



Elmer C. Dilger

August 22, 2013

www.becherkluesner.com

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812-482-4141 Dateline Santa Claus, IN Elmer C. Dilger, age 73 of Santa Claus, IN, passed away at 7:06 p.m. CDT, Wednesday (August 21, 2013) at home. Elmer was born on June 25, 1940 in Mariah Hill, IN, to Leo E. and Eleanora (Schue) Dilger. He married Carolyn Carpenter on June 25, 1998 at Huntingburg Christian Church. Elmer was a lifelong educator who taught 6th grade at Lincoln Trail Elementary, 5th grade at Clay Huff Elementary, 7th/8th grade at Heritage Hills and Fulda "University". Elmer was an Army Veteran who was selected into the 8th United States Army Honor Guard in 1960. He was stationed in Seoul, South Korea which was composed of soldiers from seven of the United Nations. Their mission was to provide security for dignitaries and the Commanding General. He was a 1958 graduate of St. Meinrad Minor Seminary High School. After serving in the Army, Elmer graduated from Brescia University in Owensboro Ky. Elmer earned his Master's Degree in Education from Indiana State University. Elmer was a member of the Santa Claus Town Council from 1999 to the time of his passing. The town of Santa Claus has made a proclamation that December 14th, which coincides with the Festival of Lights, as "Elmer Dilger Day". Elmer worked during summers doing construction, replacing roofs, and pouring concrete. He was a member of the Santa Claus Park Board for many years. He was a trustee of the Santa Claus United Methodist Church, and a devoted

Christian. He was also a member of the Santa Claus American Legion Post #242. Elmer loved Santa Claus IN, the Christmas Season, and was often seen driving around at Christmas time with Santa Claus in his front seat for company. Elmer played Semi-Pro baseball for many years with the Mariah Hills Yankees. After retiring from teaching, Elmer took food to the homeless in Evansville, cooked for community table in Dale, and performed other acts of caring and kindness. Surviving,

Wife,

Carolyn Dilger, Santa Claus, IN Two Daughters,

Melissa Dilger Moss, Hendersonville, TN

Kathryn Carpenter Counsell and spouse Judd, Montclair, NJ

Three Sons,

Kenneth J. Carpenter, Largo, FL

Kurt R. Carpenter and spouse Cindy, Jasper, IN

Guy Dilger, Dallas, TX

Nine Grandchildren

Alexander and Nicholas Dilger, Kaylin, Joseph, Kyla, Brandon, and Sara Carpenter, Oscar and Walt Counsell. One Brother

Vernon Dilger and spouse Donna, St. Phillips, IN

Two Sisters,

Erma Pfeiffer, Evansville, IN

Eileen Scherle and spouse Don, Jasper, IN Preceding him in death is one brother, Father Basil Dilger. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 5:00 p.m. CDT on Saturday (August, 24, 2013) at the Santa Claus United Methodist Church. Pastor Tim Ahlemeyer will officiate. The Santa Claus American Legion Post #242 will conduct Military Funeral Rites. Visitation will be held on Saturday (August 24, 2013) from 11:00a.m. until the 5:00 p.m. service time at Santa Claus United Methodist Church. Memorial contributions may be made to Evansville United Caring Shelters, or a favorite charity.

Online condolences may be made at www.becherkluesner.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Elmer C. Dilger*

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *Carolyn and all the family, Please accept our condolences. I was a classmate of Elmer's at St. Meinrad and the three of us attended Brescia. Grace took some classes with Elmer and she remembered his smile and gentleness. That was the same man I had known for years. I was filled with pride when I read his obituary. He lived a full life, serving as Jesus did. He was one of the finest athletes I ever knew, and always a good sport. I celebrate his life with you. Please find comfort in the same Lord he followed and served.*

John and Grace Blankenberger - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Elmer was a great friend from our 1954-57 years at St Meinrad Seminary HS. We have kept in contact and shared Detroit Tiger joys and frustrations up until a week before his passing. Carolyn, you were so sweet to allow me a last day visit when it was an all day "Stress" declaration by Hospice. Just to be sure you remember me favorably, I sign off as "Kate Clark's son". :o)P.S. I will tell his St M classmates about this site and I have gotten the address for Evansville United Caring Shelters, Inc, 324 NW Sixth St, Evansville, IN 47708 which you suggested for Memorial Contributions.*

John Clark - August 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Condolences to The Dilger Family. Elmer was a great man to have around Santa Claus.*

Darrin and Alicia Sweet - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ I remember having Mr. Elmer Dilger in school for a gym teacher and would go to his 5th grade classroom to play on the apple IIc computer during recess. He always had a smile, was kind and caring. Of course to be a true teacher you must have these qualities that he did. I am truly sorry that i am not able to make it to his celebration of life service. May God bless and comfort every family member. Prayers going up for everyone touched by his life here on earth. It is not what we gain in life, but the legacy that we leave behind. As, i have read many times "The Dash" for it has a lot of truth to it. It is not about the date of birth or the date of death. The dash represents how we lived our life and that so many times is overlooked for as human beings we tend not to pay attention to the smallest of things as the dash which does truly represent life.

