



## David "Dave" G. Park

September 5, 1932 - January 11, 2023

David G. Park, 90 of Bluffton, passed away on Wednesday evening, January 11, 2023 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Dave was born on September 5, 1932 in Randolph County, Indiana to Fredrick F. & Irene (Wall) Park. He graduated from Bluffton High School with the class of 1950, then graduated from Ball State University in 1954 with a degree in teaching business education. Dave served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957. After the service, he was an executive with the Boy Scouts of America, in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, where he was responsible for fundraising and camp development. In June 1971, Dave purchased Carnall & Sons Insurance and John W. Carnall & Sons Title company, which he and his wife Mary Jane ran until 2002, when their daughter Karen took over the business.

Dave lived by the belief that you need to contribute for the space that you occupy on earth. He served on a number of boards. He was a past President of the Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana Land Title Association and Lions Club. He was the Chairman of the Joint Chamber of Commerce, City of Bluffton Industrial Development committee from 1978 to 1991. He was on the Wells Community Hospital Board of Trustees for 8 years, where he served as Vice President of the Board. Dave was active in the Wells County Historical Society, where he was on the Board of Directors and chaired the Capital Fund Drive Committee for restoration of the building. He was a Board Member of Martin-Riverside Society, a Foundation for the benefit of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity at Ball State University. Dave also served on the Adams Jay Wells Board of County Realtors for 24 years and on the Elm Grove Cemetery Board of Directors for 25 years. He was selected as the Outstanding Citizen of Wells County in 1997. Dave was fond of fishing and enjoyed restoring old oil well gas engines.

On December 4, 1954, Dave married his high school sweetheart, Mary Jane Minnich at the First Reformed Church of Bluffton. Together, Dave and Mary Jane celebrated 68 years of marriage.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane, his son Kent Park, a son-in-law Don Karwoski, four grandchildren; Ben (Emily) Karwoski, Adam Karwoski, Justin (Amber) Park and Mackenzie (Zack) Leyman, along with three great grandchildren; J.J. Karwoski, Lena

Karwoski and Adalyn Park. He is also survived by a sister, Norma Armstrong and a brother, Don Park.

Dave is preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, Karen Sue (Park) Karwoski, a daughter-in-law, Penny (Croy) Park, and a sister, Marilyn (Park) Pickelt Hunt.

Funeral services will be held at the First Reformed Church on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 1 P.M. with Dr. Bryson "Gene" Bell and Pastor Ben Karwoski officiating. Calling hours will be from 10 A.M. until the time service at the church. Full military honors by the United States Army Honor Guard and the American Legion Post #111 Honor Guard will be performed at the church.

Private burial will take place at Elm Grove Cemetery.

Memorials may be made in Dave's memory to the First Reformed Church - Building Maintenance Fund.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler Family ~

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 17. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First Reformed Church  
301 West Cherry Street  
Bluffton, IN

## Funeral Service

JAN 17. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Reformed Church  
301 West Cherry Street  
Bluffton, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of David "Dave" G. Park*



---

**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - January 16, 2023 at 05:00 PM

JE

“ *TO the Park family,  
I can not claim to have been a close friend of Dave. But I was a contemporary, peer, and friend.  
Most importantly I thought highly of Dave Park as a person and community leader. He was a uniquely talented guy and one who make things special.  
Sorry for your and the communities loss.  
Jeff Espich*

---

**Jeff Espich** - January 17, 2023 at 12:31 PM

JB

“ *Dear Mary Jane and Kent and family, I am so very sorry to hear of Dave's passing. I loved working with him and seeing him everyday that I was working at the title company. We had alot of laughs. May God Bless Your Family! We all will be together someday!*

*You have my deepest sympathy! Joni Bertsch*

---

**Joni Bertsch** - January 17, 2023 at 09:58 AM



“ 24 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - January 16, 2023 at 11:23 AM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of David "Dave" G. Park.



January 16, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ 12 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - January 16, 2023 at 09:21 AM



“ Dear MaryJane , So very sorry for your loss of Dave-what a guy-So comical and knowledgeable.As I have mentioned to Kent many times, He and his Dad, Fred could handle about any situation! What a temporary loss--Have hopes of seeing them again some day. May GOD Bless You and your Family ,Mary Jane. Jerry Croy And Family

jerry croy - January 15, 2023 at 01:49 PM

BC

“ Dear Mary Jane, Kent, and Park Family we are so very Sorry to hear about your loss your Husband and Father Dave! Our Prayers and Thoughts are with u all at this time as u Grieve for Dave! 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏 Dave is now up in Heaven with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Dave was a Great Man for being involved in his Community and the town of Bluffton! I always respected Dave for his sense of humor and knowledge of things now and years ago! Dave graduated with my older Brother Kay Crosbie, Don Lockwood, Max Daniels and Jim Colen besides a few other people I knew! Dave also knew my older Sister Pat Crosbie Riley who graduated with his Sister Marilyn Park a year early in the class of 1949! Last of all I always enjoyed taking care of Dave and Mary Jane at the BRMC in Bluffton and park their car! Lol! There's a reason I put Lol which stands for ( laughing out loud )! Mary Jane will know what I'm talking about right Mary Jane? 🤔😬! God Bless the Park Family! Love, Barry and JoEllen Crosbie! 🙏❤️🙏



Barry Crosbie - January 14, 2023 at 04:45 PM

TG

“ The GISCI purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of David "Dave" G. Park.



The GISCI - January 14, 2023 at 11:49 AM

BG

“ Mary Jane and family, I am so sorry for your loss of Dave. Sending hugs and Prayers to you. Love BJ



BJ Gray - January 14, 2023 at 10:55 AM

CK

“ During my 11 years of owning a fabrication shop in Bluffton Dave provided unparalleled advice in my office, but mostly from our seats at the Snug. Dave was one of the good ones. RIP Friend.b

Chris King - January 14, 2023 at 07:52 AM

DG

“ So saddened to learn of Dave’s passing. We had many good talks about the Scouting community. When his engine displays were at the tractor shows we had a lot of discussions on the operations and correcting problems on the engines. Dave was really involved in activities with the community he cared about. Dave will be truly missed. The Park family will be in our prayers. Dan and Darlene Gerdom



---

**Dan Gerdom** - January 13, 2023 at 07:56 PM