

Vaylard Arthur Brooks, 78, of Strawberry Point, passed away peacefully at Regional Medical Center on April 28, 2025. He was born on Nov. 26, 1946, in Strawberry Point, the son of Albert and Nellie Vione Brooks.

Vaylard graduated from Starmont High School in 1965 and proudly served his country in the United States Army for the following four years. In 1971, he married the love of his life, Betty Lou Keppler, in his hometown of Strawberry Point. Their union was blessed with four children. Beginning in 1971, Vaylard dedicated himself to the sprinkler fitting trade. Over the years, he contributed his skills to several companies before retiring from Iowa Fire Protection in 2001. Alongside his work as a fitter, Vaylard also cherished his life as a farmer on his land outside of Strawberry Point.

Vaylard will be fondly remembered for his strong work ethic, his infectious sense of humor and the deep love he held for his family. He found joy in the outdoors, hunting, searching for mushrooms and, back in the day, riding his horses. In recent years, he traded horseback riding for ATV riding. One of his greatest pleasures was spending time by his pond, sharing the joy of fishing with his friends and family. He enjoyed telling exaggerated tales and making people laugh with his antics. Mornings were spent at Nadings enjoying coffee and storytelling with his friends.

Given his deep appreciation for family, Vaylard cherished every moment spent with them. He loved looking back and sharing

Vaylard A. Brooks

Nov. 26, 1946 - April 28, 2025



stories from his younger days and all the jobs he visited in the sprinkler trade. He had an incredible memory of all the people he had met along the way. His grandchildren were especially dear to him, and he delighted in spoiling and playfully teasing them, always with a mischievous sparkle in his eyes.

Vaylard is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 54 years, Betty Lou; his children, Michelle (Shane) Paris, Cole Brooks, Lisa (Mike) Patterson and Wade Brooks (Jennifer Otdoerfer); his adored grandchildren, Dylan Paris (Addi), Karli (Bennett) Cole, Gage Paris (Kelsey), Dillon Kuennen, Morgen Kuennen-Brooks (Jake), Realei Brooks, Natalie Patterson (Logan), Cade Patterson (Arlie), Jack Patterson and Quinton (Keao) Brehme; and one great-grandchild on the way. He is also survived by his sisters, Verdis Feller, Verlene Kelly, ValJean Berg, Valetta Radloff and Vikki Welsh (Jim Fierstine); a brother, Victor Brooks; brothers-in-law, Dave (Mary) Keppler, Duane (Barb) Keppler, Frank (Iona) Keppler, Mike Kepper, Joe Keppler, Tony (Gerarda Keppler) and Bob Schoulte; sisters-in-law, Ardelle Brooks, Grace Lamphere, Caroline Otdoerfer and Theresa (Randall) Laughead; and many nieces and nephews.

Vaylard was preceded

in death by his parents; parents-in-law, Harold and Lucille Keppler; brothers, Vincent, Vance and Verle (Buster); sister, Veronica Jandik; brothers-in-law, Harley Radloff, John Feller and Jerry Lamphere; and sisters-in-law, Patricia Schoulte and Virginia Keppler.

A memorial fund has been established in Vaylard's honor.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.leonard-mullerfh.com](http://www.leonard-mullerfh.com).

Visitation was held May 2, at Leonard-Muller Funeral Home in Strawberry Point. Mass of Christian Burial was May 3, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Strawberry Point, with Reverend John Haugen officiating. Interment with military rites was at Cass Township Cemetery, Strawberry Point.

Pauline Stott

1927 - 2025



Pauline (Overbeck) Stott—1927-2025—formerly of Elkader and Mason City, died peacefully at her daughter, Jo Powell's, home in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Pauline was born and raised in Mason City. In 1946, she married LuVane (Louie, L.B.) Stott of Garner. The couple moved to Elkader and had four children, twin boys and two girls. Her husband, Louie, died in 1974, and in 1985 she moved back to Mason City to care for her mother and be with her sister. In 2019 she moved to Eden Prairie, Minn., to live with her daughter Jo.

Over her 98 years, Pauline worked taking care of her family and out of the home as a telephone operator, a nurse aide, a bookkeeper and a retail floor clerk. In Elkader, she

was a volunteer for Red Cross and spent many hours at the pool organizing swim lessons. She was also a volunteer for the music boosters at Central Community Schools.

