



## Max E. Oswald

December 27, 1946 - March 18, 2022

Max E. Oswald, 75, ended his courageous battle with cancer on Friday evening, March 18 at home surrounded by his family. Max was born in Wells County on December 27, 1946 to Paul “Barney” and Jennie M. (Gray) Oswald. A lifelong resident of Bluffton, Max graduated from Bluffton High School in 1965.

Max was a lover of music and a talented, self-taught musician; percussion, electric, acoustic and rhythm guitar and most notably his five-string banjo. He was a member of the Parlor City Pirates Drum and Bugle Corp., where he met the love of his life Cathy L. Barnes.

Max and Cathy were married on August 23, 1966 in Spartanburg, South Carolina. They enjoyed 55 years of loving marriage together.

Max served in the Indiana National Guard as a mortarman for six years. He was a hard worker and provider for his family, retiring from NIPSCO in 2006, following 37 years of service.

In addition to his love for music, Max also had a passion for aviation. He owned and piloted a plane, and was a member of Parasport, where he was a skydiver. He had the privilege of being a passenger in a hot air balloon and a B-17 Flying Fortress. Max also loved horticulture. Summer was his favorite season. He spent his summer months planting and caring for his trees and flowers. He also had a special love for his furry friends.

Above all, Max loved his family fiercely. He was a faithful and loyal husband, father, father-in-law, grandpa and great grandpa. He led his family by living the

virtues of hard work, patience, kindness, humbleness, humility and humor. He never failed to make his family laugh with his great sense of humor.

Max is survived by his wife Cathy, three daughters Tammy (Kirt) Slater, Heather Mosser, Amanda (Shane) Pulfer; grandchildren Blaine Mosser, Megan Slater, Kaiden Slater, Ruby Mosser, Darci Pulfer, Averi Pulfer, Jaxon Mosser, Lola Pulfer; and great-grandchildren Nova Mosser, Mac Mosser and Maverick Burgan. Additional survivors include his two siblings, Jerry Oswalt and Marilyn Sark. He was preceded in death by his parents and a great grandson, Owen Campbell.

A graveside service will be held at 2 P.M. on Saturday, March 26, 2022, at Six Mile Cemetery. Rev. Douglas McClure will officiate. Memorials may be made in Max's memory to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana and can be sent to the funeral home. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to Max's family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Six Mile Cemetery

4795 SE State Road 116  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## PUBLIC GRAVESIDE SERVICE

MAR 26. 2:00 PM (ET)

Six Mile Cemetery  
4795 SE State Road 116  
Bluffton, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Max E. Oswalt*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *We lost dad two weeks ago and said goodbye one week ago. Today in my Christian reading I found a quote from J. R. Miller that reminded me of dad. “The only thing that walks back from the tomb with the mourners and refuses to be buried is the character of a man. What a man is survives him. It can never be buried.” Thankful for dad’s character that remains with us 🙏❤️*

**Heather** - April 02, 2022 at 07:58 PM



“ *Sending you all my love and support during this incredibly difficult time. I hope the countless good memories you created together will provide some comfort, as well as knowing that Uncle Max is now at peace. Though no longer with us physically, he lives on in each of you and your children and will continue to make a positive impact on many lives. I know your world will never be the same, but the sun will shine again and one day you’ll be reunited. Until then, stay strong and take care of each other.*

*Eric*

**Eric Barnes** - March 26, 2022 at 03:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Max E. Oswald.



March 25, 2022 at 03:47 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Max's passing! Dan Oswald

Dan Oswald - March 25, 2022 at 11:04 AM



“ Dear Cathy, Tammy, Heather, and Amanda and Barnes Family we are so ver Saddened to hear about Max's passing! Growing up on the west side of town on Wabash Street just a couple of blocks from the Olswalt Family Marilyn, Max, and Jerry the Crosbie Twins lived we new the Oswald Family what a good family! Max was a great guy we also played in that Drum and Bugle Corp with Max what a Awesome group that was from Bluffton we were 13 years old at that time! Our Prayers are with all of u during this loss as u Grieve for Max! 🙏🙏🙏🙏 What a Blessing Kathy and Girls that Max lasted a year longer than you expected! God Bless the Olswalt Family! Love, Barry and JoEllen! ❤️



