



Albert John Tieken

April 21, 1929 - June 1, 2016

Albert J. Tieken, age 87, of Dixon, passed away suddenly Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was born April 21, 1929, in Oak Park, the son of John and Wilhelmina (Honings) Tieken.

Al taught agriculture at Lee Center, Amboy, and Dixon High Schools prior to his retirement in 1986. After his retirement, he taught horticulture and landscaping at Sauk Valley Community College. He also started the first recycling program in Dixon.

He was a veteran of the Army.

Al was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church in Dixon, the American Legion Post 12, was active in the Dixon Combined Veterans Group, and was on the original Sugar Grove Church Restoration Committee. Al enjoyed joking and spending time with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed teaching music and playing the piano, beekeeping, wine and beer making, reading, traveling, hunting, the outdoors, and trying new foods.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister Elaine Dufault.

Al married Nellie Clausen in Sycamore on September 6, 1953.

Survivors include his loving wife of 62 years; children Terri (Tim) Bivins, Deb (Jim Nagy) Tieken Catalina, and Bob (Barb) Tieken all of Dixon; 7 grandchildren Lindsey (Billy) Johnson, Ryan (Jordan) Bivins, Chris (Letha) Catalina, Brian (Tina) Catalina, Gabriel Tieken, Sarah (Greg) Myers, and Caleb Tieken; 2 step-grandchildren Stephanie (Dave) Hanrahan and Jake (Rose) Angleton; 23 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, June 6, 2016, at 10:30 AM in St. Anne Catholic Church in Dixon with the Rev. Antoni Kretowicz, Pastor, officiating. Burial of cremains will be at a later date in Sugar Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Sunday, June 5, from 1:00 until 4:00 PM in the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established to American Legion Post 12 or the Dixon Veterans Park.

Cemetery Details

Sugar Grove

352 Timbercreek Rd
Dixon, IL 61021

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

St. Anne Catholic Church
1104 N Brinton Ave
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 288-3131
http://www.stanneschooldixon.org/st_anne_parish.htm

Service

JUN 6. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Anne Catholic Church
1104 N Brinton Ave
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 288-3131
http://www.stanneschooldixon.org/st_anne_parish.htm

Tribute Wall



“ *Albert John Tieken*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Albert John Tieken*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Nellie and family,*

We were sorry to hear of Al's death when it was in the Rockford paper when I came back from a fishing adventure in the Wisconsin North Woods June 7, 2016. My memories go back much further than most of the folks remembering Al. We first of all remember growing up with your family, and then spending our time at The University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana when Al was learning what a farmer was. Our best to you and your family.

Joretta & Jim Chambers

James Chambers - June 09, 2016 at 11:12 AM

GG

“ When I first began working at DHS in the 80's is when I became friends with Al & Nellie Tieken. Al was always so enthusiastic about being a teacher at DHS. I remember visiting the Ag Dept. when I first began working at DHS. My Dad was a farmer so I could relate to his Dept. Later on, the "running boom" came to Dixon. After school was dismissed for the day, a bunch of us would lace up our running shoes and go out for a run. Al was a part of that group. The year Al and some of his "cronies" retired, we made it special by having the retirees ride in the back of a truck sitting in rocking chairs. The funny part about this was that these retirees were "far from" sitting in rocking chairs as they entered their retirement. Al & Nellie would go to Florida in the winter and then back to IL the rest of the year to enjoy their retirement here. They would pick up where they left off here with family, friends, and community functions. Only a week or so ago, I ran into Al and he asked how I was. After my standard answer of saying "fine", he would then say, "seriously"? That was Al's saying time and time again. He was always considerate of the person to whom he was speaking. God, Thank you for bringing Al into the lives of so many of us. He will be truly missed!

Gracie Grove - June 06, 2016 at 08:29 PM

MK

“ Some of my best memories from high school were the times spent in the Ag Shop under the guidance of Mr. Tieken. We learned a lot, and always had a great time along the way. From wiring electrical boxes, arc welding, using a blow torch, building bird houses, fixing a tractor, or working out at the FFA Ag Plot behind the Pamida shopping center, it was all so much fun, and our experiences have left us with so many great memories. I remember how Mr. Tieken broke off a piece of aloe vera that he was growing in his green house and spread it on my hand when I burned it with a cutting torch. Mr. Tieken supervised my “work program” studies during my junior year in 1983-84, and I got to know him well as I worked on a tractor in the Ag Shop during long winter afternoons. He genuinely cared for his students and wanted them to succeed in whatever vocations they pursued. I know those of us in FFA and who took ag classes engaged in a lot of juvenile antics that would aggravate Mr. Tieken, but you were kept in check by the “Vulcan Pinch” that Rodney Hodgson mentioned above—you would think long and hard before joining your peers in other shenanigans after receiving a few of those! Few teachers like Mr. Tieken come this way, and he will be greatly missed by all who had the great fortune to know him. Mark Kemper--Class of 1985

