



Frederick D. Grandlienard

February 7, 2010

Frederick D. Grandlienard, 86, of Bluffton, died at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Mr. Grandlienard was born in Wells County on April 2, 1923 to Charles and Marguerite (Hinchman) Grandlienard. He married Letitia Wilhelm in Bluffton in 1946; she survives. A 1941 graduate of Bluffton High School, Mr. Grandlienard served as a Mustang Pilot for the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Upon returning from the military he completed the "short course" at Purdue University. He was a 59-year member of the American Legion Post #111. He was very active in 4-H over the years and particularly during the fund-raising and building of the new 4-H Community building. He was a past chairman of the board for the Eastern Indiana Production Credit Association, a life long dairy farmer, and a member of the Living Water United Methodist Church.

Other surviving relatives include two sons, Bruce Grandlienard of Bluffton and Gary (Ana Maria) Grandlienard of West Lafayette; one son-in-law, Gerry W. Towne of Markle; one daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Grandlienard of Bluffton; two brothers, Kenneth Grandlienard of Berne and Joe Grandlienard of Phoenix, Ariz.; and seven grandchildren. Mr. Grandlienard was preceded in death by one son, Randy Grandlienard; one daughter, Janelda Romine Towne; one brother, Brooks Grandlienard; and one sister, Ruth Neuenschwander. Calling hours will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney and Lemler Funeral Home, 308 W. Washington St., Bluffton, and from 9:30 a.m. Thursday at the Living Water United Methodist

Church. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, at the church with Pastor John C. Wolf officiating. Burial is at Fairview Cemetery, in Bluffton. Preferred memorials are to the Wells County 4-H Association. Online condolences may be made at www.thomarich.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **10**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Service

FEB **11**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Grove Cemetery
5136 South 100 East
Bluffton, IN 46714

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Frederick D. Grandlienard*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Frederick D. Grandlienard*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *The pictures show a wonderful man and a loving family. Uncle Fred lived life well. Our prayers are with you. May God be very near.##imported-begin##Ned and Jane##imported-end##*

March 09, 2010 at 07:59 AM



“ *we had a beautiful american family, we will always miss him, his kind heart, his welcoming arms. we will keep him in our hearts. kisses to Negrita and Titia and to the rest of the family.##imported-begin##ines ponton##imported-end##*

February 15, 2010 at 08:53 PM



“ We are Negrita's and Randy's nieces, when we were little the amazings thunderstorms would literally shake the old trailer: "tornado warnig!tornado warning"! those were about the two words in English we could say at that time, but Fred would come to rescue us. Fred and Titia grew into our hearts as our americans "grand parents". Lots of warm memories and smiles... Fred we will miss your voice, soul and heart. Our love is with Titia, Negrita, Bruce, Gary and family.

Vivi & Moni###imported-begin##vivi & moni###imported-end##

February 15, 2010 at 06:20 PM



“ We loved your Dad and grieve with you now. Out thought and prayers are with you: Letitia, Bruce, and Gary

Love David G###imported-begin##David and Phyllis
Grandlienard###imported-end##

February 14, 2010 at 10:37 AM



“ I always enjoyed my talks with Fred about airplains. He was my most enjoyable customer in his agebracket. I will miss him every year when I come to your house. My Condolences Dennis the Chimney Sweep.###imported-begin##Dennis Kammerer/The Chimney Sweep###imported-end##

February 11, 2010 at 11:25 PM



“ Dear family,
I was shocked a few minutes ago when I got an e-mail from Bo and Rosalyn. I can't believe Fred passed away and no one in our family knew about it. Since Mom died a couple years ago, I've relied on Bo to inform me of any family news or anything else of the like from the Berne area. I just want you to know how sorry I am that I wasn't there for you during this time.
I just told Judy that Fred was my favorite of Mom's brothers. I always enjoyed visiting with him, sharing the IU-Purdue jabs, etc. I've thought of him recently, knew he hadn't been doing well for quite awhile.
I feel confident that Mom was there to welcome him into heaven and I hope that you all can find comfort in knowing that he's in the best of hands.
Again, sorry I wasn't there-I most certainly would've been had I known.
Stan###imported-begin##Stan Neuenschwander###imported-end##

February 11, 2010 at 07:57 PM



“ Fred will always have a special place in my heart. He immediately made me welcome to the Grandlienard family and always made me feel special. I will miss he's loving hugs and warm smile.

Love you Fred!
Gigi and Family###imported-begin##Gisella de Ponton and Family###imported-end##

February 11, 2010 at 07:09 PM



“ I dreamed from the time that I was four years old that I was going to be a pilot. Fred Grandlienard helped to make that dream a reality. I remember like it was yesterday that clear spring day in 1953 or 1954 when Fred asked my Dad Lawrence after church one day if he wanted to go flying. I'm not so sure that it would have been Dad's first choice but Dad knew that I was crazy about airplanes and so he agreed. There were three colors that I remember that day as we showed up at Miller's Airport west of Bluffton..a stunningly blue, cloud-free sky, the greenest green grass of the runway, and the brilliant yellow of the Piper J3 Cub that sat there waiting for us. Dad got in the back seat, they loaded me in his lap, then Fred spun the prop and the engine sputtered (not roared) to life. We left the doors open to the wind on the right side of the cockpit as we accelerated down the runway, the big, fat tire just below me turning faster and faster. We bumped and shuddered and then we were in the air and the ground started falling away below us. We flew higher and higher and the patchwork quilt of northern Indiana spread out below us. As we flew over the fields and farms we would bank to the left (which was fine for me) but then Fred would bank us steeply to the right exposing us to a completely unobstructed view of the fields below us through the open clamshell doors. I was terrified and excited all at the same time. And I knew that this was where I wanted to be...in the air, looking down and seeing God's great creation spread out below me. As I grew I would remember the stories that Fred told me about flying the Mustang and how in steep, high-powered dives the controls would reverse and instead of pitching up when the stick was pulled back it would pitch forward. In my mind I imagined how he defied death time after time to bring back his powerful warbird to a safe landing. In 1967 at Purdue I started flying lessons (I somehow forgot to tell Mom and Dad I was doing that) but by the time I soloed I couldn't keep it secret anymore. When I told them, they weren't surprised...they somehow knew what I was going to do. And now, when I came home and saw Fred at Old Salem we could share flying stories. I got my Private Pilot certificate in 1968. In 1971, under the prospect of being drafted into the Viet Nam conflict, I enlisted in the Air Force and was lucky enough to get a pilot

