

Obituary

VIRGINIA URBAN MERRILL (1925-2025)



and Lillian May Urban, grew up on a farm in Central Kansas that was home-steaded by her grandfather. She rode a horse to school when she was young and attended Lucas High School. Years later, she would love visiting daughter Melinda and her family in Wilson, Kansas, visit-ing the farm where she was raised and talking about the crops.

Upon high school graduation, Virginia, known as "Ginny," took the train from Wilson to the University of Kansas where she became a member of Gamma Phi Beta and Head Cheerleader. Described in the yearbook as a "little atomic bundle," she forever loved her Jayhawks and broke out in cheers and clapping whenever the fight song was being played.

Virginia met her husband and life-long love, Fred Merrill on a blind date after college and she became his closest confidante in his business endeavors. Her most important role aside from being wife to Fred was being a mother and she took it very seriously. Virginia al-ways had a well-balanced dinner on the table every night and Sunday nights were reserved for the family's tradition of popcorn, cheese and apples. Whatever her children needed she made sure they had it, and she never stopped caring for her kids. She was the epitome of a nur-turing mother.

She was a wonderful cook and enter-tainer with great decorating taste and flair. She was an expert at making a house a home and prided herself on hav-ing a home that was both decorated beau-tifully for every season, comfortable and welcoming. Just in her last 10 years of life, she started a trend in her neighbor-hood of decorating her giant two-story pine tree with colored lights at Christ-mas.

There was nothing quite like Christ-mas Eve at Nannie and Poppa's. And Virginia insisted on hosting it for the family throughout her entire life. It al-ways included the best food and Christ-mas cookies which became a family tra-dition, started by Virginia and her best friend from Wichita, Kansas, Evelyn Chapman. There was also caroling around the piano, visits from Santa, grab bag gifts and popcorn balls as favors. She loved including friends who had no plans for Christmas Eve and would try to think of some each year to invite.

Not only was Virginia musically gifted with a beautiful voice, but she played the piano and clarinet. She was forever a big supporter of the arts, especially the symphony, from the time she and the family would attend the Wichita Symphony concerts to the decades of years she and Fred were season ticket holders for the Kansas City Symphony. She attended the Symphony Ball until she was 98 and Symphony concerts until weeks before she was in the hospital.

Virginia spent four long years in Min-neapolis, Minnesota when Fred became President of ADM Milling Division and longed for the warm weather and wheat fields of Kansas. She started book clubs

in Wichita and Minneapolis and enjoyed being a member of the Kansas City Sym-phony League, P.E.O., multiple school PTA boards, as well as being a Gover-nor of the American Royal.

A huge sports fan, Virginia loved watching KU basketball, and she and Fred watched every Royals and Chiefs game on TV after they had enjoyed sea-son tickets for decades. Her favorite sport-ing events were those where she could watch son Fred Jr. run track and play football at KSU - she was his biggest fan.

Virginia was a great advocate for dogs and loved all her family dogs. She treated them like a human member of the fam-ily. People always joked they wanted to come back in their next life as one of Virginia's dogs. Most recently, she res-cued and rehabilitated a little white puff ball named Annie. Actually, it's not clear who rescued who, but they were insepa-rable.

Her biggest joy later in life was her grandkids and great grandkids. Nothing made "Nannie" happier than seeing them walk in the door. She and Poppa loved attending their choir concerts, voice and dance recitals, sporting events and birth-day parties. What her kids and grandkids will all miss is her great interest in their lives. She wanted to hear about everything, and they loved sharing the latest news with her.

Virginia looked forward every year to having the family come to their win-ter home in Phoenix with memories of swimming, the Arizona Biltmore, dinner at El Chorro's and art walks in Old Town. She and Fred honeymooned in Estes Park and made summers there a cherished family tradition going on 80 years. Memories that will never be for-gotten: Cookouts at Elk Horn Lodge, look-ing for animals in Rocky Mountain Na-tional Park after dinner, Lazy B Chuckwagon Suppers with the singing cowboys, walks around Bear Lake, pic-nics at Sprague Lake, trips to Charlie Eagle Plume's Trading Post, nights play-ing Chinese rummy and mornings watch-ing the humming birds drink the red sugar water that they expected the minute we got to the cabin.

Virginia's faith in God was strong and the family grew up saying grace before dinner and bedtime prayers. She was a church deacon, church choir member and children's church choir director. The verse she lived by was 1Corinthians 13:13. "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

A memorial service to celebrate Virginia's life is being held at 11:30 a.m., Friday, January 24 at Country Club Christian Church, 6101 Ward Park-way, Kansas City, Missouri.

She is survived by daughter Melanie Thompson, son-in-law Wayne Thompson, son Fred Merrill, Jr., daughter-in-law Candy Merrill, daughter Melinda Merrill, daughter Merrie Costello and son-in-law David Costello. She is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grand-children who loved their "Nannie" dearly.

The family wishes to thank her val-ued support staff: Rachel Woolbright, Shirley Bates, Barbara Lewis, Amalia Meiners, Laurie Sprinkle, Ella Root, Judy Hanks and Kay Hall McNamara. Spe-cial heartfelt thanks to her doctor of many years, Peter Holt and the dedi-cated nurses and doctors at St. Luke's Hospital ICU and St. Luke's Hospice House.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Kansas City Sym-phony.

