

# OBITUARIES

## SUBMITTING INFORMATION

Obituaries are available to funeral homes and the public for a charge. To submit a paid obituary or for information about paid obituaries with online tributes, call the Tulsa World Obituary Desk at 581-8503 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday. E-mail photos or text for paid obituaries to [tributes@tulsaworld.com](mailto:tributes@tulsaworld.com). Fax paid obituaries to 583-3550. Funeral homes may fax free death notices for Transitions to 581-8353 or call 581-8347 from 4 to 10:30 p.m.

Please go online to [www.legacy.com/tulsaworld](http://www.legacy.com/tulsaworld) to express condolences and sign a guest book.

— organ / tissue donor

**HOLLAND - Geneva "Gena May" Chichester**, 68, of Proctor, received her blessed release on Friday, May 22, 2009. A 1958 graduate of Tulsa Central High, she served as an x-ray technician for 39 years in Tulsa. Later she worked with her husband at Holland Bros. in Bixby. Gena loved reading mysteries and poetry, diet Pepsi, fairies, antiquing and entertaining countless friends and family. An excellent cook, she is famous for her chocolate cakes and canning green beans and pickles that she and Dad grew. A woman of integrity, generosity, kindness and selflessness, her absence leaves an enormous void in our hearts. Preceded in death by her parents Harry and Geneva (Allen) Chichester, she is survived by: husband, C.E. 'Pete', married 50 years on May 20, 2009; daughter, Gena Stretch and husband Kevin of Tahlequah; daughter, Sheryl Myerley and husband Tom of Broken Arrow; siblings Mary Smith of California Bill Chichester of Georgia; Harry Chichester of Oklahoma; and a large, close knit family. A memorial picnic to celebrate Gena's life will be held in June, date TBD. See [caringbridge.org/visit/gena\\_holland](http://caringbridge.org/visit/gena_holland) for updates. In lieu of flowers, please donate to [www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org). Mom, we love you forever and ever!

VIEW AND SIGN THE ONLINE GUEST BOOK:  
[www.legacy.com/tulsaworld](http://www.legacy.com/tulsaworld)



**Beverly Jane Sober Wilcoxson**

**WILCOXSON - Beverly Jane (Sober)**, was born on October 8, 1923, in DuBois, PA and passed away peacefully on May 27, 2009, in Tulsa. Known as Bunny since childhood, she lived an exciting life that included living in Youngstown, OH and Detroit, MI. Following High School, her first adventure was to move (all by herself) to Japan to work as a civilian employee for the military in Okinawa, Japan. She also lived in Panama before ultimately moving to Tulsa to be near her brother Frank's family. In Tulsa, she worked as a secretary for Radio, Inc. for thirty year. At the age of 65, she married for the first time to Al Wilcoxson. Following Al's death, she moved to Inverness Village. Bunny is much loved by her family and friends and will be profoundly missed. She is survived by: her brother, Frank, and his wife Bernice; as well as many nephews and a niece and their children. Friends and family are invited to share stories about Bunnie's life at her memorial service on Sunday, May 31st at 2 p.m., at Founders' Hall at Inverness Village. Bunnie was passionate in her desire to end the suffering experienced by Alzheimer's victims and their caregivers. Please consider a donation to find a cure to Alzheimer's disease in her memory in lieu of sending flowers.

VIEW AND SIGN THE ONLINE GUEST BOOK:  
[www.legacy.com/tulsaworld](http://www.legacy.com/tulsaworld)

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for obituaries  
and Guest Books