training slot. What started out to be a 6-year hitch turned into 22 exciting years of Air Force duty, serving my country around the world and in three separate aircraft. After retiring I continued in Corporate Aviation, where today I still teach other Corporate pilots to fly Corporate Jets. Without Fred Grandlienard's offer to take us flying that one day my lifelong love of flying may have never been realized. I think of Fred often and many times he was with me in my mind as I piloted aircraft in different skies over different lands in defense of my wonderful country. If heaven is the place where our greatest wishes are granted, I'm certain that Fred is in the cockpit of his beloved Mustang and flying on God's wing. Fly Safe Fred Grandlienard, my mentor and my friend.##imported-begin##Lt Colonel Rex Schlagenhauf, USAF-Retired##imported-end##

February 11, 2010 at 10:53 AM



“*Sorry, we didn't get in to visit. He will be missed. Still remember some of the stories he told us when we had Sunday School get-togethers, especially the one about when he was flying over a corn field looking for a neighbors bull, and he got to close to the corn and got sucked in. His suffering is now over.##imported-begin##Gene & Barb Biberstein##imported-end##*

February 11, 2010 at 10:43 AM



“ We were saddened to hear of Fred's passing. We pray that you will find comfort in the wonderful memories and the time you were able to have with him.

Dad (Paul) is extremely saddened by the loss of such a long standing friend and regrets not being able to be with you at this time of loss.

With our deepest sympathy,

Howard, April, Lewis & Henry Nighswonger##imported-begin##Howard & April Nighswonger##imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 07:31 PM



“ Tish and family

I am so sorry to hear of Freds passing.He always had a smile on his face and I missed him after he was not able to attend church. I had a good visit with him at Markle one day, and I told him he was like my second dad after my dad passing in 1980. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family##imported-begin##Judy and John Habegger##imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 06:48 PM



“ Gary and Ana,

Just wanted you to know that we are thinking about you and your family during this time of loss.##imported-begin##Randy and Lisa Skidmore##imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 11:07 AM



“ I want to extend my sympathys to Tish and the Grandlinard family. Fred was one of my favorite people ever since i was little. In the summer he would fly his plane over our house and wave to us by tipping the wings at us, he would fly so low we could see his white scarf blowing in the breeze. I also remember Fred having us over for homemade ice cream. It was the best i ever had. As Fred fell to ill health I missed seeing him at church with his warm smile and big hugs. I know he will be missed dearly but one day we will see that warm smile again and i so look forward to that as im sure you do as well.##imported-begin##Dawn [Habegger] Kreigh##imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 10:41 AM



“ Fred was a special friend during our time in the service--one that I have never forgotten. We always had so much in common. At CTD, Knox College, Galesburg, IL, we were the only farm boys in the whole group. My condolences to all the family; we wish we could be with you. Paul and Elaine Nighswonger##imported-begin##Paul and Elaine Nighswonger##imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 09:39 AM



“ Grandlienard family:
Like Clara Nell, I have very fond memories of times spent with your family both in Indiana and when you visited in Oklahoma. Visiting with Fred was always interesting. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Tom##imported-begin##Tom Nighswonger and family##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 11:16 PM



“ We are sorry to read about Fred passing away. I met him during the building of the Library in the late 80's and he helped us to keep things in perspective, and I have always appreciated the opportunity to know him. He did a great service to his community as well as his country. You are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Marion & BJ Gray##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 10:15 PM



“ I am so sorry I am not in Indiana to attend Fred's funeral. What wonderful memories I have of Fred, seeing him at church, bringing my cub scouts down to watch him milk cows. How proud I always was, of him, when he served during World War !!. You have my deepest sympathy and prayers.
Armatha (Hook) Green##imported-begin##Armatha Green##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 04:21 PM



“ We send our sympathy to the family and will be remembering you in our prayers. We have such good memories of Fred and family when we lived in the Bluffton area.##imported-begin##Tom and Nancy Haiflich##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 03:59 PM



“ I heard about Fred and am so sorry. I have wonderful memories of visiting in Indiana with the whole family. Dad (Paul) really would like to be there; Fred was a special friend. They are working on a way to be there to see all the family and to be there for the services, but the weather isn't cooperating. My sympathy to all of you. Love, Clara Nell##imported-begin##Clara Nell Nighswonger Siroky##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 03:25 PM



“ My Dad, Les Beck, used to work for Ralph Gerber and then Tim Becher picking up milk. I remember hearing Fred's name. My Dad really liked talking to all the Dairy guys out on the route. My Dad passed away suddenly August of 2008. I'm sure him and Bob Schuler (another milk hauler) will be swapping stories in Heaven with Fred. You have my sincere sympathy, we know how it feels to lose your Dad/Husband.
Sincerely, Teresa and Linda Beck##imported-begin##Teresa Beck##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 01:54 PM