



Paul L. Bender

March 5, 1918 - September 12, 2010

Paul L. Bender 92 of Bluffton passed away at 10:55 A.M. Sunday, September 12, 2010 at Heritage Health Care in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Paul was born on March 5, 1918 in Bluffton to Lawrence L. & Elizabeth A (Reiff) Bender. He graduated from P.A. Allen High School in 1935 and Purdue University in 1939. On April 6, 1941 he married Maro L. Bradburn. They were married for 53 years before she preceded him in death on July 8, 1994.

Mr. Bender was an engineer and assistant production manager with Goodman Mfg. Co., Chicago, a heavy machinery manufacturer, until 1947, when he returned to Bluffton to associate as partner in the L.L. Bender & Company. In 1953 he entered the health care field with Wells County Hospital (later Wells Community Hospital) serving as its Administrator. He retired in 1987 after 34 years of service. Mr. Bender also served in many roles in Bluffton including; City Plan Commission, Mental Health Association, United Way, Anthony Wayne Council for Boy Scouts, Elm Grove Cemetery Association, Allen-Wells Chapter Red Cross Board, Regional Blood Services, Wells County Historical Society, Bluffton Lions Club, Elks Lodge and the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission.

Professional Organizations include American Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers, American Academy of Medical Administrators, Indiana

Hospital Association, former director Midwest Health Network.

He was also been awarded: Outstanding Citizen Award in 1995, Melvin Jones Award for the Lions Club, and in 1987 was named Sagamore of the Wabash along with the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts, and recipient of the Clara Barton Award. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church where he served as trustee and Chairman of the Administrative Board.

Survivors include a son Paul Lee (wife Connie) Bender, Jr. of West Lafayette, IN and Linda M. (husband Carl) Heuer of Las Vegas, NV, along with 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife, and a sister Georgiana Bender.

A Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 16, 2010 at the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton with Pastor Larry Johnson and Rev. Cindy Osgood officiating. Calling hours will take place from 9 to 11 Thursday (prior to the services) also at the church. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church or the Anthony Wayne Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Friends may send online condolences to www.thomarich.com. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **16.** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
325 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN

Service

SEP **16.** 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
325 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Paul L. Bender*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Lee*

You have my deepest sympathies are with you and your family at this time.

Jerry Hunnicutt##imported-begin##Jerry Hunnicutt##imported-end##

September 16, 2010 at 03:15 PM



“ *Paul was a cousin to my grandmother (Thelma Rector) and she always spoke highly of him. He was a good man and will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Doug and Julie Swisher##imported-end##*

September 16, 2010 at 10:35 AM



“ *What a great person your father was. I worked in the office at Wells Community and remember his kindness. He was a great champion for the community, the hospital and it's employees. May God Bless you with many memories in the days and weeks ahead to ease the pain. I know I have lots of great memories of him. One that comes to mind is him walking down the hall with Dr. Kinzer and Dr. Kinzer rubbing his hand knuckles over his head because he was so much shorter than Dr. Kinzer. I'm not sure if your Dad ever felt like "popping" him, but he always laughed and was a good sport!! I also remember how proud he was to hand out candy bars to everyone at the birth of his grandchildren.*

God Bless Your Family.##imported-begin##Glennis Henly##imported-end##

September 16, 2010 at 09:42 AM



“ *Lee, Connie, Linda & family,*

You are in our thoughts & prayers @ this time of sorrow. Both of your parents were highly regarded by all in this community. Sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Jerry & Darlene Garrett & Joan S Garrett##imported-end##

September 16, 2010 at 08:04 AM



“ Dear Lee and Connie:
I am so sorry I cannot make it to Paul's viewing and funeral as I am having a medical procedures at 9:30 a.m. I am the one who frequently called and talked to Paul in recent years. He was such a great person and I with many others admired him so much. We worked together many times at the Historical Society and Lions. His knowledge, fairness and caring for others was outstanding. I miss my chats with him even since he entered the nursing home. What a great guy!###imported-begin##Barbara Elliott##imported-end##

September 15, 2010 at 07:21 PM



“ Lee

Please accept my condolences on the Passing of your father. Your father helped many people in many ways. I was a member of the First United Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop. Your father, through his kind acts has had a ripple effect through my life and, I am sure, many more.

*Death leaves a heartache
No one can heal;
Love leaves a memory
No one can steal*

Irish Tombstone###imported-begin##Mike Falk##imported-end##

September 15, 2010 at 06:50 PM



“ Lee, Linda and Families,

You have my deepest sympathy on the loss of your father and grandfather. I was your Dad's secretary at Wells Community Hospital from 1976 until his retirement and remember him as a kind and caring man. I had to chuckle thinking of the times when he had meetings away I would try to straighten his desk and file papers for him so the office looked a bit neater. When he returned he couldn't find anything and I'm sure he was a bit frustrated with me, but never said anything. He did so many positive things for the employees and the evolution of the hospital. He will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Peg Cobbum##imported-end##

September 15, 2010 at 06:24 PM



“ Lee/Connie,

So sorry to hear of Lee's dad passing away. Lee, we graduated together and I remember Connie a grade or two behind us. You have my sympathy and prayer that the Lord will make you stronger through it all.

Steve Foster##imported-begin##Steve Foster##imported-end##

September 14, 2010 at 10:18 PM



“ *Paul Bender was one of the finest people I have ever known. My various associations with him, whether it be in connection with some community project or strictly social, were always pleasant. He was intelligent, well-mannered and diligent in all things. The Bluffton community and Wells County are better places because he was there. Incidentally, his sister Georgeanna was my third grade teacher at the old Park School.*

*Jack Edris, Tucson, AZ##imported-begin##Johm (Jack)
Edris##imported-end##*

September 14, 2010 at 05:27 PM