

Lionel Billman

Oct. 4, 1923 - March 26, 2000

Lionel BILLMAN, 76, Logansport, died 2:25 p.m. Sunday at Northwest Medical Center, Springdale, Ark.

Born in Logansport to Carl and Gladys GIBSON BILLMAN, he married Muriel MATHIAS on Nov. 6, 1954 in Rochester. She died June 26, 1993. He married Elizabeth LOWE TOCCO on June 29, 1996 in Logansport. She survives.

Mr. Billman was the third generation owner and operator of Billman Monument Co. With his father, he assisted in crafting in granite a reproduction of Leonardo di Vinci's "The Last Supper." This work received national acclaim. He created a depiction of a Revolutionary War "Minute Man," which is now in the Indiana National Guard Battalion Headquarters in Indianapolis. After retiring from the business, he enrolled at Purdue University to prepare for his second career as Cass County Surveyor.

A World War II U.S. Army Air Corps veteran, he was a B-24 bomber pilot in the 15th Army Air Corps Group. Based in Italy, he flew 33 combat missions over Germany and Yugoslavia. He served in the Indiana Air National Guard and the 38th Infantry Division of the Indiana Army National Guard, as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

A private pilot, he was a member of the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association, the International Comanche Society and the Experimental Aircraft Association. He was a member of the Cass County Family Y, the Logansport Elks, the Cass County Historical Society; president of the Logansport-Cass County Public Library board, the Logansport Airport board, Cass County Drainage Board; and Four County Counseling Center board.

He belonged to the First United Methodist Church, Logansport, and its administrative council and board of trustees. He graduated from Indiana University. Survivors include two sons, Eric and wife Sandra BILLMAN, Dallas, Texas, and Craig BILLMAN, Los Altos, Calif.; one daughter, Barbara and husband Mark GILZEAN, Peru; two grandsons, Andrew [GILZEAN] and Luke GILZEAN; one brother, Marc and wife Kay BILLMAN, Vero Beach, Fla.; one sister, Barbara BURKHART, Logansport; father- and mother-in-law, Ralph and Lois LOWE, Logansport; one stepson, David and wife Valerie TOCCO, Deer Creek; one step-daughter, Debra TOCCO, Des Plaines, Ill.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Elaine BILLMAN HOBBS and Jill BILLMAN SHUMANN.

Services are at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Michael DOMINICK officiating.

Graveside military honors will be conducted at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Logansport. Friends may call from 1-8 p.m. Wednesday at Kroeger Funeral Home, 711 E. Market St., Logansport. Memorials may be made to Campus Crusade for Christ or the Logansport-Cass County Public Library Fund of the Cass County Community Foundation at the funeral home.

Source: Rochester Sentinel

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