Mark Kemper - June 06, 2016 at 10:28 AM

JS

“ Dear Nellie and family,
I just saw Al in the Memorial Day parade. He was one of my favorite banking customers, always full of news and jovial. I am sorry for your loss, he was such a unique person. Blessings to you all. Joann B. Sheridan

Joann Sheridan - June 05, 2016 at 11:20 AM

MH

“ Dear Nellie and family,

When I was MUCH younger, I had the privilege of getting to know your Al @ Dixon High School where we taught together for two years- - actually, he (and his fellow-vocational-education teacher Dale Quick) TAUGHT ME AS A BEGINNING TEACHER SO MUCH about the priceless value of a ready smile, a sharp sense of humor, and a proclivity for "just being nice" to people. Those two, Al and his fellow witty compatriot Dale, amidst all their good-natured smiles and laughter, impressed on me their mastery of their respective teaching vocations along with the need for any one not to take himself too seriously in this life. I am a better person for having known your Al. My sympathies to you all in the sad event of Al's passing. He made a real difference in many peoples' lives - - including my own. mike heckman

mike heckman - June 04, 2016 at 09:32 PM

DC

“ Mr. Tieken was my high school Agriculture teacher from 1960 to 1964. Not only was he a favorite teacher, he was also a natural mentor for this shy farm boy.

He knew I liked wood and one day he gave me the USDA Yearbook of Agriculture titled "Trees". Mr. Tieken is part of the reason I am now a professor of Forestry and Wood Products at Purdue University.

On another occasion I was getting an "A" in every class except his. That seldom happened. I always got "A's" in Ag but that was not happening this time around. We did a little negotiating and it was agreed that over noon hours I would cane a little rocker that he had for an extra credit project. Thank you Mr. Tieken for teaching me to work a little harder to make things happen.

I am so glad Al and his wife "crashed" the 1964/1965 DHS class reunion last fall. He was just as jovial and happy as ever. That is the way he will be remembered by all.

Dan Cassens - June 04, 2016 at 04:48 PM

CP

“ I was saddened to get the news from my brother of Al’s passing. I’ve known Al from the time the Tieken family became our rural neighbors and I did babysitting for Terry, Debbie and Bob. As the years passed, I saw Al as a cheerful, friendly, knowledgeable man who was always interested in people. Although I’ve been away from Dixon 40 years, I made annual visits to family and would often see Al’s great vegetable garden. My last great encounter with Al was when I flew in to visit my Mother and was locked out of the car in the grocery store parking lot with a remote that would not unlock the door. Al happened to be there and gave me a ride to my Mother’s as it was a blistery cold evening. He was a lifesaver! A man respected by myself and my husband.
Carol (Butterbaugh) Pyle

Carol Pyle - June 04, 2016 at 12:12 PM

SC

“ Al was fun to talk to. He was full of wit and humor. I’m sure he will be sadly missed. Nellie, Terri, Deb, and Bob, you have our heartfelt sympathy. Steve and Sherri Cooper.

steve cooper - June 04, 2016 at 11:55 AM

L(

“ So sorry for your loss. Mr. Tieken was one of my favorite DHS teachers. My deepest condolences to the family.

Lori James (Stouffer) - June 04, 2016 at 11:03 AM

L(

“ So sorry for your loss. One of my favorite DHS teachers. My deepest condolences to the family. RIP. 🙏❤️🙏




Lori James (Stouffer) - June 04, 2016 at 10:55 AM

CB

“ My sympathy to the Tieken family. Mr. Tieken was a wonderful man. He was a good neighbor, teacher, and community-oriented citizen. He will be missed.



Carol Biester - June 04, 2016 at 09:19 AM

 Kelly Hayes

“ Sorry for your loss, your dad was an amazing man whom I feel honored to have known, thoughts and prayers to your entire family.

Kelly Hayes - June 04, 2016 at 07:16 AM

RR

“ Mr. Tieken was by far the best teacher I ever had...In the four years of Ag and the FFA , he taught us a wide variety of subjects and gave us experiences that most students never gotThank you Mr. Tieken ... I'll see you later Sir !!!!
Yours Truly ,
Randy Reed

Randy Reed - June 03, 2016 at 11:25 PM

KH

“ *Great man, great teacher. He made school fun and that's not easy for most. He was down to earth and caring. And a unique sense of humor. Rest in peace Mt T.*

KELLY HAYES - June 03, 2016 at 10:46 PM

GS

“ *Al was the reason for a cold afternoon beer at the post. He always had a smile on his face and was eager to tell a story from his past, and listen to anything one might have to say. Every once in a while, someone comes along that influences all who come in contact with them. He was that someone special. We will miss you AL... Glenn & Opal Wallin*

Glenn Wallin Sr - June 03, 2016 at 09:14 PM

-H

“Mrs. Tieken and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. I only knew him as “Mr. Tieken” in 1980, when I took my first Agriculture class at DHS. He was ever so instrumental in guiding me down the appropriate path. Yes, there were times when I received the “Vulcan Pinch” on the back of the neck, which was deserved. During the 4 years at DHS, I never realized the significance of his guidance until years later. I am ever so grateful to have a teacher/friend care so much, not only during class time, but also taking time to visit the house and review my FFA projects. As the opening ceremony of an FFA meeting states, the “Advisor” is stationed by the owl, which is “An emblem of Knowledge and Wisdom”. Mr. Tieken was never satisfied with status quo from his students, and pushed us to reach heights I never thought were achievable. Under his guidance, I was honored to have such a successful FFA experience. I kept in touch with Mr. Tieken over the years, stopping by the house when I was in the area, and like many others, thanked him for his mentoring, as it was the foundation for my own career. Mr. Tieken, I will always cherish the time I was able to spend with you.....,

“Teacher to Many & Friend to All”.