Barry Crosbie - March 24, 2022 at 04:09 PM

BG

“ Marilyn and Jerry,  
We are sorry to read of your loss of Max. He  
was a super nice young man as well as  
growing into a fine family man. What a  
wonderful tribute to her Dad hat Heather wrote!  
Our thoughts are with the family at this time.  
Marion & BJ Gray



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**BJ Gray** - March 23, 2022 at 04:11 PM

SS

“ time and distance get in the way of things, but max, i will never  
forget you. i spent a lot of time growing up in the wabash  
neighborhood. my cousin gary and i would look to you when we  
were in a scrape. and there were several. you never took sides, but  
got us out of many a dilemma. and all without telling aunt ethel! we  
talk about those times often when i get back to bluffton.  
i know the best of you will carry on in the lives of your children and  
grand children.  
thanks for teaching me to play the harmonica!

susan stuart  
mentor, ohio

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**susan stuart** - March 23, 2022 at 12:46 PM

DW

“ I loved working with Max for many years. I really liked his laid back  
sense of humor. Sorry for his loss

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**Don Wagoner** - March 22, 2022 at 02:49 PM

JR

“ I had been a drummer in the band next to MAX and he had been a great talented man in percussions and a great individual to know . he taught me to be able to be a drummer to and I still do on songs I hear ( i learned it from him !!! ) .God Bless you my friend

Jeery Ross - March 22, 2022 at 01:49 AM

JH

“ Aunt Cathy, Tammy, Heather and Amanda I love you all you were blessed with Uncle Max! He is one of the roots to our family tree!! Always so nice and caring and genuinely cared about our family. He would always ask me things of importance going on in my life not just small talk. Even being sick he showed up at the court house for my family and was brave!! I love you all and I'm here for you all!! I love you Uncle Max thank you for always showing kindness and love to us❤️

Jennifer Dillman Heyerly - March 21, 2022 at 03:18 PM



“ Jordan Dillman lit a candle in memory of Max E. Oswalt



Jordan Dillman - March 21, 2022 at 11:10 AM



“ Uncle Max, I will miss you. I know that you are now in a better place looking down on us, smiling and playing the Banjo. I love you, and I am thankful for all the time that I got to share with you in this life. - Jordan Dillman

Jordan Dillman - March 21, 2022 at 11:10 AM

PB

“ Paul And Gina Barnes lit a candle in memory of Max E. Oswalt



Paul and Gina Barnes - March 21, 2022 at 06:54 AM

HD

“ Dad always made me feel safe. I cry happy tears remembering him pushing us high as the clouds from the best rope swings knotted tight on the branches...testing the frozen lake at the state park to ice skate, making sure we weren't to fall through into the crisp winter water...while sitting next to me on Kings Island's wooden BEAST roller coaster holding me tight as I shook with excitement and fear (I dared not trust anyone else)...on the back of his motorcycle hanging on to his belt (as per his instructions) on the way home from the community swimming pool...and protecting us from the Indiana storms as he stood on the front porch monitoring the weather (he always remained calm as mom packed essentials in a basket to take to the basement)...and EVERYTIME I left the house until present, hearing him say, "Be careful!" as I exited the back door!

Heather (the middle daughter) - March 20, 2022 at 09:29 PM

DA

“ I knew Max my whole life and I was also in Drum & Bugle corp when he was. Terrific person, will be missed by many.

David & Linda Aker - March 20, 2022 at 09:02 PM

CS

“ So sorry to hear about Max’s passing . I did not know him personally but know he had to be a wonderful father and person! He raised 3 amazing daughters. His love and caring shines thru each one of them. Prayers and hugs to all of you!

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**cindy schlichter** - March 20, 2022 at 08:30 PM

MP

“ Our sincere condolences. Praying that God will comfort you in your time of sorrow.

*Elmer & Marcia Pate*

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**Marcia Pate** - March 20, 2022 at 08:00 PM

TP

“ One of the best.....if not the best.....percussionist with the Parlor City Pirates Drum and Bugle Corp ever.

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*Keep marching Max.*

*Tom Pett*

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**Thomas Pett** - March 19, 2022 at 09:43 AM

MM

*Prayer for strength and comfort at this time.  
We had alot of fun back in thre drum Corp days. Max we right in the middle of the good times.*

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**Mick Musser** - March 21, 2022 at 10:21 PM

LJ

“ *Tammy I am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Prayers for all*



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**Lisa Satterfield Jack** - March 19, 2022 at 06:26 AM