



**Richard Ploch**  
**LaSalle County Coroner**

**LA SALLE COUNTY FORENSIC CENTER**

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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** January 22, 2024

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

The individual who died in the Saturday, January 20, 2024, car fire at 3110 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Rd., Ottawa, Illinois has been identified as:

Mary L. Friestad, age 89, of Ottawa, Illinois.

The preliminary autopsy findings indicate that the decedent died of smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide intoxication as the result of the fire.

This incident remains under investigation by LaSalle County Coroner's Office, LaSalle County Sheriff's Department, and the Illinois State Fire Marshall.

Rich Ploch, LaSalle County Coroner