

Larry E. Hiday

September 12, 1940 - April 10, 2026

Larry E. Hiday, 85 of Bluffton, passed away Friday, April 10, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Larry was born on September 12, 1940, in Pennville, to Malcolm E. and Justine L. (Davenport) Hiday. He graduated from Pennville High School in 1958. Larry started his lifelong career in the car business working for Don Kaade. He quickly became the top salesman and decided to venture out on his own and opened Larry Hiday Auto Sales. In 1975, Larry was offered Don Kaade's franchise. Larry and his wife, Nedra ventured to Detroit to meet with GM, where they received the nod to start their franchise. In 1984, the Hiday's acquired the Chrysler franchise when minivans were being introduced. The car dealership grew into a family business with the addition of three of the four children; Greg, Brent and Sherry. In 1999, Chevrolet dealership was added as part of the Hiday Automotive Group. Through the years, Larry's dealerships have survived government buyouts, increasing interest rates, hail and storm damage, and even a major flood. Larry lived by the motto of integrity, honesty and hard work. He was also known for "your word is your word, right is right and wrong is wrong."

Before his passion for cars, Larry took lessons in an open cockpit plane and enjoyed buzzing over his friends and family. He played basketball and baseball in high school. In Larry's spare time, if he wasn't at the dealership, he enjoyed playing tennis and golf, driving fast cars, boats and snowmobiles. On December 30, 1961, Larry married his high school sweetheart, Nedra

Jean Miner. They were blessed with almost 65 years of marriage, with 49 of those years as business partners.

Survivors include his wife, Nedra Hiday of Bluffton, and their children; Sherry Hiday, LuAnn (Doug) Scher, Greg (Diana) Hiday and Brent (Stephanie) Hiday, all of Bluffton. He was a proud grandpa to his 10 grandchildren; Courtney (Nathan) Worman, Haley Hiday, Cassidy Hiday, Connor Hiday, Emily (Mason) Schwartz, Brenna (Brandon) Horner, Grant (Kayla) Hiday, Nicole (Kanyon) Pritchard, Jacob (Taylor) McKinley and Erin McKinley, along with seven great-grandchildren; Liam McKinley, Lucas Worman, Evie McKinley, Abigail McKinley, Jonah Hiday, Quinn Hiday and Blakely Horner.

He will be remembered by his sisters; Sonja DeHoff of Bluffton, Diane (Tom) Hedges of Gallatin, TN., Mary Lou (Gary) Adams of Leesburg and Cheryl (Ted) Martz of Ossian.

Larry is preceded in death by his parents.

In Larry's own words, "When the trail gets tricky, when it's tough to pull through, never back off the throttle. I know that your first instinct is to hit the brake and back off, but when you do that, you can't steer very well and you'll miss the curve every time. Stay on the gas, ride it out and then, after you have rounded the bend, stop and say 'WOW! Can you believe that?'"

Visitation will be held from 2 to 7 P.M. on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, and for one hour prior to the service on Friday at the church. An Elks Memorial Service will take place at the conclusion of calling on Thursday, at the funeral home.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Friday (April 17, 2026) at the First Presbyterian Church in Bluffton with Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made in Larry's honor to the First Presbyterian Church in Bluffton and directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends may share online condolences with the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 16. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Elk's Memorial Service

APR 16. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

APR 17. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
215 East Dustman Road
Bluffton, IN 46714

Funeral Service

APR 17. 10:30 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
215 East Dustman Road
Bluffton, IN 46714

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Larry E. Hiday*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - April 16 at 02:13 PM

JE

“ *Deepest sympathy. The community of Bluffton was blessed to have Larry as a contributor to making it better. Larry is in God's hands with peace and comfort.*
Jeff & Sharon Espich

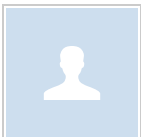
Jeff & Sharon Espich - April 17 at 08:44 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Larry E. Hiday.*



April 16 at 03:43 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Larry E. Hiday.*

April 16 at 03:43 PM

JP

“ Deepest sympathy. Larry was such a kind and wonderful person. We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time. Sincerely, Jim and Joan Phelps.

Jim and Joan Phelps - April 16 at 02:57 PM

KN

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I am praying for your family and your dad's beautiful soul.



Kim Nelson - April 16 at 12:01 AM

JM

“ The last time I saw Larry, was probably 2022. I had stopped by the car dealership hoping to see family. It was lunch time, Larry was the only family member there. He wanted to show me his "Resolute" desk. It had been Amos (Ami) Gerber's (F&M Bank). He looked so stately behind that desk. Larry was a people person and a born salesman. My sincere sympathy to Nedra and family. Jayne Martin Branson, MO.

Jayne Martin - April 15 at 07:46 PM

TP

My memories of Larry were a little on the comical side, as I once traded in 2 snowmobiles for payment on a new car, then another time after a problem warning light , he grabbed a pc if blk tape and placed it over the light then said, it's fixed

Thomas Plummer - April 19 at 02:48 PM

TF

“ The Cler Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Larry E. Hiday.



The Cler Family - April 15 at 09:49 AM

TF

“ The Cler Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Larry E. Hiday.

The Cler Family - April 15 at 09:49 AM



“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Larry E. Hiday.



April 15 at 08:11 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Larry E. Hiday.

April 15 at 08:11 AM

DA

“ Joe and I have known Larry for many years. He was a kind, wonderful man. Sending prayers for all of his family and friends. 🙏🙏



Doreen and Joe Ayers - April 14 at 11:17 PM

JB

“ Larry and his family always treated my family right. He is the only one my dad would buy from until Brent and Greg took over. Sending prayers and sympathy to all of you.

Jill (Oswalt) Beckman - April 14 at 09:55 PM

CB

“ Cameron B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Larry E. Hiday.

