



## Fred Elwood Meinke

January 6, 1927 - January 31, 2015

Fred Elwood Meinke, 88, of Dixon, died peacefully Saturday, January 31, 2015, with family and friends at Serenity Hospice & Home, Oregon, IL from natural causes. Fred was born January 6, 1927, in Earlville, IL, the son of Fred R and Minnette (Johnson) Meinke. In 1931 the family moved to Dixon, IL. As a child Fred spent summers flying kites, swimming, kayaking, hunting and fishing at his parents Rock River cabin, working as a lifeguard at Lowell Park and working back in Earlville on the family farms. As a Dixon High School student he excelled in sports, lettering in Football, Basketball, Track & Field and Baseball. His senior year, he was voted "Most Athletic" by his classmates. After graduating from High School in 1945 he was drafted by the U.S. Navy during WWII. After his Navy service in 1946 he enrolled at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL, in the Pre-Engineering program. In 1950 he joined another federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service in Dixon, IL, later that year he got his second draft notice and joined the U.S. Army during the

Korean War, trained in the bomb disposal unit, was promoted to Sergeant and deployed to Ulm, Germany. While serving in the Army, Fred aka "Fritz" immediately made great friends and traveled throughout Europe for the Army. On weekend leaves he enjoyed skiing in the Alps and the sunny beaches of the Italian Riviera. After completing his military service in 1952, Fred returned to his family in Dixon and rejoined his career at the Post Office. He married the love of his life, Jacqueline Ann Rybick on August 17, 1957 at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Dixon. Fred worked full-time so Jackie could put her Art Teaching career on hold to stay at home and raise their four young sons. They shared 54 wonderful years together before her death in 2011.

Fred had a great passion for sports; in the early 1970's he was one of four local men to start Dixon's first Junior Tackle Football League. He was a very active volunteer for the Dixon High School's Football and Track & Field teams. He received numerous accolations for his volunteer work and promoting High School athletics.

After retiring in 1983, he immersed himself into his greatest passion - hunting! He was an outdoorsman to the core, spending his golden years at his beloved cabin hunting, fishing, gardening and reading. When not hunting, he and Jackie enjoyed golfing, playing bridge and entertaining.

Fred is survived by his four sons, F Eric (Barbara) Meinke of Harvard, IL, Alec

(Myrna) Meinke

of Kansas City, MO, Kurt (Ben Kretz) Meinke of Glendale, WI, Brett (Janis) Meinke of

Milwaukee, WI; four granddaughters, Alexis (Meinke) Jones, Lauren (Meinke) Steffen, Brooklyn

Meinke, Mackenzie Meinke; his sister, Maureen (Meinke) and Kurt Bechle of Esmond, IL; along

with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and sister Constance (Meinke) Sellers.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to Fred's caregiver Jennie Smith.

Graveside service will be at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 7th at St Patrick Cemetery Maytown,

(1376 Maytown Rd, Amboy, IL 61310). Followed by a celebration of Fred's life at the family

cabin with food and drink. Meinke Cabin-1141 Maytown Rd, Amboy, IL 61310.

A Memorial has been established to the Dixon Public Library.

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB 7. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

St Patrick Cemetery Maytown  
1376 Maytown Rd  
Amboy, IL 61310

## Visitation

FEB 7. 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Meinke Cabin  
1141 Maytown Rd  
Amboy, IL 61310

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fred Elwood Meinke*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Fred Elwood Meinke*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *I have thought of you often Kurt and hope things are going good for you. You were so good to your parents and I know they appreciate it, May god be with you , Peace.*

**Lela Kraber** - February 18, 2015 at 11:35 AM



“ *Always a fun visit. My parents Don & Shirley Mathesius never forgot the good times and great memories. Thank you.*

**Martin Mathesius** - February 06, 2015 at 01:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Fred Elwood Meinke.*



February 06, 2015 at 10:28 AM

NH

“ *I am sorry for the loss of your father Kurt. Thinking of you often.*  
*Nicole Hoyle*

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**nicole hoyle** - February 06, 2015 at 06:45 AM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Fred Elwood Meinke.*



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February 05, 2015 at 11:30 AM

TB

“ *I just read about your dad's passing. I struck me deeply. Please, accept my most sincere condolences. Your dad was a very sincere and giving person. Many of us will always be grateful for the hours that he devoted to our sports programs through the years. He left many of us with great memories. You can rest assured that my words speak the thoughts of countless other as well. I wish you all the best.*

*Tom Berwanger*

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**Tom Berwanger** - February 04, 2015 at 07:51 PM

GO

“Katie and I wish to express our sincere sympathy. It was my pleasure to work along side Fred when preparing mail for delivery in Dixon. Leaving the office afterwards on our individual route, we experienced the weather and its elements. Today I think of the two of us being out in the cold and snow, similar to what weather we are having at the moment. I do believe Fred could handle it much better than I as he was a true outdoorsman. God bless my friend as he leads the way.

*Garry & katie Ortgiesen*

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**Garry & Katie Ortgiesen** - February 03, 2015 at 01:59 PM

MK

“Marcia, Diane, and Kent purchased the In Memory Blue Spruce Tree for the family of Fred Elwood Meinke.



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**Marcia, Diane, and Kent** - February 03, 2015 at 11:14 AM