

In Memoriam

Ralph W. Taylor

Ralph W. Taylor, Walton, N.Y., 91, passed away on January 22, 2025.

He was born on June 28, 1933, in Morris, N.Y., to the late Ralph Wardell Taylor and Helen Jeanette Pickens and married Alice Taylor of Walton on December 13, 1953.

Taylor was a lifelong resident of Walton, where he dedicated his life to the farming community. He was the proud owner of Taylor Jersey Farm on Gosper Road, where he cultivated his love for agriculture and commitment to the land. His passion for dairy farming and Jersey cattle was evident to all who knew him.

Ralph was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association, the New York Jersey Cattle Club and the Delaware County Jersey Club. As a 4-H leader, he inspired and mentored generations of young farmers with his knowledge, dedication and love for the farming lifestyle.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife of 71 years, Alice; two daughters, Nancy (Richard) Burgey of Rochester, N.Y., and Janet (Edward Budine) of Walton; a son, William (Beth Roberts) Taylor of Oldwick, N.J.; six grandchildren and the mother of two of them, Gretchen Taylor; 12 great-grandchildren; two cousins; and family of close friends Karson James and Nancy Pierce.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his in-laws and a special friend, Stephen Pierce.

Memorials may be made to one's choice or to Helios Care, 297 River Street Service Road, Suite 1, Oneonta, NY 13820 (www.helioscare.org), who is thanked for their special care of Ralph and his family during this difficult time.

Gordon C. Barlass

Gordon "Gordy" Charles Barlass, Janesville, Wis., 69, passed away unexpectedly on February 2, 2025, following a complicated heart surgery.

He was born on April 2, 1955, at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, the eldest of five children born to George and Shirley (Elphick) Barlass. He attended school in the Milton School District, graduating in 1973. He completed the University of Wisconsin-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course and returned to operate Gil-Bar Jerseys, as a third-generation Jersey breeder with his family. Even after selling his milking herd, he continued to help his sons with

chores until he passed.

Gordy married his best friend, soul mate and the love of his life, Michelle Good of Janesville, on October 18, 1980, at Faith United Methodist Church in Milton. At the age of 16, Michelle knew she was going to marry Gordy because he was her soul mate as well.

Along with milking cows for 36 years, Barlass farmed 160 acres of owned and 250 acres of rented land. Among the foundation cows in Gordy's herd was Ettas Master Babe, a purchase from the 1967 Pot O'Gold Sale that won the ensuing production contest and was named Junior National Grand Champion and National Jersey Jug Futurity Winner in 1970. He consigned "Babe" to the All American Jersey Sale that same year. She sold for \$12,500 to the Uihleins, who earned National Grand Champion laurels with her in 1971.

Another cow of impact was Gil-Bar Unique Bonnie, Excellent-94%, winner of the 1984 National Jersey Jug Futurity and the first Jersey to be selected Supreme Champion of World Dairy Expo (1986). Gordy was proud that both her dam and sire were Gil-Bar bred.

Barlass was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and served on the All American Show Committee three times. He served the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association as director at large and chair and manager of the Wisconsin State Sale. The state organization named him Senior Breeder of the Year in 2017.

He sat on the board of the Rock County Dairy Herd Improvement Association and was a member of the state's Parish 2 show committee for 13 years. He also was a committee member for World Dairy Expo, the Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Show and the Wisconsin State Jersey Show. He loved the 4-H program and was known for being a constructive influence on youth in dairy projects. He was an assistant coach for the county dairy judging team and superintendent of the dairy department at the county fair. Barlass judged county and state fairs in Wisconsin and several surrounding states.

Gordy hoped that the legacy of Gil-Bar would be carried into the fourth generation. That dream came to fruition through his sons and then his grandchildren. His sons loved showing cattle with him because he was a good teacher, coach, dad and grandfather. Though, he was a bit more patient and lenient with the grandkids; after all, he idolized them. His winning smile lit up with stories of each of them; they were

the apple of his eye. His weekends were devoted to their activities: dairy, pig, beef or sheep shows, games, sporting events, concerts, recitals, or even stay-overs with Michelle.

Gordy coached youth football, basketball, baseball and wrestling and was a passionate Bears fan. He said his life was complete after seeing the Bears beat the Packers.

He had an infectious smile and sparkle in his eyes and, when combined, one never knew what he was thinking. He offered sage advice, encouragement, enthusiasm, friendship and mentorship for many youths in the dairy community.

In addition to his wife, Michelle, and mother, Shirley, he is survived by sons, Kyle (Francine) of Janesville, Ryan (Kristy) of Janesville, Aaron (Nicole) of Sheboygan Falls, and Ethan (Leanne Hoffman) of Janesville; 11 grandchildren and a granddaughter on the way; a sister, Nancy (Tom) Arndt of Janesville; and a brother, Scott (Janeen) of Evansville.

He was preceded in death by his father, George; sister, Diane; and brother, Randy.

The family is establishing the Gordy Barlass 4-H Memorial. Contributions may be made payable to Michelle Barlass and mailed to 2650 E. Utah Trail, Janesville, WI 53546.

George L. Wise

George L. Wise, Wooster, Ohio, 95, passed away peacefully on February 5, 2025, at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born on July 14, 1929, in New Philadelphia, Ohio, to the late Luther and Maggie (Kurth) Wise. He married Shirley Zellner on September 25, 1954, in Willard.

George was a lifelong Registered Jersey breeder and member of the American Jersey Cattle Association. He also worked for retired from Okey's Alignment Inc. in Wooster and retired after many years of service.

He was a member of the Salem Lutheran Church and West Salem Lodge #398 Free and Accepted Masons.

George enjoyed coon and mushroom hunting, pitching horseshoes, reading and playing softball. He loved spending time with his family, especially his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Maggie, children Dennis (Susan) Wise, Garald Wise, Beth Ann (Tim) Zimmerman and Sherrill Wise; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren (one

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on the way); a brother, Kenny (Nancy) Wise; and a sister, Hazel Willett.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Wendy Johnson Wise, and siblings Jim, Charles, Ross, Roy, Fred, Frank, John, Gertrude and Elsie.

Memorial contributions may be made to Salem Lutheran Church Roof Fund, 4873 Cleveland Rd., Wooster, OH 44691.