Louis Blessinger - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NK

“ We will miss Elmer tremendously. Every time we fish on our lake, we will think of Elmer. What a wonderful relative and asset to the community. Sorry we can't be with you. We are in Costa Rica until December. God bless all of the family! Natalie Koch and Eric King

Natalie Koch and Eric King - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Mr Dilger was my 5th grade teacher at Clay Huff. So sorry to hear about his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Brian Boehman - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ So sorry to hear about Elmers death. My deepest sympathy to his family. He was one of my favorite teachers, He had a true heart and cared about his students. I hope all the many wonderful memories help to guide during this difficult time.

Sonia Cotton Bryant - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Elmer was my 5th grade teacher at Clay-Huff. He was a teacher that you remember throughout life. A very nice man and an educator who could have taught anywhere within any generation. The people of this community are better and were blessed to have Elmer in it.

Ben Gentry - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BG

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Ben Gentry - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I was really sad to hear of Elmer's passing. When Elmer would stop in at Holiday Foods in Santa Claus, he' stop by the meat Department and had to talk to me about either the Tigers, Reds, or the Irish. It made my day for him to stop and say hi. Thank you so much Elmer for letting me get to know you throughout the years. Rest in piece my friend.

Mark Miller - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

M(

“ I am extremely saddened to hear about Mr. Dilger's death. He was such a great man and a wonderful teacher. He was my 5th grade teacher and PE teacher at Clay-Huff Elem. and to all of us Clay-Huff kids he was and forever will be " Mr. D". He was adored by us all. You will without a doubt be missed Mr. D.

Misty Gogel (Westby) - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I am so sorry to hear this news, and my thoughts and prayers are with your family. "Mr. D." was always one of my favorite teachers, and he was well loved by all of us even after we had grown... I never knew anyone who hit quite so many home runs either! I loved to watch him play ball. He will be remembered as such a positive influence in so many lives, and will be greatly missed.

Allison Polster McFadden - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Thoughts and prayers for the family of Elmer Dilger. He has touched many lives and been responsible for many smiles.

Gail Chappell - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Elmer was such a wonderful person, always a barrel of fun. I always enjoyed going home to Mariah Hill picnic and running into you two. Sorry I missed that opportunity the last couple of years. God BLess you Carolyn and family I know he will turely be missed.

linda gaesser droege - August 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ My sympathy to Mrs. Dilger and family. Mr. Dilger was a wonderful teacher and a better man. Thanks for the memories.

Kristin Mosby Johnson - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PV

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Elmer Dilger. He was a fine, kind man who will be missed by so many. I feel so blessed to have known him.

Patricia Varner - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VD

“ My deepest sympathies with the family of Mr. Dilger. He was a great teacher.

Vanessa (cooper) Dilly - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ My heart-felt sympathy to all of Elmer's family and many loved ones. I've known Elmer for most of my life. Mr. Dilger was my teacher back in the 70's @ St. Boniface School in Fulda. He will truly be missed here @ C.L.V. With his ever-popular truck horn, to his extreme love for Christmas. No one ever took as much pride in their side-kick (SANTA) as Elmer did! May all of you find comfort in knowing that you were a very SPECIAL part of a well-lived life. May your precious memories of Elmer bring many smiles back to you! God Bless.

Jeanne Marie Bumm - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ Elmer was a true inspiration to all, and he made my first year as a principal fun and enjoyable. I learned a lot from Elmer and so appreciative for the insight into teaching that he gave me. I did, however, have to remind him after a tornado drill that kids need to go to the hallway, not outside! The staff had a good laugh that day!

Steve Emmons - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ So sorry to hear about Elmer's death. Although it is so hard to lose poeple we love, We know in our hearts that they are in a much better place. I remember watching Elmer and the rest of the team play ball every sunday from home. We lived in the old house from the Spayds and Bernie and his cousin would be out "turtling" We really thought a lot of Elmer.

Erma, Vernon and Eileen - August 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM