

In Memoriam

Karen D. Barfuss

Karen D. Barfuss, Sandstone, Minn., 78, passed away peacefully at The Waterview Shores in Two Harbors, Minn., on January 18, 2021.

She was born to the late Lloyd and Dorothy Ahlquist on September 6, 1942, in Minneapolis, Minn. She graduated from Edison High School in 1960 and was united in marriage to Gerald Barfuss on March 23, 1963.

They started their lives together as a married couple in Northeast Minneapolis then moved to a hobby farm in Dayton, Minn. The Barfusses moved to rural North Branch to establish a Registered Jersey dairy farm, where they made a life for themselves and their two children, Hayley and Justin.

With a smile on her face and twinkle in her beautiful blue eyes, Karen was a familiar friend to many in the community through her work as a bank teller for Northwest Bank of Northeast Minneapolis, Community National Bank of North Branch and Town and Country Bank of Harris.

She was secretary/treasurer for the Minnesota Jersey Cattle Association, a leader for Chisago County 4-H, an instructor for the Blizzard Ski Club, and a beauty consultant for Mary Kay.

Among the many joys in her life were caring for the animals on the farm, gardening and flowers and deer and bird watching. She enjoyed annual trips to the Minnesota State Fair, social time with the "Konzas," a group she and her girlfriends started in seventh grade, and decorating the house, especially for Christmas. Her passion for shopping and beauty meant she was always impeccably "put together."

In addition to her daughter, Hayley Prusak (Rob Keller), and son, Justin (Diane) Barfuss, she is survived by a brother Keith Ahlquist (Sue Townsend); four grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald, brother Gary and mother-in-law Marjorie Barfuss.

William Ralph Thurston

William Ralph Thurston, Delaware, Ohio, 91, passed away on February 3, 2021, at his home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on December 18, 1929, on the family farm in Ashley, Ohio, the eldest of seven children to the late William Claude Thurston and Hazel Velma (Osborn) Thurston. He earned his Eagle Scout award from the Boy Scouts and an

associate degree in agriculture from Ohio State University. It was there he met his sweetheart, Shirley Russell, whom he married in September 1952.

Bill was a farmer his entire life, raising Registered Jerseys with his family at Shady Haven Farm LLC in Delaware. He showed Jerseys at the Delaware County Fair every year since 1940 and regularly exhibited cattle at the Ohio State Fair as well.

He was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association. He is a former president of the later and received the organization's Pioneer Service Award in 1990. At his passing, he was a board member for American Dairy Association Mid-East.

Thurston was a 4-H advisor for more than 65 years and inducted into both the Delaware County 4-H Hall of Fame and the Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame. He had been a member of the Delaware County Farm Bureau since 1952 and the organization's council since 1955. He received the Friend of Farm Bureau Award in 2002 and the Cooperator of the Year award from the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District in 1973.

Bill is a former president of the Buckeye Valley Music Boosters and was instrumental in construction of their food sales building at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. He and Shirley were inducted into the Delaware County Agricultural Society Hall of Fame in 2014 and served as Grand Marshalls of the July 4th parade for the city of Delaware in 2015. The Thurstons received the Blue Ribbon Farm Family award from the Columbus Dispatch in the mid-1960s and were named Farm Family of the Year by the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce in 1973.

Bill was a member of the Delaware Bible Church since 1965 and active with Gideon's International. He was a deacon and Sunday school teacher and helped with building and ministry outreach projects.

He served the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 19 years and the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission for more than three decades, four as chair. He was a trustee for Oxford Township for 44 years, chaired the Delaware County Trustees and Clerks Association and sat on the board of the Ashley Union Cemetery.

Bill is survived by six children, Linda (Keith) Wolstenholme of Collegeville, Pa., Mary (Robert) Fleming of Delaware, Ann (Bill) Rammelsberg of Ashley, twin daughters, Karen (Dan) Wooster

of Greenville, S.C., and Kathy (Scott) Bauder of Delaware, and John Thurston of Delaware; 21 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; a sister, Trudy (Thurston) Oliver of Mt. Gilead, Ohio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirely, an infant child, two grandsons, several infant great-grandchildren, brothers Richard, David and Daniel Thurston, and sisters, Betty (Thurston) Royer and Rosina (Thurston) Gillen.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Delaware Bible Church, Gideon's International, Delaware County 4-H or new Junior Fair Building, or the Delaware County Farm Bureau Scholarship named in honor of Bill and Shirley Thurston.

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(continued from page xx)