



Raphael "Rafe" Anthony Ackerman

October 3, 1934 - February 6, 2021

Dateline Jasper, Indiana

Raphael Anthony "Rafe" Ackerman, age 86, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 9:40 a.m. on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family.

Rafe was born in Jasper, Indiana, on October 3, 1934, to Simon and Marie (Blessinger) Ackerman.

He grew up in a log cabin on the family farm in Ireland, Indiana. He graduated from Ireland High School in 1952. After graduation he returned to the farm and to the Simon Ackerman underground coal mine.

Rafe pushed up his draft number and proudly served in the U.S. Army from April 19, 1955, to April 18, 1957, as a Specialist Third Class, Heavy Truck Driver.

He married his devoted wife of 61 years, Phyllis M. Knies, on September 26, 1959, in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana.

A few months after the birth of their second child, Rafe's father-in-law passed away unexpectedly. Overnight, Rafe and Phyllis had to decide to leave the

farm and start Ackerman Oil Company. That company grew to incorporate Ray's Pump Shop, Jasper Tire & Supply, Nachurs Fertilizer and Circle A Food Mart. Rafe was proud when the third and fourth generations joined the company.

Rafe was a good husband and proud father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He proudly attended ball games, recitals, and plays. He loved the annual family vacations and camping trips, and Sunday was always family day.

Rafe considered his children and grandchildren his greatest assets in life. He enjoyed teaching them how to work and how to give back to the community.

After family, Rafe's biggest enjoyment was working and volunteering his time. He was a Charter Member of the Precious Blood Catholic Church and helped to lay the floor in the church. He was a member of the Precious Blood Endowment committee and chairman of the Turkey Shoot. He was a Founding Father of ROJAC, a softball coach, IOMA Director, Jasper Country Club Director, Strassenfest Committee member and was always willing to help a friend. He was awarded the 1998 JHS Alumni Award.

Rafe grew up speaking German at home and wanted to keep the German Heritage alive in Jasper. He was president of the German Club and was instrumental in the club's growth. He was so proud when he and Phyllis received the German Heritage Award.

In his spare time he enjoyed dancing at the VFW, hanging at the Table of Knowledge at Headquarters, playing cards, teaching Sheephead and traveling. Rafe and Phyllis visited every state in the U.S., traveling often in their RV and enjoyed learning about new cultures when they traveled abroad.

Surviving are his wife, Phyllis Ackerman, Jasper, IN, three children, Michael (Ann) Ackerman, Laura (Paul) Grammer, both of Jasper, IN, Jill (Paul) Jones, Greenville, IN, six grandchildren, Adam (Julia) Ackerman, Ashlyn (Alex Hoffmann) Ackerman, Ryan (Morgan) Grammer, Logan (Beth) Grammer, Garrett Jones, Gwyn Jones, two great grandchildren, Corbin Grammer and Roman Grammer, three sisters, Vera (Donnie) Renner, Jasper, IN, Camilla Moeller, Evansville, IN, and Cleo Brown, Henderson, KY.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two sisters and their spouses, Irene (Ernie) Werne and Marge (Wilbur) Edwards, and two brothers-in-law, Jerome Moeller and Fred Brown.

The Ackerman Family express gratitude to St. Charles Health Campus, Becher-Kluesner Funeral Home, Heart to Heart Hospice and the devoted caregivers from Home Instead, especially Alitzah, Shlena and Stephanie.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Raphael "Rafe" Ackerman will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 13, 2021, in Precious Blood Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with entombment to follow in the Fairview Cemetery Mausoleum. The VFW Post #673 will conduct military grave site rights.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. service time at the church on Saturday. COVID-19 precautions, including masks and social distancing will be required.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jasper German Club Endowment at the Dubois County Community Foundation or to a charity of your choice. Online condolences may be made at www.becherkluesner.com.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery Mausoleum

1020 Kundek Street
Jasper, IN 47546

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 13. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Precious Blood Catholic Church
1385 W 6th St
Jasper, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Precious Blood Catholic Church
1385 W 6th St
Jasper, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Raphael "Rafe" Anthony Ackerman*

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *Such a wonderful man who served God, his family, community and country in a stellar way. He will be missed, and never forgotten. We are blessed to have known him and share his life. May he rest in Peace.*

Kent and Paula Reyling - February 13, 2021 at 09:04 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Laura - February 12, 2021 at 03:18 PM



“ *Phyllis and Family, I'm sorry to read of Rafe's passing. He will be missed. Prayers and Sympathy. Sarah Berger Humphrey Muncie IN R.I.P. Rafe*



Sarah Humphrey - February 09, 2021 at 10:43 PM



Sympathy, prayers, & condolences

James Birkle - February 11, 2021 at 12:57 PM

JB

Sympathy, Prayers, & condolences

James Birkle - February 11, 2021 at 12:58 PM

DE

“ *I always enjoyed when he stop in the Truck Stop. He always had a word of kindness and we would talk about about all the people that cross our paths over the year. He will be deeply missed.*

Deb Ernst - February 09, 2021 at 08:04 PM

AP

“ *AMBROSE & PATTY lit a candle in memory of Raphael "Rafe" Anthony Ackerman*



AMBROSE & PATTY - February 09, 2021 at 12:11 PM

JD

“ *So sorry to hear of Rafe's death. We have been friends for many years in fact Phyllis and Rafe were in our wedding. We have fond memories of many good times. Sincere sympathy to the Ackerman family. RIP Rafe God bless you and all your family.*

Jim & Marilyn Dittmer

Jim & Marilyn Dittmer - February 09, 2021 at 09:00 AM

JJ

You sure were. I remember great stories about double dates, and I remember pictures of your wedding. Thanks for your regards.

jill jones - February 09, 2021 at 06:48 PM

MD

I thought that growing old would take longer!!! But good memories Jill. M.

Marilyn Dittmer - February 09, 2021 at 07:25 PM

LK

“*Laura and Paul, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Although I never met your dad, I am sure he was a wonderful man due to the daughter that he raised. Losing a dad is not easy and the loss never leaves you. However, as time passes, it is the wonderful memories that remain. Once again, very sorry for your loss.*

Lori (Goodman) Kissinger

Lori Kissinger - February 09, 2021 at 08:51 AM

LA

I remember the story of your dad's passing. He was wonderful and I give him and mom all the credit for the good in me and I take responsibility for all my faults. When it came to the lottery in parents, my soul was blessed.

Laura - February 11, 2021 at 03:33 PM

BP

“*Mike and family, very sorry to hear of your dads passing. You are in my prayers during this time. Cherish the memories!*

Brenda Pfister - February 09, 2021 at 08:16 AM

JC

“*So sorry for your family's loss always enjoyed working with Rafe he was a very kind and caring man Jasper has lost a very good man*

Jim Cooley - February 09, 2021 at 06:37 AM

CK

“ Thoughts and prayers going out to the Ackerman family. Stick together as a family and cherish the good times. Cheryl Knies

Cheryl Knies - February 09, 2021 at 06:35 AM

CM

“ I am so sorry for your loss, Phyllis. All those dances at the VF sure were fun. Prayers and sympathy for you and all of your family. Carol Mehringer

Carol Mehringer - February 08, 2021 at 06:47 PM

CK

“ I was so very sorry to hear about Rafe's passing. As a neighbor, I spent countless hours as a kid at the Ackerman home on Gregory Lane playing with Laura. What still sticks with me to this day is the love found in their home, and just how much Phyllis and Rafe loved each other...and how much fun they had together. Laughter was plentiful in their house. Both Phyllis and Rafe were wonderful parents and I appreciated them always opening their door to me. RIP Rafe! You will be missed by many!

Charlotte Fritch Kohlman, Evansville

Charlotte Kohlman - February 08, 2021 at 03:57 PM

LA

Charlotte, you were an integral part of our life. They loved having you hang around. And you are correct that mom and dad were great parents. I was truly lucky to have them in my life.

Laura - February 11, 2021 at 03:35 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Joan - February 08, 2021 at 02:40 PM

LA

Great memory of Dad as President of German Club and Mom as Secretary. He was so proud to share his German Heritage with Jasper.

Laura - February 11, 2021 at 03:36 PM

JC

“ You are all in my thoughts and prayers! Loss can be hard but it is also gratifying to have memories of many great role models like your Dad, in our lives! May God continue to bless you all! Love, Joan Jerrod Anna & Alexandria



Joan Carter - February 08, 2021 at 02:27 PM

GA

“ Requiem aeternam dona Rafe, Domine; et lux perpetua luceat ei

Gary Aders - February 08, 2021 at 01:44 PM