



## Greg Langan

November 9, 1933 - May 14, 2024

James Gregory Langan passed away peacefully on May 14 at home in Evanston after a long struggle with dementia. He was born in Dixon on November 9, 1933 to Edward and Frances (Kennedy) Langan and named after his mother's older brother. The last of their four children, Greg was doted on by his three older sisters, Mary Ellen, Rita, and Barbara, and was known as the "Little King."

Greg attended St. Mary School, Dixon High School, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Northern Illinois University. He also earned his Doctorate in Education from Indiana University.

Greg began his career at what was then called the Dixon State School, working as a psychologist and rehabilitation supervisor. There a red-haired young social worker, Mary Ann Bloomfield, caught his eye. They were married for 32 years until her death in 1991.

After living in Dixon, Bloomington, IN, and Decatur, Greg and Mary Ann settled in Champaign where they raised their three children: Mike, Ann, and Sue. Greg was a loyal Illini fan and made many wonderful memories with his close friends tailgating, meeting for Saturday morning breakfast, and spending summer weeks at the Monkeyspoon, a magical ocean-side house in Wells Beach, Maine.

Professionally, Greg was the Assistant Regional Administrator for what were known as Mental Retardation Programs for the State of Illinois, followed by fifteen years as the Superintendent of Adler Mental Health Center on the

campus of the University of Illinois. He then became the Regional Administrator for the 16-county area and Acting Superintendent of the Meyer Mental Health Center in Decatur. The last two years of his career were spent as the Assistant Director for Policy and Programs for Mental Retardation Services in Springfield. During this time he also had academic appointments at the U of I and Illinois State University, traveling to Bloomington-Normal to teach classes on Monday nights.

A short marriage to Sharon U. Thompson brought Greg back to Dixon in 1994. He soon became reacquainted with Mary Dixon to whom he was happily married until her death in 2007.

Greg also enjoyed spending time with Nancy Morrissey in the years before he moved to Evanston in 2019 to be closer to his family.

If you chatted with Greg, you likely noticed his passion for local history. He loved researching topics and interesting people from Dixon's past and enthusiastically shared his knowledge through the many programs he did for various organizations, the downtown tours he conducted for local school groups, the articles he wrote for the Telegraph, and in conversations with acquaintances and strangers alike. Sharing stories about the lives of those he portrayed as part of the Oakwood Cemetery Walk was an annual highlight. Greg was incredibly honored to have the Langan Award for Excellence in Local History named for him.

A long-time member of St. Patrick Church, Greg's work with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was especially rewarding and important to him. He was also a member of the Diocese Stewardship Commission.

Never one to pass up an opportunity to make a list, preferably on a yellow legal pad with a pen from his vast office supply collection, these are other local organizations to which Greg generously gave his time and leadership over the years: the Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society, Dixon Historic Theatre, Reagan Peace Park, Dixon Downtown Historic District, Veterans Memorial Museum, Dixon Elks Lodge, Sauk Valley Kiwanis Club, and Dixon Gyros Club. He also served on the boards of the Lee/Ogle County

Regional Office and the Northwest Illinois Area on Aging.

Greg was immensely proud of his children and grandchildren and loved his family deeply. He is survived by his son Mike (Pam) of Sheboygan, WI, daughters Ann and Sue, and sister Barbara of Evanston; six grandsons: David (Amanda), Nicholas (Joelle), Jonathan (Mady), Matt, Joe, and Patrick; two great-grandchildren, Jameson and Ava; and many nieces and nephews.

Greg's family would like to thank Yvette, Tanice, and Hopelin for the amazing, loving care they gave him over these past few years.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, June 5 from 9:00-10:30 at Jones Funeral Home, 204 S. Ottawa Ave., Dixon. There will be an 11:00 funeral mass at St. Patrick Church followed by burial at Oakwood Cemetery.

Immediately after, all are invited back for a luncheon and to share memories of Greg at St. Patrick's Holloway Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Greg's memory to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, % St. Patrick Church, 612 Highland Ave, Dixon, IL 61021 and the Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society, 113 Hennepin Ave, Dixon, IL 61021. Arrangements by the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood

416 S Dement Ave  
Dixon, IL 61021

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 5.** 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon  
204 South Ottawa  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Ph: 815-288-2241  
[info@thejonesfh.com](mailto:info@thejonesfh.com)  
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

## Service

**JUN 5.** 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon  
612 S. Highland Ave.  
Dixon, IL 61021  
(815) 284-7719  
[office@stpatrickdixon.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@stpatrickdixon.comcastbiz.net)  
<http://www.stpatrickdixon.org>

# Tribute Wall

RP

“ So sorry to learn of Greg's passing. We bought his Highland Ave home here in Champaign in 1994 and were immediately drawn to Greg. Such a lovely and kind man. Our sympathies to Mike, Ann and Sue who occupied 3 bedrooms in our lovely home before they moved onward and upwards. Peace be with you. Roger and Janine Prillaman

---

**roger prillaman** - March 31, 2025 at 12:36 PM

PB

“ Greg was a wonderful neighbor to us on East Boyd Street. Shortly after Johanna and I moved into our retirement home in October of 2005, Greg came over, introduced himself and gave us a welcome gift. He had thoroughly researched the history of our 1910 home and it's previous owners. Talking with him was always a delightful and insightful experience. - Pastor Frank Berman

---

**Pastor Frank Berman** - June 04, 2024 at 05:24 PM

LE

“ Larissa, Leigh and Ellen purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Greg Langan.



---

**Larissa, Leigh and Ellen** - June 03, 2024 at 09:38 AM

SS

“ Sincerely, Cathy and Richard Seagle purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Greg Langan.



---

**Sincerely, Cathy and Richard Seagle** - May 24, 2024 at 04:25 PM

JH

“ Our father, Herb, was a year behind Greg at DHS. They became friends when our father was a sophomore. Greg, our father, and their friends would drive to Ladd, IL to enjoy the chicken at Rip's Tavern. Greg and our father reconnected in 1955 when our father was discharged from the army. The group then resumed their trips to Rip's Tavern. The friendship continued. We recall a weekend trip to Champaign in the late 1960s or early 1970s to visit the Langan family and attend an Illini football game. Greg and Mary Ann were very friendly and good hosts. Our father will miss Greg's friendship. The Henning Family.

---

**J.C. Henning** - May 17, 2024 at 06:47 PM