--Rodney Hodgson - June 03, 2016 at 06:57 PM

AD

“Al was a tremendous Agriculture Teacher. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.
Al Dietz - retired Ag. Teacher

Allen Dietz - June 03, 2016 at 03:59 PM

PL

“ Mr. Tieken was my homeroom teacher 1970-1974. He was a great teacher and took time for the kids. God bless his family.

- Pam Lazaris

Pam Lazaris - June 03, 2016 at 11:32 AM

JF

“ Mr. Tieken was always willing to help with any project you might be involved with . He was always chipper and full of life. I for one will surely miss him. He help me start my first bee hive and called my four yeAR old Jentry his "bee boy". He gave so much and asked for very little. Great friend to have ,great teacher,great person.

Jeff Fane - June 03, 2016 at 08:46 AM

SS

It was with Mr Tieken's fierce support and cajoling of the school administration, that an "in town" kid actually got to raise chickens in the Ag shop at DHS. He taught me a lot more than Ag. RIP Mr T. My most sincere condolences to the family.

Steve Smith - June 03, 2016 at 09:36 PM

DM

“ Sorry for your loss God. Bless Debra merritt

debra merritt - June 03, 2016 at 08:07 AM

CS

“ Our thoughts and prayers to all the family. Al was a special guy and friend always. May he rest in peace.



Cindy Streit - June 02, 2016 at 10:19 PM

DN

“ *My condolences to the family. He was a great man.*

DALE NEWMAN & FAMILY

DALE NEWMAN - June 02, 2016 at 10:06 PM

RB

“ *Richard Boyer lit a candle in memory of Albert John Tieken*



Richard Boyer - June 02, 2016 at 07:53 PM

RB

“ *We send our deepest condolences to all of the Tieken family on the sudden death of Al.*

There are so many wonderful memories to recall: working with Al at DHS; getting a jab of his humor; his music at the Bogott's and below the restaurant; the enormous pig roasts at the farm; getting some great calls almost yearly from Al and Nellie in Florida--the last one a couple of months ago; watching his tenderness with his mother at church; the great laugh and smile.

Besides his family, so many in the Dixon area will feel the void.

All of our family send our thoughts and prayers.

Dick and Dorothy Boyer

Richard Boyer - June 02, 2016 at 07:52 PM

TT

“ *Mr. Tieken was hard on me as a kid. Not because he didn't like me, but because he saw something in me and I was wasting it.*

Many years had passed, but I never forgot how he tried to mentor me. How he tried to reach me. I was honored and blessed to finally after 30 years sit down and tell him I was sorry and to thank him.

Last 4th of July he bought me a beer and made me feel like a million bucks. Though I wanted him to understand my gratitude, he was the same guy from so many years ago and in turn, could see the best in me. He continued to encourage me beaming with pride.

Thank you Al, as during this time together I didn't waste it, I enjoyed every word said and the smile on your face.

God bless you and may Gods peace and comfort hold your family in this time.

Todd Trader - June 02, 2016 at 07:48 PM

TT

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God bless you and may Gods peace and comfort hold your family in this time.

-Todd Trader

Todd Trader - June 02, 2016 at 07:43 PM

SB

“ *So sorry for your loss. Most sincere of condolences to the family. May he rest in peace.*

Scott Barnett - June 02, 2016 at 12:57 PM

RG

“ *He was a blast to work with not only at the Sugar Grove School and Church but all the activity's we put on over the years he will be missed*

roy grobe - June 02, 2016 at 08:38 AM

RB

Al was one amazing man who lived life to the fullest, always doing something for others and making it fun at the same time. Al and Nellie have been so kind to keep in touch with me, especially after Dave's death. We both enjoyed them when we lived and worked in Dixon, and I have many fond memories professionally and personally. It's hard to imagine Dixon without Al. He was a model for service with a smile and spreading kindness wherever he went. I remember a few years ago, in Florida, he wanted me to find out from my Hispanic colleagues how to cook goat. I thought he was kidding....of course he was serious! It was yet another culinary challenge for him to take on! He was a lifelong learner, a great model for his students and for everyone else. I am saddened that he will no longer be sharing his popcorn, his humor, his caring for others and his optimism with us. I feel very fortunate to have known him.

Bobbi Berglund

Roberta Berglund - June 11, 2016 at 12:49 PM