Cameron B. - April 14 at 09:12 PM

HT

“ Hannah, Alicia, Scot, Tony purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Larry E. Hiday.



Hannah, Alicia, Scot, Tony - April 14 at 04:48 PM



“ Lutheran Air/Ground Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Larry E. Hiday.

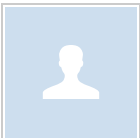


Lutheran Air/Ground Team - April 14 at 04:36 PM



“ Lutheran Air/Ground Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Larry E. Hiday.

Lutheran Air/Ground Team - April 14 at 04:36 PM



“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of Larry E. Hiday.



April 14 at 01:27 PM



“ 120 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - April 14 at 11:09 AM

HS

“ LuAnn (and Doug) I'm thinking of you. Growing up in Bluffton, my name got spelled wrong many times, do to the notoriety of your family's dealership :) Peace be with you.

Heidi (your old ER pal)

Heidi Schauer - April 14 at 11:06 AM

DH

“ Larry was more than an employer. He was a friend who genuinely had your back in tough times. I regret that my job has me out of state and I will not be able to show my respect in person. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy during this difficult time. I can't even imagine the stories that will be told.

Doug Hoag - April 13 at 10:00 PM

WB

“ Prayers for strength and healing during these times

Willie Banks - April 13 at 05:45 PM

F(

“ From the Glen Mygrant Family, (Georgie) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Larry E. Hiday.



From the Glen Mygrant Family, (Georgie) - April 13 at 05:10 PM

GM

“ We, the Glen Mygrant family, go back many, many years. Larry was a very loving, kind and caring man. Along with his beautiful wife, they made a loving, kind and caring family. What more could you ask for. Rest in Peace Larry. Until we all meet again. Georgie Mygrant

Georgie Mygrant - April 13 at 04:59 PM

CK

“ Just wanting to take a moment to tell the Hiday family how sorry we are for your loss.

Larry was a very special person to many people throughout his life. He made many good memories with our family I know.

Thank you for sharing him with us!!

We chose to send a donation to his place of worship and hope it helps reach many more lives for Jesus our Savior.

We may miss him here but oh how great for Larry to be seeing God face to face. Amen 😊

The Lash Family, Larry, Pat (Kiser), Cheryl and Jeff.

cheryl koenemann - April 13 at 04:21 PM

JJ

“ It was my pleasure to know Larry & Nedra for more years than I care to count - very special people who were blessed with some great kids and family who are going to miss him dearly. A great asset to Bluffton for many years.

jackwyn e johnson - April 13 at 04:06 PM

BG

“ *Brett, Miriam, Ray and Drew Gibson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Larry E. Hiday.*



Brett, Miriam, Ray and Drew Gibson - April 13 at 03:38 PM

BG

“ *Brett, Miriam, Ray and Drew Gibson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Larry E. Hiday.*

Brett, Miriam, Ray and Drew Gibson - April 13 at 03:38 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Larry E. Hiday.*



April 13 at 02:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Larry E. Hiday.*



April 13 at 02:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Larry E. Hiday.

April 13 at 02:19 PM



“ Every time I visited Grandma and Grandpa Blankenbeker in Indiana, going over to Larry's house was one of the highlights of our trip. He was one of the most genuine people I have ever met and always welcomed us with warmth and generosity.

The most sincere condolences from his family in California. 🙏🥲

Erik Blankenbeker - April 13 at 01:44 PM



“ Working for Brent, Greg, Larry and Nedra, and the rest of the extended Hiday family and "staff" was an important part of my life. Much love to the entire Hiday family. 💜💙❤️

Steven R Scheibelhut - April 13 at 10:28 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Larry E. Hiday.



April 13 at 07:26 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Larry E. Hiday.

April 13 at 07:26 AM



“ 8 files added to the album Joe and I are sending condolences and prayers for the family. We remember Larry with grateful heart



Debbie Elkins - April 13 at 07:19 AM

D(

“ I remember in 2015 I flew to Florida and went to their house in Florida. Larry came out to see who was there. He had not seen me in years, he was so nice but the funny thing was he asked about the vehicle I was driving. Me not thinking about him owning a Chevy dealership. I was not thinking about what vehicle the rental company gave me at the airport. He said what are you driving? I think he was thinking I drove it from Indiana. I said it was a Kia and I also said do you want to drive it? I think he just looked at me like I can't believe you just said that. He said NO! He probably was thinking I can't believe your Dad's letting you drive that and probably thinking I can't believe you just asked me that. He didn't say much just welcome me in. This was one of my Dad's oldest friends and my Mom's cousin. He will be missed by so many. Sending prayers!

Denice (Bulger) - April 12 at 09:52 PM

TO

Larry was definitely one of the “good guys”. I always enjoyed running into him from time to time at the auto auctions. Condolences to the family.

Tim Ormsby - April 13 at 02:47 PM

TM

“ *Rest in Peace Larry and my sympathies to the family - what a special guy*



Trudy Murray - April 12 at 08:08 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Larry E. Hiday.*



April 12 at 03:11 PM

WB

“ *Larry was a great man. He gave Ivan a job, with a two week trial period. Larry not only provided Ivan with a lifetime of employment, but he was there for us in many ways. Everything from great deals on our vehicles, to giving us encouragement and advice. Sometimes he would help us in our personal life, or just talk about life in the back of the shop. Larry and his family celebrated many of our family milestones with us. And sometimes Larry just told Ivan when he needed a haircut. Ivan was proud to work for Larry, at Hiday Motors, for 40 years. He was a great man. Love and prayers to his family. -- Ivan and Wendy Beeks*

Wendy Beeks - April 12 at 12:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Larry E. Hiday.* ”



April 12 at 11:13 AM