

William M. Fryback

June 27, 1921 - February 8, 2010

Max William "Bill" Fryback, 88, a former mayor of Bluffton who also served on the Bluffton City Council, died at 7 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8, 2010, at River Terrace Estates. Mr. Fryback was born June 27, 1921, in Bluffton, to John C. Fryback and Hazel Mae VanCamp Fryback. Her married Dorothy F. Dittmann April 10, 1943, in River Forest, Ill. His wife survives. Also surviving are three children, Jennifer (William) Hilgedag of Indianapolis, John W. Fryback (Teresa King) of Stamford, Conn., and James C. (Stephanie) Fryback of Ossian; a daughter-in-law, Elaine Fryback of Niceville, Fla.; and 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Air Force Lt. Col. C. George Fryback; a grandson, Nicholas George Fryback; and a brother, Clifford Fryback. Mr. Fryback was a lifelong resident of Wells County. He was a 1939 graduate of Bluffton High School and graduated from Purdue University in 1942 with a degree in agriculture. He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving as an officer in the Transportation Corps in New Orleans. He was discharged with the rank of captain. After his military service, he returned to Bluffton and joined his father at Fryback's Ice Cream Co. He owned and operated the company until 1971. He served as an administrator for the Corning Glass Fund for two years, granting funds to former employees when the local plant closed. Mr. Fryback became a member of City Council in 1958 and served in the position for 16 years. He was elected mayor in the 1971 general election, serving from 1972 to 1980. He was then chosen by a caucus to serve out the final two and a half years of John Flaningam's second term as mayor from 1985 through 1988 when Mr. Flaningam died in office. He thus served 11 years as mayor. He was an active member of Bluffton's First Presbyterian Church, having served as elder, deacon, and trustee. He was a charter member and a past president of the Bluffton Lions Club, and was also a past district chairman for the Lions Club. He was a member of American Legion Post 111 in Bluffton. He was a former chairman of the Wells County Democrats. Mr. Fryback was a member of the undefeated 1938 Bluffton High School Hall of Fame football team. He was captain of the football team and a four-year letterman; he was also a four-year letterman on the basketball team. He enjoyed tennis, golf, and bridge as pastimes. He enjoyed many summer weekends at Lake Webster with his friends and his children's friends. Calling will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney and Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. There

will be additional calling from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at the First Presbyterian Church in Bluffton. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at the church with Pastor Robert Madsen officiating. Burial will be at the Fairview Cemetery, Bluffton, with military graveside rites performed by members of American Legion Post 111. In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials are to the George Fryback Endowment Fund (make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church) or the Lions International Eye Bank. Online condolences: www.thomarich.com

Previous Events

Visitation

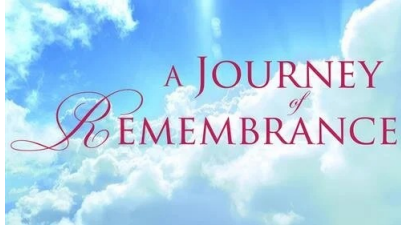
FEB 12. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William M. Fryback*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *William M. Fryback*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *So many miles away from home yet grief has no distance. I was reading the obituary and comments from others like Barry Crosbie and memories seem to flood in. I remember the ice cream too and how happy I was as a child to get to go get some. I miss it all and it all passes us by so quickly. May God bless you and keep your family in those good memories during this difficult time and remember there are others that are keeping you close to heart.##imported-begin##Mary (Wogoman) Baker##imported-end##*

February 24, 2010 at 05:45 AM



“ *Dottie*

I was so sorry to hear about Bill's passing. I thought so highly of him and enjoyed his humor every time I was saw him. I still think of the great times we had at the lake with George and how much fun we had at the ice cream store after bowling. My deepest condolences to you and your family,##imported-begin##Terry Swartz##imported-end##

February 12, 2010 at 05:11 PM



“ Dear Dottie and family,
We keep up on happenings in Bluffton via the computer. We are sad to learn of Bill's death. The Frybacks have been a part of our life since before I was born. I remember many good times at the ice cream parlor....pigs dinners. I'm sure you have great remembrances of a great husband, father, friend. We send warmest condolences to all of your family.

Warmly, Ruthann & Gene Kyle##imported-begin##Ruthann (Sutton) & Gene Kyle##imported-end##

February 12, 2010 at 12:34 PM



“ DEAR DOTTIE AND FAMILY I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT BILLS PASSING. I KNOW HE IS WITH OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST RIGHT NOW. HE IS IN A VERY GOOD PLACE CALLED HEAVEN. WE WILL MISS HIM VERY MUCH BUT I HAVE VERY GOOD MEMORIES OF BILL. FIRST OF ALL THE FRYBACKS ICE CREAM PLACE WHERE WE AS LITTLE KIDS USE TO GO AND GET ICE CREAM. ALSO I CAN REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL IN THE SUMMERTIME WE WOULD BE PLAYING BASKETBALL AT WASHINGTON PARK. DOTTIE U AND BILL WOULD BE PLAYING TENNIS ACROSS THE WAY WITH THE NIXONS. ALSO WHEN I GOT A LITTLE OLDER WE WOULD PLAY BASKETBALL UP AT THE PAL CLUB WITH BILL 3 DAYS A WEEK HE REALLY LOVED PLAYING WITH US YOUNGER GUYS. LAST OF ALL IT WAS ALWAYS A PLEASURE HELPING BILL UP AT THE HOSPITAL WHEN U GUYS WOULD COME UP FOR DOCTOR VISITS. MAY GOD BLESS U AND YOUR FAMILY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME IN YOUR LIFE. WE WILL BE PRAYING FOR U ALL. BARRY AND JOELLEN CROSBIE.##imported-begin##Barry Crosbie##imported-end##

February 11, 2010 at 08:54 PM



“ Dear Dottie,
I am so sorry to hear about Bill. I would come to the funeral, but I am leaving for Florida at 2:30 this afternoon.

Kathleen, Steve and I send our deepest sympathy.

Geoff Paddock##imported-begin##Geoff Paddock##imported-end##

February 11, 2010 at 11:28 AM



“ Dearest Dotty and Gang,
Oh, where to start?????? We incredibly love you. We were so sorry our buddy Bill has passed away. He will be sorely missed. We are however grateful our Father has taken away his pain and has given him peace. He will always live in our hearts. He will long be remembered for his loving ways, his wit, his generosity.his wisdom...and his cute little wife! We have shared so many good times..our whole families! Lots of happy memories. We are so sorry we are going to miss the celebration of Bill's life, we are out east (Philadelphia and NYC) with our children. We are certainly with you in spirit. You are in our prayers. We'll talk soon. Love to the whole Fryback family.##imported-begin##Ron and Beth Slade##imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 10:47 PM



“ Dottie and family:
How saddened Jim and I are to hear of Bill's passing. So many good memories of Bill and his wonderful sense of humor. He did so much for the Bluffton community and our Presbyterian Church. May God be with you and your family.
Love...Jim and Sally##imported-begin##Jim and Sally Mittlestedt##imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 10:03 PM



“ Mom, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this very sad time. I know how much you will miss Dad, because I have walked that path myself with George's passing. Nothing can fill their spot in our lives, but oh we have great memories don't we of both of them! I will keep you in my prayers as you go through this week and the weeks to come. God will sustain you and keep you. Look to Him for your comfort and peace! God Bless and keep you,

Elaine##imported-begin##Elaine Fryback##imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 07:57 PM



“ *dottie, my thoughts are with you and your family... when i am home i will come visit you, as you know. glenn###imported-begin###glenn talbert###imported-end##*

February 10, 2010 at 06:20 PM



“ *Dear Dotty and family,*

We are saddened to learn of Bill's passing. We are out of town and will not be able to pay our respects in person, but want you to know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

John & Donna###imported-begin###Donna Blair & John Stead###imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 05:25 PM



“ *JC, sorry to hear about your families loss. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

Kathy###imported-begin###Kathy Olwine###imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 01:01 PM



“ *Dear JC:*

Steve and I want you to know you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Please let us know if there is anything we can do. Your Dad sounds like an amazing man.

Sincerely,

Steve and Cindy King###imported-begin###Cindy and Steve King###imported-end##

February 10, 2010 at 12:46 PM



“ *Dottie, We are sad to hear of Bill's passing. He was one of our favorite people. He appointed me to the BZA and was always cheering me on to do things. Always had something positive to say! Love and prayers to you.###imported-begin###Marion & BJ Gray###imported-end##*

February 09, 2010 at 10:07 PM



“ Jim, Steph and family-Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Cherish the memories and be comforted by all those who were acquaintances of your father.##imported-begin##Doug and Duree Randol##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 07:07 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to the Fryback Family. Bill was a wonderful man. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him. Jim and Steph you are in our thoughts and prayers.
With Love ~
Greg & Tracey##imported-begin##Greg & Tracey Williams##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 06:34 PM



“ Dottie,
I don't know why today I decided to get online an look that the News-Banner online today... but the Lord has his ways... I will be up this Saturday! I can not imagine the loss you must feel. God bless you during this time of loss!!! Love You
Nicholas Wall##imported-begin##Nicholas Wall##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 04:54 PM



“ Dottie, I am so sorry I am not in Indiana to attend Bill's funeral. I am in Tucson, Arizona, until the end of April. What wonderful memories I have of you and Bill, when I would clean your house and baby sit, then Bill came over and asked my mother if I could work for him, how proud he made me feel. He always was so kind and thoughtful to me, every time I'd see him over the years. I will keep you and your family in my prayers and I'll be out to see you next summer, when I'm back in Indiana. You will always be a dear friend.
Armatha Hook Green##imported-begin##Armatha Green##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 04:27 PM



“ We were saddened to hear of the death of Bill. We remember him when he operated the ice-cream store in Bluffton. Our sympathy and prayers are with you at this time.##imported-begin##Tom and Nancy Haiflch##imported-end##

February 09, 2010 at 03:54 PM



“ Our prayers are with you and your family, know that God will give you strength for the lonely times. (and keep your shoes on)##imported-begin##Joyce & Fred Sprunger##imported-end##

February 08, 2010 at 03:04 PM