



Joseph E. "Dr. Joe" Blankenkemper

November 5, 1944 - December 23, 2014

Joseph E. "Dr. Joe" Blankenkemper, 70, former Superintendent of Brownstown Central and South Ripley Community School Corporations; and Indiana Department of Education Official, left his earthly home and joyfully entered into the arms of his Heavenly Father on December 23, 2014. A native of Jeffersonville, IN, he was the fifth child of Gladys Amelia (Stemler) and Howard Rush Blankenkemper, and was born November 5, 1944. His parents and his older brother, Rollyn Howard Blankenkemper, and his older sister, Carol Sue Potter, predeceased him. He was the loving husband of Margaret Helen (Scholey) Blankenkemper for 47 years. From their marriage they have a daughter, Jennifer Elaine (Tim) Harms, of Lawrence, IN; and three sons, Dr. Timothy Howard (Miranda) Blankenkemper of South Bend, IN, James Clifford Blankenkemper of Louisville, KY, and Stephen Joseph (Lauren) Blankenkemper of Wanamaker, IN. They have seven grandchildren, Koryn, Caleb and Adeline Harms, Ella, Evan, Ruby June and Levi Blankenkemper. He is also survived by his sisters, Judith (Conrad) Storz, Claudia Griffin, and Rita (Allan) Dean.

Joe graduated from Jeffersonville High School, Jeffersonville, IN, in 1962. He completed four degrees from Indiana University, a BA in Social Service, MSW, Educational Specialist and Ed.D. He was a member of Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ where he was a member of the board, sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and chaired the Mission Committee. Joe was also a member of the Indiana Retired Public School Superintendents, the Indiana

Retired Teachers Association, Past President of the Lions Club of Indianapolis, Past District Governor of District 25F of Lions Club International, and recipient in 2004 of Sagamore of the Wabash.

Visitation will be Friday, January 2, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 E. Washington St. and Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, 603 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. Burial will be at Walnut Ridge Cemetery, Jeffersonville, IN.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to, Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, Memorial Gift, 603 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-4604 or the Indiana Lions Cancer Control Fund, Inc., Department of Radiation Oncology, 535 Barnhill, RTO41, Indianapolis, IN 46202-5289 or Joe's boyhood church, St. Luke's United Church of Christ, 329 Walnut St., Jeffersonville, IN 47130 and/or the Gladys A. (Stemler)

Blankenbeker Memorial Scholarship, Greater Clark County Schools, 2112 Utica-Sellersburg Road, Jeffersonville, IN 47130. Online condolences may be made at www.shirleybrothers.com.

Cemetery Details

Walnut Ridge Cemetery

Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel
9606 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46229
(317) 897-9606
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

Visitation

JAN 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ
603 North New Jersey Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Funeral Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ
603 North New Jersey Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Tribute Wall

LW

“ Joe was a very kind and thoughtful individual. He always had a smile and a cheery greeting every time he came into the IAPSS office. He will be missed.

Lana White

Lana White - January 05, 2015 at 12:55 PM

DS

“ Joe was a super great guy... We sang in church choir at Zion with Margaret and Joe. It is a huge loss and we will miss him immeasurably. Thank you Joe for being a light at Zion!



Diana Stanton - January 04, 2015 at 09:29 PM

TR

“ Hi Margaret and family. We remember Dr. Joe when he was in Versailles. He was such a kind and funny man. He Made Versailles a brighter place for certain. We know he will be greatly missed.
From Rev. Tim and Serena Rasmussen

Timothy Rasmussen - January 03, 2015 at 08:02 PM

HB

“ I knew Joe as an IU student when he was in my class about School Law. At that time, he was in the State Department, seeking a way to qualify for his license to be a School Superintendent. I found Joe to be quite outgoing, very studious and equally ambitious. Those traits enabled him to be successful in his career in public education. His passing is a real loss to public education, as well as to his beloved family

Harmon A. Baldwin

Harmon A. Baldwin - January 01, 2015 at 12:28 PM

MB

“ "Doc Joe" was a truly kind and caring man. I was lucky to work with him at Brownstown Central Schools. My mother passed away shortly after "Doc Joe" became superintendent at Brownstown. I had never met him, but he came to the funeral chapel to pay his respects. I will never forget this. This world has lost a wonderful man. My condolences to his family.

Mike Brown
Brownstown Central Middle School

Mike Brown - December 31, 2014 at 04:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory - December 31, 2014 at 10:34 AM

KJ

“ Keeping you all in thoughts and Prayers. Love, JT & Jill purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joseph E. "Dr. Joe" Blankenkbecker.



Keeping you all in thoughts and Prayers. Love, JT & Jill -
December 30, 2014 at 10:12 PM

MD

“ Mary D. purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Joseph E. "Dr. Joe" Blankenkbecker.



Mary D. - December 30, 2014 at 08:42 AM

BS

“ To Margaret and family: It was a blessing to have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Joe in the Lions Club of 25F during his term as Governor and while I was governor of 25F in 1989--1990. I will be looking forward to meeting him in heaven when God calls me home. Margaret, Joe has left a wonderful heritage to you and your family so live in these beautiful memories. May God Richly bless you. PDG Ben H. Strasser (Sun City,AZ)

Ben H. Strasser - December 29, 2014 at 10:34 PM

LR

“ My deepest sympathy to you, Margaret and your family. I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I worked with Dr. Joe in Lake Station, IN and remeber him with fondness. I have always said that all we leave behind when we leave this world are memories and Joe left a lot of good memories!! My prayers are with you. Linda Ross

Linda Ross - December 29, 2014 at 09:32 PM

MP

“ Fortunately, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Joe while he was Superintendent at Brownstown. He was a kind, caring person who really put students first. He was a great man who will truly be missed.

Melanie Preston - December 28, 2014 at 10:16 PM

MW

“ Joe was one of the kindest, most Spirit-filled men I have known. He had an incredible sense of humor, was always eager to help when there was a need, and he was forever young at heart. He had wonderful stories, a heart of gold, and was just an all-around amazing man. I am so sorry that the Earth has lost such a wonderful person, but I know he has taken his place with the angels and is smiling down at us all.

Megan White - December 28, 2014 at 10:52 AM

RD

“ Joe was a wonderful man that loved the Lord and lived his life to exemplify what God wants each of us to be and do. My family and I had the privilege of getting to know Joe through Merom's Church camping program and ministries. He was a favorite among those of us that worked with him and definitely with the campers. It was an honor to know him and call him "friend." Joe will truly be missed, but the legacy and memories he leaves behind will be cherished by his family and all those who knew him.

Ruth Dubbs - December 27, 2014 at 09:52 PM

GP

“ Mr blankenbecker is my good friend jens dad. He always had a smile and a hug! Always laughing a wonderful dad and husband!! He will be missed!



gina pipkin - December 26, 2014 at 11:09 PM

DB

“ It was a blessing for all of us who were fortunate enough to have our lives touched by Joe. What a kind, friendly, loyal, and helpful person he was. He cared so much for others. You will be missed, but as you said only a few days ago, "It's not goodbye but see you later". Now in heaven with mom and dad, brother and sister. Rest in peace, dear Uncle Joe.

David Blankenbeker - December 26, 2014 at 07:45 AM

AT

“ Alex, Penny, Carigan, Miah And Tony lit a candle in memory of Joseph E. "Dr. Joe" Blankenkober



Alex, Penny, Carigan, Miah and Tony - December 25, 2014 at 10:12 PM

BR

“ I got the chance to know Joe on a mission trip to New Orleans. So glad that I got that chance. Now you have a new mission and that is to sing with the angels. RIP.

Brenda - December 25, 2014 at 08:39 PM

CS

“ So grateful for having the opportunity to know Joe. I will treasure the time spent with him at BPC and during the New Orleans mission trip. He brought much joy and laughter into our lives.

Caroline Swartwood - December 25, 2014 at 03:11 PM

JB

“ God, thank you for the life of my dad and for allowing him to be my earthly father, teaching me how to live a good life...even if I have been a slow learner...relying always on your grace! In Christ's name I pray and have my hope, AMEN!

Merry Christmas Dad!



James Blankenkober - December 25, 2014 at 11:38 AM



“ I truly don't know where to begin. I have so many memories of our families growing up together through church or hanging out. The fun times we had at Merit when we were counselors. He will be missed so much. No matter where he saw you he would give you a hug and ask how you were doing. He had a heart of gold and his laugh was contagious. I know that my dad greeted him with open arms last night at God's door. Please know I love all of you and you are all in my thoughts and prayers. You will feel his love in your hearts and feel his arms around you when you need him. Kim and Kamren Orban



Kim Orban - December 24, 2014 at 10:35 PM