



William Zinnen

October 7, 1925 - March 7, 2010

William R. "Bill" Zinnen, age 84, of Dixon, Illinois died surrounded by family at his home on Sunday March 7, 2010. He was born October 7, 1925 in Milwaukee, WI, the son of Raymond and Helen (Schulte) Zinnen, and grew up in Racine WI. He graduated in 1942 from Washington Park High School in Racine and in 1950 received from Marquette University in Milwaukee a Bachelor of Philosophy. In 1955 he earned his Master of Science in Education from the University of Wisconsin. In 1950 he started his teaching career at Medford (WI) High School. In 1952 he moved to Dixon where he taught history and was a guidance counselor at Dixon High School, retiring in 1983. While at DHS he was head varsity baseball coach and led the team to the conference championship in 1977. He also served for many years as statistician for the football team. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon and had been a charter member of the church choir. He served as a lector and as an extraordinary Eucharistic minister; he volunteered with the Loves and Fishes program and served on the church's Education Commission. A co-founder of the Dixon Teachers Credit Union, he served as treasurer for 45 years and was a board member for 50 years. He was a member of the National Education Association, the Illinois Education Association, the Dixon Education Association, a member of and past president of the Lee County Education Association, and the Thursday morning retired teachers' group. He was a member of Dixon Knights of Columbus Council 690, and served as past president of the Dixon Kiwanis. Bill served

one term on the Dixon Board of Education. He was a veteran of the United States Army during WW II, and served in the Philippines. He belonged to the Dixon American Legion Post 12. Bill was a great fan of feeding and watching birds and squirrels. He married Junemarie Deutsch November 20, 1954 in Dixon. She survives. He is also survived by his children Mark (Jean) Zinnen of Morrison, Thomas (Kristen Velyvis) Zinnen of Madison, WI, J. David (Tami) Zinnen of Woodstock, Elizabeth (Scott) Albert of Wheaton, Dan (Cheryl) Zinnen of Wheaton, Nancy (Phil) Mercer of Dixon, Raymond (Angela Johnson) Zinnen of Springfield, 14 grand children, sisters Dorothy (Del) Brandt of Racine, WI, Claire Banaszak of Racine, WI, Janet Martell of Hidden Ranch, CO, Margaret (David) Balane of Wheaton. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers-in-law. Funeral services will be held on Thursday March 11, 2010 beginning with a 10:00 AM prayer service in the Jones Funeral Home followed by a 10:30 AM Mass of Christian Burial in St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon with the Rev. James Keenan officiating. Burial with Military Honors by the Combined Veterans Group will be at Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be on Wednesday from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM with a scripture service at 8:00 PM in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established to St. Mary's School, Loaves and Fishes, Catholic Relief Services, and Veteran's Memorial Park.

Tribute Wall



“ *William Zinnen*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *William Zinnen*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *We are very sorry for your loss. We only met Bill a few times but he was a very charismatic and genuine person. According to his obituary he lived life to the fullest and will be greatly missed by his community, friends and family.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Peter & Kelly Falk - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy-Bill was a great guy who will be dearly missed by all.*

Ann Britt - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Junemarie and family,
Bill was one of our closest friends for many years. One of our great memories is of Bill and Dick at the basketball game in Mendota and the refs were really bad with David. These two were nearly kicked out of the game for being so very vocal!! Bill was always so quiet we could not believe this could happen!! You and your family have always been very special to us.
Our sympathy,
Dick & Lois

Dick & Lois Thomas - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ What a truly wonderful life Bill lived!
I am so very sorry for your loss and hold you in my heart and prayers

Kim Mercer - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FT

“ The Zinnen Family:
We accept with sadness the news of the death of Bill. His treasure chest in life contained his family and friends and he always carried it with him...in his heart. Our deepest sympathy to you.
Love, Rick and Marilyn

Fredric and Marilyn Tufte - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Sorry for your loss. Bill was my guidance counciler in high school he was a very thoughtful man may God bless you all debra merritt

debra merritt - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ I remember Mr. Zinnen well. He was my guidance counselor during my high school years. Unfortunately, I was not the sharpest student at the time. However, he was encouraging to me and never talked down to me.

