



Hesterman O. Vernon

July 26, 2012

Vernon O. Hesterman, 84, of Ridgeville Corners, passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by his family on Thursday, July 26. He was born to Carl and Anna Gerken Hesterman on May 1, 1928. Raised by relatives after he was orphaned as a child, he was baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith at St. John's Lutheran, Freedom Township. Vern and his high school sweetheart, Phyllis Cordes, were married in 1948 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Twp., and had five children. A scholar-athlete, Vern graduated from Ridgeville High School in 1946 and Bowling Green State University in 1950. Vern taught at Ridgeville from 1950 to 1968, and also coached baseball, basketball, Pony and Little League. He earned a Master's degree from BGSU in Guidance and Counseling in 1966. He was a guidance counselor at Four County Vocational School from 1968-1983. For many years he sang in the choir, and served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and superintendent at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Ridgeville. In his mid-seventies, he and his wife returned to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township, serving as elder and participating in choir, adult Sunday School and Serving for Christ activities as long as possible. He supported his children and grandchildren, in academics, sports and other activities, first at Ridgeville, and later, at Archbold and other schools. Despite his illness, he was even able to attend some of his great-grandchildren's school and church activities. A life-long community servant, he was on the Red Cross Board, the Henry County Hospital Board, and for 16 years, the Filling Home of Mercy board. For many

years he helped deliver meals to shut-ins and was an editor-columnist for the Ridgeville CRT newsletter. He also participated in the Gideons, Low German Club, German Lutheran Heritage Society and Henry County Retired Teachers. Despite a rough start in life, Vernon persevered, put himself through college and raised a family. His Christian faith guided his life choices. With the same determination and faith that brought him through an unsettled childhood, he faced the rare disorder, progressive supranuclear palsy, that took his ability to walk, talk, or see. But he tried his best to stay strong and alert and help his caretakers--family, friends and Hospice (Community Health Professionals). He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Phyllis; his children, Vicki of San Diego; Linda (Randy Ridley), Sue (Steve Hurst), and Bob (Ann), of Ridgeville Corners; Tom (Carol) of St. Louis, MO; 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; his brother, Eldon (Marcia) Hesterman, his sister, Kathleen Behnfeldt (Norm) Wiemken, and many nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death were his parents Carl and Anna Hesterman, and his stepmother, Mathilde Hesterman Behnfeldt. Services were held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Twp. on July 30. Visitation was at Rodenberger Funeral Home. Vern dearly loved God, his family and friends, and his country. His passing leaves a huge hole in the lives of all who loved him and fondly remember him. Online memories and condolences may be sent to the family at www.rodenbergerfuneralhome.com or hesterman@rteceexpress.net. Memorials may be made to the Gideons; St. John Lutheran Stained Glass Fund (23120 US Highway 6, Stryker 43557); St. Paul's Lutheran Memorial Fund (16976 Co. Rd. Q1, Napoleon 43545); the Ridgeville Township Friends of the Park (PO Box 174, Ridgeville Corners 43555); or Hospice-Community Health Professionals (6825 SR 66, Defiance 43512)

Tribute Wall



“ *Phyllis, We returned home today from Northern Michigan, and read in the Buckeye of Vern's passing. Our sincerest condolences to you and your family. He was an outstanding man, and his life touched so many individuals. May the Lord's love wrap around the Hesterman family; especially at this difficult time.##imported-begin##Doug & Aris Rychener##imported-end##*

August 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Phyllis and family, I am so sorry I was not able to get to the funeral home on Sunday nor the funeral today. Family circumstances took precedence. I was hoping to be able to see all of you and catch up on all of you and what the kids and you are doing now. Please accept my condolences on your loss. I didn't realize Vern's background until I read his obituary in my paper. He had a remarkable and blessed life.##imported-begin##Marian (orewiler) Kauffman##imported-end##*

August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Unfortunately, I cannot join you for services remembering Vern. I have many great memories from having Vern as a coach, a teaching colleague, building our houses together, and raising our children. It is comforting to know he is no longer being frustrated by limitations. He is with God. Phyllis, Vicki, Bob, Sue Ann, Linda, and Tom, you all are in our prayers for peace and comfort now and forever. God Blessings. Tom Grayson##imported-begin##Tom Grayson##imported-end##*

August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ A gentleman with great patience and understanding. Excellent teacher and coach. We who were guided by him will miss him most!###imported-begin##Jack A. Woodruff###imported-end##

August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Vern helped me get my first job as a senior at Four County JVS. It was as a secretary in an insurance office with a friend of Vern's. I learned so much from that wonderful boss and will be forever grateful to Vern for suggesting the opportunity. Vern was a wonderful man. My deepest sympathy.###imported-begin##Maggie Huston###imported-end##

August 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom and I send our love and condolences to the family. Vicki is our close friend whom I met decades ago at a Paul McCartney concert. That event blossomed into a friendship that has spanned the years. We were privileged to meet and come to know Vern and Phyllis on their trips out to see Vicki. How fortunate we were to have spent time with them at the beach and at the Red Sails Restaurant. We found Vern to be warm and genuine. A great dad! Even though he is not here physically, we know you will find comfort in knowing that he is with the Lord. He will be with you always. Love ~ Lynn and Tom###imported-begin##Lynn Mitchell###imported-end##

July 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE WHOLE FAMILY.###imported-begin##Kathy & Steve Lieb###imported-end##

July 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ He was a very special and much loved man. What a blessing his family was with him. I have all of you in prayer. I just know he is at peace and smiling above. Love, Lynn and Tom###imported-begin###Lynn Mitchell###imported-end##

July 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ ###imported-begin###Charles & Suzanne Rowins###imported-end##

July 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Glen and I are sorry we won't be able to make the funeral tomorrow. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Vernon had many difficulties in his life but his faith never wavered. What a Christian witness he was to all of us!! I am so happy to have know such a wonderful man. Anne###imported-begin###Anne Thomas###imported-end##

July 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I so enjoyed working with Vern At Four County, what a great caring person..he will be missed.....###imported-begin###Deb Silveus###imported-end##

July 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Your entire family is in my thoughts and prayers at the loss of a husband, father and grandfather. I had the privilege growing up knowing him as both Mr. Hesterman from his days in the Ridgeville school system at St Peter’s Lutheran and Vern when I finally got old enough that was allowed. He was a wonderful person who made an impact and is one of those that even many, many years later I still remember. One special memory I have is when I decided to try and take out a wall in the old Ridgeville gym with my face, he was the one that checked my broken teeth, calmed me down, and got me going again. He was just that type of person. He will be missed but I’m sure we’ll all see him again.##imported-begin##Mike Lindhorst##imported-end##

July 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM