



Lawrence J Bridges

December 22, 1937 - February 28, 2026

Lawrence Jordan Bridges, 88, of Urbana, Missouri, passed away on February 28, 2026, in Springfield, Missouri.

Lawrence was born on December 22, 1937, in Urbana, Missouri, to Alpha Thomas Bridges and Mary Virginia (Jordan) Bridges. He grew up in Urbana and graduated from Urbana High School, where he met the love of his life, Mary Nettie Johnson. The two were united in marriage on June 16, 1956, beginning a lifelong partnership built on faith, family, and hard work.

In 1957, Lawrence and Mary moved to Santa Paula, California, with their infant daughter, Debbie. While in California, their family grew with the addition of their son, Larry, and daughter, Dian. Lawrence worked a local milk route during those years before the family returned to Missouri in 1963.

Upon returning home, Lawrence opened a Chevrolet dealership in Urbana. In 1968, the family moved to Harrisonville to establish another dealership before eventually returning to Urbana in 1981. There, Lawrence and his family farmed for several years before starting a third Chevrolet dealership and later started Bridges Implement in Urbana. Following the sale of his businesses in the mid-1990s, Lawrence devoted himself fully to farming.

Lawrence was a dedicated businessman, farmer, and family man. He enjoyed

traveling with Mary and cherished trips to National Parks with their great-grandchildren in their fifth-wheel camper. He faithfully served his community as a board member of O'Bannon Bank, Bank of Urbana, Hickory County R-1 Schools, the Lions Club, and the advisory board at OakStar Bank.

A longtime member of First Baptist Church in Urbana, Missouri, Lawrence was saved and baptized there and remained steadfast in his faith throughout his life.

Lawrence is survived by his son, Lawrence Wayne "Larry" Bridges of Springfield, Missouri; his daughter, Dian Lee (Kelly) Nunn of Urbana, Missouri; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alpha and Mary Bridges; his beloved wife, Mary Nettie Bridges; his daughter, Debra Lynn Bridges; a great-great-granddaughter, Morenci Lynn Brown; and his siblings, Evelyn Kamien, Tony Bridges, and Stephen Bridges.

Lawrence will be remembered for his strong work ethic, generous spirit, unwavering faith, and deep love for his family and community. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the family he cherished.

Services are scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026, with visitation from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Formal service will begin at 12, Noon, with Pastor Dale Brown Officiating. Burial will follow at Hopewell Cemetery in Polk County with Chase Glor, Rhett Glor, Jett Johnson, Gage Johnson, Jamie Duncan, and Matthew Johnson serving at pallbearers.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home, Buffalo, Missouri.

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Cemetery Polk County

Polk County, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home - Buffalo
931 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 993
Buffalo, MO 65622
(417) 345-2211
info@cantlonotterness.com
<https://www.cantlonotterness.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 5. 12:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

WL

“Woody, Heather, Larry, Patty Lalumondier purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lawrence J Bridges.



Woody, Heather, Larry, Patty Lalumondier - March 05 at 11:53 AM

RJ

“I knew Lawrece from Rieschel Abstract. He was very respected. He was like the Country Cattle Gentleman. Always kind words. May He Rest in Peace with Mary. Regina Johnson

Regina Johnson - March 05 at 08:40 AM



“Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lawrence J Bridges.



March 04 at 12:41 PM

JL

“I waved at Lawrence every day on my way to work as he was out tending his cattle. He actually looked me up where I worked to introduce himself , and we became friends. He also struck up a friendship with my husband as we discovered we were neighbors.

Julia Lawson - March 03 at 02:16 PM

SB

“ I remember Lawrence from 1953 when he drove his 1953 Corvette to my parents cafe “Pete’s Dinner “ and took my Dad, Paul Muller for a ride in the Corvette. They headed towards Cross Timbers and Lawrence let Dad know what the Corvette could do, Dad always smoked a cigarettes and held it up over the windshield to flip the ashes off- but the speed took the whole cigar right out of Dads hand!, Dad loved telling that story! Our Sympathy to the family, Lawrence was a nice Guy!

Sally Muller Brown - March 03 at 01:37 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lawrence J Bridges.



March 03 at 12:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lawrence J Bridges.

March 03 at 12:06 PM

GF

“ Gunter, McCarty and Miller families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lawrence J Bridges.



Gunter, McCarty and Miller families - March 02 at 10:54 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence J Bridges.*



March 01 at 08:17 PM



“ *The Johnson Family; Troy and Kids purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Lawrence J Bridges.*



The Johnson Family; Troy and Kids - February 28 at 05:44 PM