cattle were exported to Brazil, Japan and six other countries. Bob was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association, which he served as director.

After a picnic hosted by the Ohio Jersey club, he asked his future bride, Mary Thurston, out for a first date. A month later, standing beside a manure spreader next to the pasture fence, he proposed. Having grown up on a dairy farm too, Mary was not dissuaded by the location and accepted the proposal.

Bob judged many county fairs over the years and was active with the Delaware County Farm Bureau. Among his ideas was an agriculture education program at the Delaware County Fair.

In retirement, he delivered the Columbus Dispatch newspaper in Delaware County. He was named Dispatch Carrier of the Year in 2008. He served Ohio and Michigan as a census enumerator with the U.S. census bureau in 2010. He was a longtime, faithful member of Kilbourne United Methodist Church, where he served on numerous committees.

Bob enjoyed the company of fellow train enthusiasts as a member of the Delaware County Model Railroaders. He also enjoyed watching his grandsons show at the Delaware and Ashtabula County Fairs and play baseball. His favorite gathering place was his front porch, where he spent time with family and friends and watched the corn grow.

In addition to his wife of 44 years, Mary, he is survived by four children, Marie (Chris) Bradek, Jefferson, Ohio, Melissa Fleming, New York City, N.Y., Michael Fleming, Columbus, Ohio, and Mark (Samantha) Fleming, Delaware; six grandsons; two great-grandsons; a brother, William (Frank Kuesel) Fleming, Galena, Ohio; sisters-in-law Nancy Fleming, Delaware, Linda (Keith) Wolstenholme, Collegeville, Pa., Ann (Bill) Rammelsberg, Delaware, Karen Wooster, Taylors, S.C., and Kathy (Scott) Bauder; brother-in-law John Thurston III, Delaware; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Richard.

Memorials may be made to the Ohio 4-H Camp, Ohio FFA Foundation, or the Kilbourne United Methodist Church.

Waymon Carl Newsom, Jr.

Waymon Carl Newsom, Jr., Mount Vernon, Texas, 74, entered heaven on July 20, 2022, with his family by his side.

He was born on August 30, 1947, to the late Waymon Carl Newsom, Sr., and Sybie Davis Newsom. He graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1965 and continued his education at East Texas State University. He married Diane Davis on June 24, 1967, at the First United Methodist Church in Mount Vernon, where he was a lifelong member.

Waymon was a dairyman and rancher on land that had been in the Davis/Newsom family for more than 150 years. He competed in cutter horse arenas and was widely known for breeding foundation quality Quarter horses. He was also a partner in the family-owned Trey Deuce and Texas Twist disc golf course.

After the dairy herd was sold, he worked for the American Jersey Cattle Association as an area representative for Louisiana and Texas. He was also a familiar face to Jersey breeders across the country as a member of the crew that helped Jersey Marketing Service manage sales. For the past 18 years, he was employed at Priefert Manufacturing, which makes farm, ranch, and rodeo equipment.

Waymon was a charter member of the Franklin County (Texas) Farm Bureau and belonged to the Northeast Texas Goat Raisers Association. He was named Agri-

culturist of the Year by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce in 2005. He also was also a posse for the Franklin County sheriff.

One of his happiest days was when daughter-in-law, Jennifer, and grandchildren, Harley Casas and Trey Honea, entered his life. He was blessed again with the birth of twins, Carl and Katie Ann. "Pop-Pop" never missed opportunity to attend the grandchildren's events and is forever instilled in their hearts.

In addition to his wife of 55 years, Diane, son, Trey, and his wife, Jennifer, and four grandchildren, he is survived by sister, Betty (Harold) Lightfoot; sisters-in-law, Jeanne Lawrence, Kandy (Steve) Cook, Vicki (Jeff) Kempf, and Lisa Davis; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, extended family, and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Norma (Grady) Billups, and a nephew.

Memorials may be made in his name to the Aggie Ring Scholarship, c/o Mary Gail Reed, First National Bank of East Texas, P.O. Box 520, Gilmer, TX 75644.