

# OBITUARIES

## LaVerta Cheney

LaVerta Cheney, 98, of DeWitt, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 12, 2025, at Fieldstone of DeWitt, surrounded by her family.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at First Congregational United Church of Christ, DeWitt, with Visitation from 2 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. Burial will follow at Elmwood Cemetery, DeWitt.

Pallbearers will be Chris Wall, Tom Mullen, Ted McNulty, Brian Cheney, Andrew McNulty, Doug Volrath, Tyler Esbaum, Jason Spain, and Brian Hess.

The family suggests memorials to First Congregational United Church of Christ, the DeWitt Community Library, or a charity of your choice.

LaVerta Marjaleen Schmidt, the daughter of the late Elmer and Violetta Schmidt, was born Nov. 6, 1926, in Davenport. In eighth grade, her accordion group performed for Lawrence Welk, a memory she cherished throughout her life. She graduated with First Honors from Davenport High School, Class of 1944. On Dec. 18, 1948, LaVerta married Philip "Mac" Cheney in Davenport. Together they built a life in DeWitt, where they raised their family and operated Cheney Implement Company from 1959 to 1981.

LaVerta was active in her community, volunteering in the church office for UCC, as well as contributing her time and leadership to organizations, including the DeWitt Newcomers Club, The Lioness Club, the UCC Noon Lions Lunch Ladies, the Hospital Auxiliary, and the DeWitt Lanes Bowling League. She was also a member of Springbrook Country Club, where she proudly recorded a hole-in-one. LaVerta was a devoted leader in the Girl Scouts, serving both as a troop leader and on the Council's Board of Directors. She chaperoned international trips to Switzerland and Mexico, helping young girls broaden their horizons. In retirement, she and Mac traveled extensively through Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. They spent winters in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas, enjoying time with friends and enjoying their hobbies — especially playing cards. LaVerta was an accomplished Bridge player and never missed a chance to sit down for a game.

Surviving are her children, Carol Wall of Donahue, Richard (DeeAnn) Cheney of Bellevue, and Martha (Leo) Mullen of DeWitt; nine grandchildren; and 13



LAVERTA CHENEY

great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 55 years, Philip "Mac" Cheney; her daughter, Debra Cheney; and her son-in-law, Nick Wall.

Arrangements are in the care of Schultz Funeral Home, DeWitt. Condolences may be expressed and a photo tribute viewed at [www.schultzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schultzfuneralhomes.com).

## Lawrence "Grumpy" Martens

Lawrence "Grumpy" Martens, 91, of Camanche, passed away peacefully, surrounded by the love of his family, on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at The Alverno, Clinton.

Visitation was from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Monday, May 19, 2025, at Schultz Funeral Home, DeWitt. The Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at Church of The Visitation, Camanche. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in DeWitt.

Lawrence Alphonse Martens was born Sept. 20, 1933, in Coal Valley, Illinois, to August and Anna (Diericks) Martens. He attended rural schools in Hoopole and Prophetstown, Illinois, and rural Camanche. He started farming at an early age, after his father experienced an injury. Lawrence married Jean Goethals on Nov. 19, 1955, at St. James Catholic Church in Princeton. The couple farmed together in rural Clinton County, raising six children. Lawrence was a lifelong farmer, also working for Cargill Seeds seasonally. After retiring in 1998, he continued to stay involved in farming in various other capacities.

Lawrence was a member of Church of The Visitation, Camanche, Low Moor Lions, Knights of Columbus, Clinton County Beef Producers and Pork Producers, Clinton County Farm Bureau, and Camanche bowling leagues. He enjoyed fishing, camping, playing cards, having a few cold ones with his buddies, and taking his JD 4020 on tractorcades. Lawrence was very proud of his family and enjoyed spending time with them.

Surviving are his wife of nearly 70 years, Jean; children, Marianne (Tom) Wagemester of Clinton, Brian (Karla Taylor) of Camanche, Chris (Kelly) of Camanche, Brent (Sara) of Goose Lake; numerous grandchildren and greatgrandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sons



LAWRENCE MARTENS

Joel and Randy, a granddaughter, Heather, an infant sister, Mary Ann, a brother, Leo, and a nephew.