**Legacy.com**



**Richard Patrick Coleman**

**COLEMAN - Richard Patrick**, resident of Manhattan, KS, passed away in Manhattan on Wednesday, May 27, 2009. No funeral service will be held. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Richard was born July 21, 1927, in Great Bend, KS, son of Russell Patrick and Fern Wallace Coleman. After living in Independence, KS, from 1928 to 1932 when his parents moved to Tulsa, OK where his father became an accounting clerk for Sinclair Oil Corporation. Richard attended Emerson and Kendall grade schools, Woodrow Wilson Junior High, and Will Rogers High School from which he graduated in 1945, where he was co-director of the Roundup in his senior year. He then attended the University of Tulsa 1945-1948 on a full-tuition American History Quiz scholarship granted to the winner of a radio competition sponsored by station KTUL and Brown-Dunkin department store. At the University he was active in student government, Ben Henneke's workshop, the Collegian newspaper, and in Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity; he was listed by Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities in its 1947-1948 edition. Richard received an M.A. in educational psychology from the University of Iowa in 1949, and completed coursework for a Ph.D. in Human Development at the University of Chicago in 1952. In September of 1952, he began employment as a research assistant on a Human Development field team studying middle-age processes in Kansas City; this study was financed by a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. Richard's Ph.D. dissertation at the University summarized what he learned as the project's status analyst; its title was "Social Class in Kansas City." This became the basis for a book, Social Status in the City, coauthored with Bernice Neugarten and published by Jossey-Bass of San Francisco in 1971. Following extended employment in research at the University, Richard joined in 1957 a motivations consulting firm in Chicago, Social Research, Inc., becoming a partner-director in the early 1960s and co-authoring Workingman's Wife, (published in 1959) with Lee

Rainwater and Gerald Handel; the book portrayed the lifestyles and magazine-reading habits of blue-collar housewives. At SRI, Richard served a variety of clients, including seven major metropolitan newspapers, seventy television stations, two automobile manufacturers (Chevrolet and Cadillac), and NBC (for which he studied response to the Johnny Carson "Tonight Show" in its first year---and predicted possible long-term success for Johnny). Richard moved to Cambridge, MA in 1969 to become a senior research associate at the Joint Center for Urban Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. There his responsibilities involved conducting motivation-style depth studies into what Americans wanted in the way of housing and neighborhoods. One of these projects led to publication by Basic Books in 1978 of Social Standing in America, with Lee Rainwater as co-author. In 1979, Richard returned to the Midwest on a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to complete his research on Kansas City's leadership history, going back to the city's origins in the Nineteenth Century; this resulted in publication of A Middlewestern Establishment: The Story of Social Leadership in Kansas City, 1821-2000. In 1981, Richard became employed as a professor by the Marketing Department at Kansas State University. For six of his years in that role he held the special title of Volume Shoe Professor of Marketing; he retired in 1997. In Manhattan, Richard became a board member, advisor, and often officer, for a host of community and university groups. To honor some of these associations, memorial contributions can be made to the Richard Coleman Fund for Support of Libraries and the Arts in Manhattan and sent to the Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home, 1317 Poyntz, Manhattan, KS 66502. Richard memberships included the Manhattan Country Club, the Quadrangle Club of Chicago, the Presidents Club of Kansas State University, and alumni clubs of the universities of Tulsa, Iowa, and Chicago. Richard was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by: a sister, Diane Coleman Trippet, (and husband, Richard P. Trippet) of Beaver, OK; four nephews (Philip Trippet of Fort Collins, CO, Todd Trippet of Beaver, OK, Brett Trippet of Forgan, OK, and Ty Trippet of New York City); and a cousin, Joanne Wallace McCall of Nashville, TN. The Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be sent to [www.irvinparkview.com](http://www.irvinparkview.com)



**George John McGrath**

**MCGRATH - George John**, 93, of Tulsa, passed away Wednesday, May 27, 2009. George was born January 27, 1916, in Dubuque, IA to John James and Delphina Anglie McGrath. He served his country during WWII with the Army 419th Bombardment Squadron and was a retired supervisor at American Airlines, a member of St. Pius X Catholic Church, enjoyed crossword puzzles and cryptoquotes. He is survived by: sons, Thomas Patrick McGrath and his wife Yvonne of Durant, OK, John Charles McGrath and his wife Marlene of Okmulgee, OK; daughters, Mollie Ann Painton of Ft. Collins, CO, Helen Margaret McGrath and her husband Jay La'ing of Norman, OK, Laura Louise McGrath of Ft. Collins, CO; 11 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by: wife, Virgie Gladys McGrath; daughter Mary Jan Shires; 1 great-grandchild; 1 brother; 1 sister. Please make contributions to charity of your choice. Rosary 7 p.m., Sunday, May 31, 2009, Moore's Eastlawn Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial 1 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2009, St. Pius X Catholic Church, entombment Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum. Moore's Eastlawn Chapel 622-1155

**CLARKE - Richard**, passed away Friday, May 29, 2009 in Tulsa, OK. Richard was born June 20, 1960 to Patrick Clarke and Mildred (Conrad) Clarke in Wichita, KS. He was preceded in death by his parents. Richard was a loving husband and father, he is survived by: his wife, Kathy (Porter) Clarke of the home; children, Jae Stevens and husband, Kelsey of North Carolina, Stephy Clarke of Oregon, Tamara, Ben, Yonas, Maima, Daniel, Sara and Teta Clarke, all of Tulsa; grandchildren, Kade Stevens and Brandon Clarke; mother-in-law, Jean Hofmann of Tulsa; brother-in-law, Jim Porter and wife, Gina; brother, Bill Clarke; sister-in-law, Nancy Erickson and husband, Rick; and father-in-law, Louis Porter. Richard graduated from Tulsa University Law School in 1985. He was a Special Judge for Tulsa County, he was National Adoptive Father of the Year, and a member of Fellowship Bible Church. He was an attorney with Barber and Bartz Law Firm. In lieu of flowers the family requests that contributions be made to the Fellowship Bible Church. Service will be 11 a.m., Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at Fellowship Bible Church, with Dr. John Connor Officiating. Moore's Southlawn chapel, 663-2233, share your memories at [www.moorefuneral.com](http://www.moorefuneral.com)

## Burial Parks Cremation-Lots

2 BURIAL SPACES at FLORAL HAVEN  
Broken Arrow  
405-590-0244

3 LOTS, 2 Openings, 1 Vault  
Valued at \$8000, will take \$5000 for it  
Floral Haven, Garden of Memories 734-2650

**McMAHON - Joseph Phillip**, 93, of Tulsa, died Wednesday, May 27, 2009. Born April 29, 1916, in Shelbina, MO to the late John and Mary (Hubbard) McMahon. Was preceded in death by wife Helen on November 10, 1999. Survivors include: son, Pat McMahon, Denver, CO; daughter, Judi and husband Harold Barnes, Owasso; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Rosary, 7 p.m., Monday, June 1, Fitzgerald Ivy Chapel with Mass of Christian Burial 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 2, St. Pius X Catholic Church Chapel Interment, Calvary Cemetery. The Fitzgerald Ivy Chapel 585-1151, [www.fitzgeraldivy.chapel.com](http://www.fitzgeraldivy.chapel.com)

**SOLDAN - LeClaire Ann Bossard**, was born to dance on November 20, 1932. She died on May 26, 2009. Known as "Miss LeClaire" to the multitude of children from the Tulsa, Sand Springs, and Midwest City-Del City areas, where she taught dance and much more in a 50-year career. In addition to directing small feet and arms into the proper positions, LeClaire instilled poise, personality, confidence, grace, and discipline into her young students, some of whom began with her as 2 and a half year olds and continued all the way through high school and beyond. It was at 2 and a half that LeClaire, along with her sister Gayle, began dance training in Tulsa, Dancing her way through high school (Will Rogers) and college (University of Tulsa), also playing flute and twirling with the TU Band and a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She appeared on the famed Major Bowes Amateur Hour at age eight and studied dance for two years in the East in Boston and New York. Dance was hardly the extent of her life. She and husband Ray traveled the world, visiting 60-some countries on six continents. She sang with the Sweet Adelines chorus in Tulsa and was a member of a performing quartet, "The Annie Oakies." She won blue ribbon after blue ribbon at ceramic shows across the state, on several occasions a runaway winner of the most ribbons at the State Fair of Oklahoma and at the Tulsa State Fair. Not only adept at ceramics, but also pottery, macramé and decoupage. Five of her own ceramic techniques were featured in the national publication Ceramic World. She most likely had the world's largest collection of pigs-ceramic, metal, stuffed, you-name-it (More than 5,000). LeClaire was chosen an Oklahoma Ageless Hero in 2001 by Blue Cross Blue Shield in the Bridging the Generations category, receiving her award at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. LeClaire is survived by: husband, Ray; sister, Gayle; son, Tim Soldan of Las Vegas, NV; daughters, Nannette Sandoval of Albuquerque, NM, Angela Cato of Yukon and Penny Soldan Hanley of Oklahoma City; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. LeClaire cherished her first name - a combination of father LeRoy and mother Hazel Claire, who lived most of their lives in Tulsa, although LeClaire was born in Oklahoma City. Viewing will begin at 10 a.m., Friday, at Ford Funeral Service. Service will be held Monday June 1st at 1 p.m., at Candlewood Chapel, under the direction of Ford Funeral Service. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memory Gardens in Spencer, OK. 405-677-9990

## Burial Parks Cremation-Lots

TWO Burial spaces together. Floral Haven Memorial Gardens, Garden of Memories, Lot 31 B. Spaces 1 & 2. REDUCED from \$2,595.00 each to \$2,290.00 each. 479-461-5773 or 918-427-4661.



**Beverly Marguerite Clarke**

**CLARKE - Beverly Marguerite**, a Tulsa artist, passed away Thursday, May 28, 2009. She was born January 16, 1918 in Joplin, MO, the only child of Edgar J. and Marguerite (Brickey) Whitaker. She attended public schools then a business college. She married Mack E. Clarke February 5, 1945 when he returned from England as a B-17 pilot in WWII. They moved to Tulsa in November, 1945. She worked several years helping her husband start his certified public accounting practice and then helped him part time for a number of years. She was predeceased by her husband in 2003, after 58 years of marriage. Beverly is survived by: her son, Paul E. Clarke and Judy Hesley; two grandsons, Jason Clarke and Dillon Hesley; one sister, Evelyn Catalina, and four cousins. She lived life to the fullest and loved her family and friends very much. Beverly was a long time member of the Happy Christian Class at Asbury United Methodist Church. Burial will be Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 10 a.m. in the American Legion Section at the Soldier's Monument at Memorial Park Cemetery at 51st & Memorial, followed by a Memorial service at 11 a.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, Mason Chapel, at 68th & Mingo. Donations in her memory may be made to Clarehouse, Neighbor for Neighbor and Little Lighthouse. Ninde Brookside Chapel, 742-5556. [www.ninde.com](http://www.ninde.com)



**Robert H. Chitwood**

**CHITWOOD - Robert H.**, 78, of Tulsa passed away, surrounded by his loving family, Wednesday, May 27, 2009. Born October 2, 1930, in Pratt, KS to the late Joe V. and Blanche (Hodson) Chitwood. Mr. Chitwood retired as President of Cities Service. He was graduate of Oklahoma State University, member of Sigma Nu Fraternity and attended Cornell University. Mr. Chitwood was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church and a longtime member of Southern Hills Country Club. He was a US Army Veteran serving during the Korean War. He is survived by: his wife, Barbara A (Johnson) Chitwood of the home; one son, Thomas and his wife Molly Chitwood of Tulsa; three daughters, Katherine Suzanna and husband, Steve Woodall of Vancouver, WA, Nancy Elaine Ryan of Tulsa and Amalie Ann Chitwood of Las Gatos, CA; four grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, JoAnn Webster of Tulsa and Suzie Dawson of Ft. Worth, TX. A Memorial Service is scheduled for 10 a.m., Monday, June 1, 2009, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 501 S. Cincinnati, Tulsa, OK, 74103. Family suggests friends may contribute to the St. Simeon's Episcopal Home, 3701 North Cincinnati, Tulsa, OK, 74106. Condolences may be left online at [www.freemanharris.com](http://www.freemanharris.com). Freeman Harris Funeral Home, 749-3333.

## TRANSITIONS

### DEATHS

#### Death notice policy

The Tulsa World publishes free death notices. Funeral homes may submit death notices from 4 to 10:30 p.m. daily. For information about news obituaries, call 581-8325.

— organ / tissue donor

### TULSA

**Clarke**, Beverly M., 91, homemaker, died Thursday. Memorial service 11 a.m. Wednesday, Asbury United Methodist Church Mason Chapel. Ninde Brookside.

**Clarke**, Richard, 48, attorney, died Friday. Service 11 a.m. Wednesday, Fellowship Bible Church. Moore's Southlawn.

**Cox**, Earlean, 84, homemaker, died Saturday. Services pending. Jack's.

**Cunningham**, Robert Rundel "Robby," 21, automotive detailer, died Wednesday. Service 1 p.m. Monday, Reynolds Funeral Home Chapel.

**Jackson**, Kristie Denise, 33, child psychologist, died Thursday. Service 11 a.m. Wednesday, Butler-Stumpff Funeral Home Chapel.

**Mayes**, Florence, 96, licensed practical nurse, died Friday. Service 12:30 p.m. Monday, Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel, Broken Arrow.

**Mayo**, John Burch, 90, retired Mayo Hotel executive vice president and Mayos' Inc. vice president, died Friday. Service 2 p.m. Wednesday, Memorial Park Cemetery Chapel. Stanley's.

**Morey**, Shirley J., 74, retired registered nurse, died Friday. Visitation noon-9 p.m. Sunday and 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday, both at Moore's Eastlawn Funeral Home. No services planned.

**Osburn**, Keegan, infant son of Katie Lang and Chad Osburn, died Wednesday. Graveside service noon Monday, Floral Haven Memorial Gardens, Broken Arrow. Floral Haven, Broken Arrow.

**Roberts**, A.P., 88, died May 27. Graveside service 11 a.m. Wednesday, South Heights Cemetery. Smith, Sapulpa.

**Shannon**, Barbara June, 77, homemaker, died Saturday. Services pending. Moore's Southlawn.

**Thompson**, Carmel D., 82, nurse, died Friday. Service 11 a.m. Tuesday, St. Monica Catholic Church. Jack's.

**Vynhal**, Bertha Marie, 95, homemaker, died Friday. No services planned. Fitzgerald's Southwood Colonial.

**Wilson**, Charles E., age unavailable, retired from Dawson Building Supply, died Saturday. Service 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sequoyah Hills Baptist Church. Smith, Sapulpa.

**Young**, Wanda, 84, homemaker, died Friday. Service 10 a.m. Tuesday, Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel, Broken Arrow.

**Yount**, John G., 64, insurance salesman, died Saturday. Services pending. Stanley's.

### STATE/AREA

Funeral home, church and cemetery locations are in the city under which the death notice is listed unless otherwise noted.

**Bartlesville** — J.D. Elkins Jr., 48, maintenance worker, died Friday. Memorial service 6 p.m. Monday, Memorial Christian Church. Walker-Brown.

**Bokoshe** — Bonnie J. Shores, 65, died Saturday. Service 11 a.m. Monday, First Baptist Church. Grace Manor, Poteau.

**Broken Arrow** — Helen Jenkins, 71, homemaker, died Wednesday. Service 3 p.m. Monday, Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel.

**Claremore** — Peggy Barnes Barrow, 70, homemaker, died Saturday. Services pending. Musgrove-Merriott-Smith. — Linda Collins, 62, Tulsa Public Schools educator, died May 29. Memorial service 2 p.m. Friday, Verdigris United Methodist Church. Floral Haven, Broken Arrow.

— Bill E. Easterling, 76, oil industry purchasing agent, died Friday. Visitation 1-6 p.m. Sunday, and service 11 a.m. Monday, both at Musgrove-Merriott-Smith Funeral Home Chapel.

— Barbara L. Hayes, 74, retired from Sears, died Wednesday. Services pending. Mowery,

SEE TRANSITIONS A19

## Paying Tribute To Those Who Served

Since 1995, Cadets From The Junior ROTC Have Raised The Casket Flags, Donated By The Families Of Men And Women Who Served In The Military, That Fly Each Memorial Day Weekend In *The Avenue of Flags At Floral Haven*

#### High School JROTC Programs Participating:

Central, East Central, Edison, Hale, Memorial, Rogers, McLain High School for Science and Technology, Booker T. Washington, Webster, Bixby, Jenks, Sapulpa, Union and Inola

#### Middle School Leadership Corps Participating

Byrd, Edison, Foster, Gilcrease, Hamilton, Lewis and Clark, Cleveland, Carver and Wilson

*Floral Haven salutes these Cadets for being a part of this special tribute!*



This year, over 500 cadets helped raise 2750 Veterans' Casket Flags