



# Franklin County Coroner

County of Franklin, Illinois

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**Marty P. Leffler**  
Coroner

**John Graskewicz**  
Chief Deputy Coroner

**John Owens**  
Deputy Coroner

**Steve Gilbert**  
Deputy Coroner

**Gary Little**  
Deputy Coroner

**Steve Leek**  
Deputy Coroner

**Bernie Staten**  
Secretary

**September 1, 2019**

## Media Release

**Re: The jet ski fatality at Lake Benton**

The man whose body was recovered from Lake Benton is identified as 73-year-old Gary D. Graham of Benton.

Initial reports from the IDNR Conservation Officer's investigating the accident, state that two men were riding together on a borrowed jet-ski at Lake Benton, when the driver made a quick u - turn causing both men to be ejected into the water. The driver of the jet ski said he swam after the still running jet ski and his passenger tried to swim towards the boat dock, but went under and never surfaced. Neither the driver or the passenger were wearing a life vest.

The Benton Fire Department Dive Team with assistance of the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency Special Operation Dive Team, along with the IDNR Conservation Officers, searched for almost an hour before locating Mr. Graham's body.

An autopsy is to be scheduled.

Franklin County Coroner, Marty Leffler, said Mr. Graham lived at Lake Benton, and was a retired school teacher from Mt. Vernon, IL.

Leffler asks that we pray for the Graham family during the tragic loss of their loved one.

There is no further information available at this time.