I thought of him not last year after I graduated with my master's degree. I think he would have been happy that I managed a 4.0 GPA. It was my third degree. Some people do change. I am now a forensic examiner with Fairfax County Police in Fairfax, Virginia.

I wish I could have thanked him for his quiet encouragement. I think many students were better off as a result of knowing Mr. Zinnen.

William "Bill" Reeves - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Dear June & Family,
Patti & I were saddened to hear of Bill's death. Whoever coined the descriptive phrase "quiet competence" would have agreed that Bill Zinnen deserved that description. When reviewing Bill's varied life involvements, it is hard not to feel humbled by comparison to the significant life accomplishments of such a good and unassuming man as Bill Zinnen. He was the kind of exemplary person we all strive to be - - tho only a relative few - - like Bill - - achieve that goal. Our sincerest sympathies to you all.

Mike Heckman - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Dear Mrs. Zinnen, Dan and families: I am sorry I will not be able to make it up for the services but am glad I had a chance to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Zinnen in January. It was great to see them and thank them in person for all they have done for me. Truly, 1724 W. Third St. was my second home and they my second parents. I am grateful for the kindness your whole family has shown me over many years. I am thankful that Mr. Zinnen took over the baseball program, or I and a lot of other guys would never have had the chance to play high school ball. We had a lot of fun, and Mr. Zinnen's absence of ego kept it all focused on the players and allowed us to have a great time. We won a lot of games, too. Please know I'll be thinking about and praying for all of you this week.

Mark Curnutte - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ June Marie and family, I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I think about when we were neighbors so often. Please accept my sympathy, and I will have you all in my prayers.

Diane Fane

Diane Fane - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KZ

“ Dear Junemarie, Mark, Tom, Dave, Liz, Dan, Nancy and Ray,

Claire, Will and I are so sorry we cannot be with you, but please know you are all in our thoughts. We are sending all our love to you.

*Love,
Kristen, Claire and Will*

Kristen Velyvis, Claire Zinnen and Will Zinnen - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PV

“ Our thoughts are with the Zinnen family at this time.

Peter and Christine Velyvis - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CV

“ Bill was a loving family man and a compassionate person who upheld his faith and beliefs with his day to day deeds. He is a role model and a legend in his own time.
Our sympathies to the Zinnen family. May memories of Bill console and strengthen you.
Claire and GJohn Velyvis

Claire and GJohn Velyvis - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I first got to know you and Bill through the credit union. I remember coming to your house to get money. That was always pleasant. As time went on we would often see you on Sat. mornings at Kathy's in Dement town. We will miss his smile. Our deepest sympathy to you Junemarie and all of Bill's family.

Arlan & Bonnie McClain - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ DZ:

Please accept my deepest condolences.

Joe

Joseph Benedict - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Dear Zinnen family,

I am sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was always such a kind gentleman. I pray for much comfort for your family.

Janice (Burket) Teuscher

Janice (Burket) Teuscher - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Junemarie and family,

We were so sorry to hear about your husband and dad, Bill. We were not able to attend the visitation or funeral as Shirley has been in the hospital since December 7th and she are currently in a hospital in Davenport, Iowa. Bill was a wonderful man and did so much for others. Even though he retired from the Dixon Public Schools, before I did. I did get to see him several times and he was treasurer for the Dixon American Legion Post 12 for several years. He will be remembered by his many friends and family members. Our sincerest condolences and our prayers are with you and for Bill.

Richard Longfellow - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KU

“ Hi Dan:

I very much regret that I was not able to attend the services, however, please accept my deepest condolences on Mr. Zinnen's demise.

I do rememeber meeting him once at your house during one of WB gatherings and felt a certain genuineness about him.

May God bless him.

Khalid & Asiya Umer - March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM