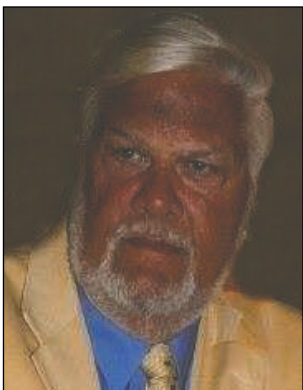


OBITUARIES

Joseph Raymond Bittel, Jr.



as a board member. On the KY Jaycee Senate, he served as president and was also on the executive board. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. For 14 years, he served on the Owensboro BBQ Festival committee and could always be found cooking the night away during the festival for 30-plus years on several different cooking teams. And if he wasn't there, he was asleep at the Big E.

The International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) got to be graced with his presence for nearly 40 years at quite a few locations across the US. As exhibit hall manager, among other roles, he was responsible for quite a bit, which to our surprise, he didn't screw up.

When ROMP started up in 2003, he became a fixture of the scene as site manager/coordinator. You could always find him backstage,

but he was most definitely on something with four wheels getting there. His love of Bluegrass ran deep. So did his desire to make sure all the food vendors hired had food he liked.

Joe grew up in the funeral home world, so after wrapping up his fire department career, joining Glenn Funeral Home felt like coming full circle—he always did know how to make an entrance and an exit.

Joe had a knack for growing prized tomatoes and somehow knowing absolutely everyone, no matter where he went. He loved his Lake Barkley family and friend time, flat boat racing back in the day, hunting deer, cheering on his favorite teams and spending time with his grandkids, who kept him laughing—and sometimes just shaking his head.

He was preceded in his death by his father and mother; younger siblings, William Howell and Paula Bittel; brother-in-law, Fred Coomes, Jr.; and father and mother-in-law, Dr. James H. Frank and Norma Frank.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jamie Frank Bittel; brother, Father Patrick M. Bittel;sister, Sharon Bittel Coomes; eldest daughter, Lauren Bittel Payne and husband, Chris; youngest daughter, Lynnsie Bittel Fulkerson and husband, Jeremy; three grandchildren,

Carly Payne, Shelby Fulker-son and Laken Payne, who will miss their "Bubby" deeply; his brother and sister-in-law, David Frank and Marjorie Anders; and a whole bunch of nephews, nieces, greats and great-greats.

A special thank you to his team at Owensboro Health CCU for truly going above and beyond in his last few days.

The Funeral Mass for Joe will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, at St. Martin Catholic Church, with his brother Father Patrick M. Bittel officiating. Burial to follow in Mater Dolorose Catholic Cemetery, with the fireman's final bell honor ceremony included. Visitation is from 3 to 7 p.m., with prayers at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday at Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory and from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Friday at the church.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to the Owensboro Fire Department Community Relief Fund / Owensboro Professional Firefighters, 512 W. Ninth St., Owensboro, KY 42301 or to the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum, c/o Education, 311 W. Second St., Owensboro, KY 42301.

Memories and condolences for the family of Joe Bittel may be left at www.glenncares.com.

Gamaliel Torres Salazar

Gamaliel (Jose) Torres Salazar, 51, of Calhoun, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025, surrounded by his loving family at the University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington.

Jose was born June 9, 1974, in Nuevo, Leon, Mexico, the son of Gamaliel Torres and Irene Salazar. He married Cathy Phillips on Dec. 17, 1999.

Jose was a man who truly enjoyed the simple pleasures in life, finding joy in the company of family and friends during cookouts. His love for cookouts with family and friends created lasting memories, filled with laughter and connection. His garden was not only a haven of tranquility but also a reflection of his nurturing spirit. He had an extraordinary ability to connect with others through his passion, bringing happiness not only to himself but also to those around him with a smile on his face.

Above all, he was thankful for the moments he spent with loved ones, and his memory will live on through the stories we share and the laughter we recall. Jose loved vigorously and without condi-



tion, and his legacy is one of love, music, and family—a life beautifully lived and deeply loved.

Remaining to cherish Jose's memory are his wife of 26 years, Cathy Phillips Torres; daughter, Silvia Torres; son, Logan Torres; granddaughter, Stella Torres; six brothers, Gabriel Torres, Maco Torres, Javier Torres, Juan Torres, Raymundo Torres and Lupe Torres; and four sisters, Elena Salazar, Zenaida Salazar, Silvia Salazar and Nelly Salazar.

There will be no public visitation.

O. L. Hughes & Sons Mortuary Funeral Home handled the arrangements for the Gamaliel Jose Torres Salazar family.

As long as he lives on in our hearts, only his body will have left.

POPLAR GROVE NEWS

BY GLENDA WILLIS
FOR THE MCLEAN COUNTY NEWS
You can text me at 270-875-5317 or email me at gwillistree@yahoo.com to leave your news or message.

A lady stopped by and wanted to know what these beautiful, tall white flowers were in my yard! I told her they were an old-timey flower called "Snow on the Mountain". The green leaves on the head slowly start turning white until the entire head is snowy white. I told her the green buds will change to seeds, and the seeds will turn brown when they are ripe. I told her to stop by in October, and I will give her some seeds. If you are that lady, the seeds are slowly getting ripe, and I already have a pint jar full of ripe seeds. Anyone else want some seeds? Let me know!

I saw a Monarch butterfly flying around last Thursday. He was swooping down and up over my Snow on the Mountain flowers while I was picking seeds from them. He didn't land on them but went swooping around and found some daisies, where he stopped for a while. They like the flat flowers, like daisies and zinnias, so they can land on them.

"A COLD CHURCH IS LIKE COLD BUTTER. IT DOESN'T SPREAD WELL!"

This church sign was seen in Lexington.

Someone said their hummingbirds were still here, so some McLean County hummers may not have headed south yet. But most of them are gone. The length of daylight, not the temperature, is what sends hummers south. The ones that are still here that I have seen are not familiar with the feeders or where they are located. The ones who come in the spring know exactly where the feeders were located the year before, and they go and look for them, even if you have not put them out yet. They will even go to flowering trees, like the Rose of Sharon, that are not blooming yet.

"BE FRIENDS WITH JESUS AND USE FAITH BOOK, THE BIBLE!"

The babies born this year will head south to the jungles of Central and South America, and they have never been there before. God has given them

the instinct to know where to go for the winter. They travel one by one, and not in flocks like Canadian Geese. This will help their survival as a species in case of a storm as they cross the Gulf of Mexico.

"FREE TRIP TO HEAVEN... DETAILS INSIDE!"

Another group of hummingbirds came in just a few hours before dark last Friday and have been zipping around the feeders. They are on their way south. There were over 24 hummers flitting and zipping around the seven feeders. This is the only time there will be more than six at one feeder, sitting quietly and drinking the sugar water, until whiz - another one comes in and wants a port.

"ENERGY CRISIS? SEEK GOD AND GET A PUPPY!"

This church sign was seen outside of Evansville, Indiana.

One hummer came to the feeder outside my study, and there wasn't a port open for her because others were feeding. She hovered there for a few seconds and then flew over and hit one of the others on the back of the head! That one quickly flew off, and the hitter took her place.

"NOTHING IS MORE HONORABLE THAN A GRATEFUL HEART!"

Another time I saw one female hummer zip in and hit another female in the back with her body. The other hummer quickly left, and the impatient hummer got the port on the feeder.

"NEED A NEW LIFE? GOD ACCEPTS TRADE-INS!"

This church sign was seen in Bowling Green.

I have heard one of the hummers whack the window a couple of times. I hurried and looked outside, but apparently the hummer was okay. I once heard one hit the window at the end of the house, and I hurried outside and around the corner. A little female was sitt-

ing on the ground, but she flew off as soon as I got close.

"SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT PRAYER MAKES ONE WEAK!"

Even though some cooler weather has moved in at night, I always keep my feeders up until at least the second week of October. Our hummers have already left for the south, and the ones coming from the north need the food from the feeders.

"GOD GRADES ON THE CROSS, NOT ON THE CURVE!"

Looking around my flowers, I have three chrysalises, where the caterpillars turn into butterflies, in my butterfly garden, and there's another one on a cardinal flower vine that is growing up some poles I tied together for a trellis. The three in the garden are from the same type of caterpillar, which I assume is a swallowtail. The other one looks like a Common Buck-eye butterfly, according to my caterpillar book.

"FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DIE WITHOUT JESUS!"

Scientists in China have developed a new water-based battery that could be a game-changer for electric vehicles and the fight against pollution, according to "Interesting Engineering". These aqueous batteries are not only much safer than regular lithium-ion batteries, but they can store almost double the energy.

Sunday, Oct. 12, is "Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem".

"GOD ANSWERS KNEE-MAIL!"

This church sign was seen in Florida.

The Captain William Rowan Chapter of the

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) met at 1 p.m. last Friday at Farley's in Calhoun. We had a very interesting meeting. Our guest was Pat Thurmond, who talked about our applications and proofs for our patriots and Revolutionary ancestors! Each ancestor has to be proven generation by generation, starting with the present-day person. Mrs. Thurmond can help us if we need her. Sometimes it takes a lot of research and work to find information and proof. But to know that my ancestors fought in a war against England to become a free nation makes me so proud of my ancestors!

We will be having our next D.A.R. meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, at Farley's Restaurant in Calhoun.

This fight that my ancestors were in against England (taxing us and we couldn't even have someone to represent us! How dare they!) was in 1776, 250 years ago in 2026! The DAR will be celebrating our 250 years of liberty next year!

"LIFE: THE BALL'S IN YOUR COURT. AFTER DEATH: IT'S GOD'S TURN!"

Everyone is invited to Poplar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church at 9:45 a.m. this Sunday for church service. It's the white church on the hill! The brown church is the Primitive Baptist Church, with its lunchroom beside it! We both had service at one time in the log cabin that stood close to the old cedar trees in the old section of the cemetery. But then we felt we needed more room. We each built a new church!

Brother Wally Renner welcomes everyone! We dress casually. Jesus

doesn't care what you wear when you come to church. We don't either! We just


want you to join us! What if you died tomorrow? Will you be ready?

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