



## Orlan Wichman

November 10, 1932 - December 24, 2019

Orlan Richard Wichman, age 87, passed away surrounded by his family on Christmas Eve, 2019, at Fulton Manor. The son of Harold and Esther (Koch) Wichman, he was born on November 10, 1932 in Flatrock Township, Henry County, Ohio. He was baptized and later confirmed his faith at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, in Florida, Ohio.

A graduate of Florida High School in 1950, Orlan received a degree in accounting from International Business College in Ft. Wayne, Indiana in 1952. Orlan joined the Army a year later, but before being deployed to Japan and Korea he married his college sweetheart Constance (Connie) Gaede on November 15, 1953. He and Connie settled on the family farm in Richfield Township where they raised four children. Orlan farmed for a number of years before becoming a partner with his father-in-law in the produce business.

Orlan was an active member of Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Ohio. A charter member of the Bavarian Club in Deshler, he was also a member of the Lutheran Historical Society as well as Low German Club. He also volunteered as an EMT for the Henry County EMS and as a deputy for the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

An avid pilot and Quiet Birdman, Orlan loved flying his T-34 warbird and other aircraft. He was an active member of the T-34 Association, as well as a lifetime member of the Commemorative Air Force, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). He regularly was part of the airshow at EAA AirVenture held each July in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He and several fellow T-34 pilots, known as the Hooligans Flight Team, often could be seen flying high over regional airshows, races and other special events.

Orlan is survived by his wife of 66 years, Connie, and four children; Kevin (Dalida) Wichman, Xenia, Ohio; Kelli (Keith) Kuntz, Wauseon, Ohio; Kristi (Paul) Moses, West Lafayette, Indiana; and Keith (Jewell) Wichman, Spring Lake, Michigan, 17 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his two sisters Marlene (Wayne) Hahn, Leander, Texas; and Jan Galbraith, Austin, Texas. Preceding him in death were his

parents Harold and Esther (Koch) Wichman, and in-laws Franklyn and Geraldine (Hall) Gaede.

Visitation will be at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home in Napoleon, Ohio on Friday, December 27, 2019, from 2:00-8:00 p.m. The funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 28, 2019 at Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Ohio with an hour of visitation prior to services. Burial will take place at 2:00 p.m. at Forrest Hill Cemetery in Napoleon, Ohio

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Peace Lutheran Church and Elara Caring (Hospice) of Toledo, Ohio. Online condolences and messages may be shared with the family at [rodenbergergray.com](http://rodenbergergray.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 27. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Napoleon Funeral Home  
1010 Westmoreland Avenue  
Napoleon, OH 43545  
(419) 592-2333  
help@rodenbergergray.com

## Visitation

DEC 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Peace Lutheran Church  
County Road G and 5  
Deshler, OH

## Funeral Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Peace Lutheran Church  
County Road G and 5  
Deshler, OH

## Graveside Service

DEC 28. 2:00 PM (ET)

Forest Hill Cemetery  
500 E. Maumee Ave  
Napoleon, OH 43545

# Tribute Wall



“ *I am so very sorry to hear of Orlan's passing. What a great man and a joy to be around. I am so very sorry.*

**Kim Lange** - December 29, 2019 at 05:32 PM

HB

“ *Dear Connie and Family,  
Orlan and I were best friends as toddlers, schoolmates, sports teams, and even weddings. We were fortunate to have shared many of life's happiest experiences.*

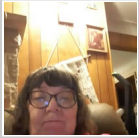
*Herb Bunke*

**Herb Bunke** - December 29, 2019 at 04:42 PM

MC

“ *Our condolences to the family. He was an amazing man. Love to all!*

**Melinda and Craig Christensen** - December 28, 2019 at 09:46 AM



“ *So sorry. May God comfort you. I wish I could be there. He seemed like an extra uncle. Love to all.*

**Alice Bitzinger** - December 28, 2019 at 12:42 AM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Orlan Wichman.*



December 27, 2019 at 06:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Orlan Wichman.*



December 27, 2019 at 06:15 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Orlan Wichman.*



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December 27, 2019 at 04:19 PM

LK

“ *Dear Connie and family,  
You have my Christian Sympathy on the death of your beloved Orlan. He was a faithful member of the German Lutheran Heritage Association. We will miss him as I know you will also. Remember the good times.  
Lillian Keller, German Lutheran Heritage*

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**Lillian Keller** - December 27, 2019 at 04:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Orlan Wichman.*



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December 27, 2019 at 03:06 PM

BB

“ *To a great pilot and friend, we had great fun flying our T-34's in formation over the years. We'll miss your inspiration and fellowship. May you Rest In Peace. Amen.  
Bill BEITLER*

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**Bill Beitler** - December 27, 2019 at 02:39 PM

JR

“ *Remember my trip back home with load radish. My sympathy to family*

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**Joe richard** - December 27, 2019 at 02:17 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Orlan Wichman.*



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December 27, 2019 at 09:20 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Video*



Rodenberger Funeral Home - December 27, 2019 at 09:02 AM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Rodenberger Funeral Home - December 26, 2019 at 10:37 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Michelle Roudebush - December 26, 2019 at 08:41 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Friends of Orlan*



Chuck Stauffer - December 26, 2019 at 08:35 PM



“ Jenny and I were so honored to fly Connie and Orlan to Marshall Michigan for dinner on October 9th of this year . It was the first time Orlan had ridden in the back of his airplane. He said it was pretty nice because he didn't have to do a dang thing!! I personally think he loved it most because he was sitting next to a beautiful lady!! Fair winds and following seas my friend!!



Barry Behnfeldt - December 26, 2019 at 04:21 PM