Pauline enjoyed cooking, baking, sewing, swimming, playing cards, growing flowers, fishing, music, dancing, walking and going to the community center to work out. Pauline was very ac-

tive and was told repeatedly she looked and acted more like a 78 year old than a 98 year old person.

She was preceded in death by her husband Louie Stott and two good friends, Dethlef Carstens and Lowell Chesnut, her two sisters, Rhoda Riley and Margaret Smith, and her parents.

Left who are grateful to have known and loved her are her children, Larry Stott (Wendy Waldron), Greg (Anita) Stott, Jo (Jay) Powell and Nancy (Darrill) Burgett; nephew Bill (Barb) Dietrich; sister-in-laws Leona (Stott) Straw and Edna (Lincke) Stott; a very special friend, Sue Stott; 19 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. She will be missed by all.

A private ceremony is planned for a later date.



Pioneering Women: Lucy Hobbs Taylor and the Fight for Equality in the 1860s

Long before the term “women’s liberation” entered everyday conversation, Lucy Hobbs Taylor was breaking barriers in the male-dominated field of medicine. Known as “the woman who pulled teeth,” she became the first woman in the world to earn a doctor of dental surgery (DDS) degree.

Born in 1833, Lucy Hobbs decided by age 26 that she would wait no longer to pursue her dreams. She applied for admission to the Ohio College of Dental Surgery on three occasions but was denied each time because she was a woman. Determined not to be turned away, she secured an apprenticeship with the dean of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she began honing her skills.

After her apprenticeship, Lucy briefly practiced in Cincinnati and Bellevue, Iowa. In 1862, she moved to McGregor, arriving with only a dental chair and \$100. There, she opened a dental office on Main Street and began building her reputation. During her four years in McGregor, Lucy’s skill earned her widespread respect.

It was in McGregor that Lucy found an ally: local dentist Dr. Alf Hunt. He championed her cause at the Iowa State Dental Association, helping to pass a resolution declaring that Iowa would no longer support dental schools that excluded women. This landmark action

Times Past



opened the door for Lucy to return to Ohio, where she was finally admitted to the Ohio College of Dental Surgery.

In 1866, Lucy Hobbs graduated, making history as the first woman in the world to receive a dental degree. Following her graduation, Lucy was invited back to Iowa to present at the state dental convention. There, she delivered a professional paper titled “The Use of the Mallet,” highlighting her dedication to improving dental practice. She believed dentistry was not merely mechanical work, but an art.

As she explained: “You ask my reason for entering the profession. It was to be independent. I wanted to earn my bread not by the sweat of my brow, but the use of my brain.

And yes, I also had a fascination with the tools and refining them in order to make dentistry more comfortable. I love the art of it too. I gave my national presentation on the proper use of the mallet. I also feel the making of false teeth is not a mere mechanical operation, but an art.”

After earning her degree, Lucy moved to Chicago, where she met and married James Taylor, a railroad worker. She trained him in dentistry, and together they established a joint dental practice in Lawrence, Kansas. Lucy continued her work after James passed away on Dec. 14, 1886.

By 1900, nearly 1,000 women had followed Lucy Hobbs Taylor into the dental profession—an increase many credit directly to her trailblazing efforts.

On Oct. 3, 1910, Lucy Hobbs Taylor died. She was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence, Kansas. Her legacy lives on. Today, two national honors bear her name:

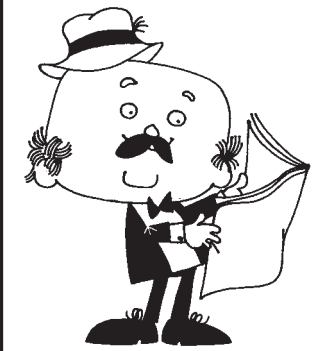
•The Lucy Hobbs Project Awards (established by Benco Dental, now in its 10th year), recognize inspiring and progressive visionaries whose powerful voices are shaping the dental profession.

•The Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award, established in 1983 by the American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD), is the organization’s highest honor. It celebrates women dentists who have made outstanding contributions through achievements in civic, cultural, humanitarian and academic fields.

Denise Nelson

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 1 p.m., at Woodlawn Cemetery in Oelwein for Denise Nelson. A celebration of life and a meal will follow from 2:30 to 6 p.m. at the Dance Pavilion at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in West Union.

Denise died on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, at her home in West Union.



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