(Lucas-Sylvan News
May 15, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in *The Lucas-Sylvan News*,
Thursday, May 15, 2025)1t

NOTICE OF USD 299 SCHOOL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2018(b), notice is hereby given that a General Election for Unified School District 299 will be held, Tuesday, November 4, 2025. If a primary election is required, it will be held, Tuesday, August 5, 2025. The following board member positions are to be voted on: Member District 1 Position No. 5, Member District 2 Position No. 4, and Member District 2 Position No. 6. Persons wishing to become candidates for election to board member positions may file in the Office of the Lincoln County Clerk, 216 E. Lincoln Avenue, Lincoln, KS, no later than NOON, Monday, June 2, 2025.

/s/ Dawn Harlow
Lincoln County Clerk/Election Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in *The Lucas-Sylvan News*,
Thursday, May 15, 2025)1t

NOTICE OF POST ROCK EXTENSION DISTRICT NO 1 EXTENSION DISTRICT ELECTION

In accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 2-624(c)(2), notice is hereby given that a General Election for Post Rock Extension District No 1 will be held, Tuesday, November 4, 2025. The following board member positions are to be voted on: Position No. 3 and Position No. 4. Persons wishing to become candidates for election to board member positions may file in the Office of the Lincoln County Clerk, 216 E. Lincoln Avenue, Lincoln, KS, no later than NOON, Monday, June 2, 2025.

/s/ Dawn Harlow
Lincoln County Clerk/Election Officer

Luray City Council holds meeting

(From the Official minutes of the Regular
Monthly Meeting Luray City Council held
March 12, 2025.)

7:00 PM – Call to Order

Mayor Delinda Petty called the meet-ing to order.

7:03 PM – Approval of Minutes

Alvin Webber motioned to approve all presented minutes. Stacey Dumler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7:04 PM – Cemetery Advisory Board Update

The Luray Cemetery Advisory Board addressed the Council regarding section markers. They secured bids for the mark-ers and discussed tree removal and plan-ning a volunteer date for cleanup ef-forts. Volunteers will be required to sign waivers.

Discussion followed regarding kiosk backing, and Krysta Cash will use the existing \$300 donation to order appro-priate materials. Krysta also shared the amount of recent donations designated for the cemetery.

7:25 PM – Approval of Section Marker Bid

Tammy Cline motioned to accept a bid from Dolton Construction in the amount of \$2,043.20 from the Cemetery Fund for materials for section markers at the Luray Cemetery. Alvin Webber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7:29 PM – Open Forum – Delinda Petty

Delinda Petty informed the Council she is bidding on state fair benches via Purple Wave Auction, with a planned maximum bid of \$2,000 for the lot. She also provided updates on daycare efforts and the Luray Community Foundation.

7:32 PM – Employee Report: Kevin Palmer

Kevin Palmer reported that KRWA assisted public works in exercising wa-ter valves throughout the city and noted which valves require replacement. Pub-lic works also replaced the starter on the generator at the fire department. Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 21–23. Tree limb pickup is scheduled for May 19–21.

7:37 PM – Purchase of Water Valves

Tammy Cline motioned to purchase two new water valves. LaDana Seirer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7:38 PM – Employee Report: Krysta Cash

Krysta Cash reviewed the manage-ment report and shared upcoming im-portant dates.

The annual Pet Clinic will be held on April 26 from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM.

The Council requested that an ad for summer help be placed in the city news-letter and shared on social media.

7:42 PM – Spring Cleanup Dumpsters

Ben Gruver motioned to rent roll-off dumpsters from R&R Refuse for spring cleanup. Stacey Dumler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7:44 PM – Pet License Discount and Clinic Supplies

LaDana Seirer motioned to offer \$1.00 off all pet licenses on the day of the Pet Clinic and to purchase necessary sup-plies (refreshments, pet treats, etc.) for the event. Stacey Dumler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7:45 PM – Security/Compliance Report

The Council discussed truck traffic concerns. Proper signage is already in place. Ryan presented the security re-port and responded to council questions.

7:51 PM – Approval of Bills

Tammy Cline motioned to approve payment of the bills. Ben Gruver sec-onded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7:58 PM – Luray Community PRIDE Update

Luray Community PRIDE provided an update. They are working to sched-ule a spring cleanup at the golf course and will host an Easter egg hunt on April 20 at noon in the park.

8:02 PM – Executive Session

Tammy Cline motioned to enter into executive session for 10 minutes to dis-cuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel (pursuant to KOMA, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)). Stacey Dumler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8:12 PM – End of Executive Ses- sion

The Council exited the executive ses-sion.

8:14 PM – Employee Pay Ad- justment

Alvin Webber motioned to increase Kevin Palmer's wages to \$25.00 per hour, retroactive to March 1, 2025. Tammy Cline seconded the motion. The motion passed 4–1 (LaDana Seirer – NO).

8:15 PM – Housing Compliance Violations

The Council discussed ongoing hous-ing compliance violations. Resolution hearings will be scheduled based on the availability of legal counsel. Krysta Cash will arrange and publish the hearing schedule after reviewing with legal coun-sel.

8:25 PM – Executive Session

Tammy Cline motioned to enter into executive session for 5 minutes to dis-cuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel (pursuant to KOMA, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)). LaDana Seirer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8:30 PM – End of Executive Ses- sion

The Council exited the executive ses-sion. No action was taken.

8:31 PM – Adjournment

Tammy Cline motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ben Gruver seconded the mo-tion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Bunker Hill Museum will sponsor a

Memorial Day Dinner Monday, May 26, 2025

Serving after Bunker Hill Cemetery Program
Bunker Hill Community Hall

Community Invited!

Museum will be open 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

In case of inclement weather the program will be at the Community Hall

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