Arrangements are in the care of Schultz Funeral Home, DeWitt. Condolences may be expressed at [www.schultzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schultzfuneralhomes.com).

## Judy Cheryl Barber

Judy Cheryl Barber was born on Aug. 28, 1944, to Howard and Dorothy Radech Burkhardt in Davenport. Judy was raised in Davenport and was a 1962 graduate of Davenport West High School. Judy was united in marriage to Dale Barber on Nov. 27, 1971, in Rock Island, Illinois. Judy died peacefully in her sleep at The Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House in Bettendorf on Thursday, May 15, 2025, following an extended illness.



JUDY BARBER

Her husband, Dale and his sister, Carol Madsen were with her when she passed.

Weerts Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements. As per her request, she has been cremated and there will be no public services. Inurnment will take place at Davenport Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Humane Society of Scott County.

Following graduation from Davenport West, Judy studied liberal arts at Blackhawk College and Marycrest College for two years. She later took additional coursework in economics and accounting at St. Ambrose College and completed eight courses through the American Institute of Banking. Judy enjoyed a career in banking for over 35 years. Her positions included teller, bookkeeper, internal auditor, assistant cashier, consumer lender, branch manager, and vice president and commercial lending officer. She also had responsibilities in commercial credit analysis and marketing activities related to business development.

Judy was known for her community involvement throughout her working years. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Bettendorf Chamber of Commerce and served as President of the Chamber in 1993. She was the first woman member of the Bettendorf Chamber of Commerce Trail Blazers Community Ambassadors group. She served as Treasurer of the Citizens for River Boat Gambling Committee when the referendum for approval of gambling was held in Scott County in 1989. Judy was active in the Pleasant Valley Community School District where she served on the Finance Committee for a building bond referendum

in 1990 and served on the Technology Advisory Committee 1989-1990. She was the City of Bettendorf Treasurer 1986-1988, Bettendorf Development Corporation Board of Directors 1993-1996, and was a member of the Jobs for the Quad Cities Committee in 1992. She served six one-year terms on the Scott County condemnation Jury 1989-1995 and was a member of the Board of Directors of Neighborhood Place, Inc. in 1995. She was the Commencement Speaker for the Class of 1993 at Scott Community College.

Judy and Dale enjoyed many vacation trips to Door County, Wisconsin, and other locations throughout the United States. Her leisure activities included golfing and boating in her earlier years, reading, playing Words with Friends, dining out, playing the dominos game Chicken Foot, and visiting with friends and family.

Judy is survived by her husband of over 53 years Dale, her brother Steve (Dixie) Burkhardt, sister-in-law Janie Burkhardt, her sister-in-law Carol Madsen, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Joe Burkhardt, her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Lloyd and Betty Barber, her brother-in-law, David Barber, her great-nephew, Matt Anderson, and many dear feline friends who she looks forward to meeting up with when she crosses the "Rainbow Bridge".

We would like to thank the second-floor North staff of the Kahl Home, the sixth floor and emergency room nurses, aides, and doctors at MercyOne Genesis East for the care they gave Judy. Special thanks to Doctor Stephen M. Sorenson and the nurses and aides at the Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House who cared for Judy during her final days. They all showed great compassion for Judy and provided much needed support for Dale and Carol.

## William "Bill" McGarry

A Memorial Mass will be held for William "Bill" McGarry, who passed away Dec. 10, 2024, in Fountain Hills, Arizona.



WILLIAM McGARRY

The service will be held June 7, 2025, at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, DeWitt, with visitation one hour prior. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Residential Garbage Collection  
Memorial Day Schedule

The City of DeWitt's garbage hauler will run on a modified schedule for the week of Memorial Day. The regular Tuesday collection will be one day late on Wednesday, the regular Wednesday collection will be one day late on Thursday and the regular Thursday collection will be one day late on Friday.

If you have questions please feel free to contact  
City Hall at 563-659-3811.

## Schultz

Funeral Home

DeWitt Grand Mound  
659-5241 847-3271

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# LETTER rip!

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On this Memorial Day weekend, let us never forget the ultimate sacrifice that some have made. We remember and honor all those who have died in service to our country.

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