



## Dr. Paul R. Honan, Jr.

May 29, 1921 - May 18, 2017

God called Paul R. Honan, Jr. to Heaven on May 18, 2017, just 11 days short of his 96th birthday. He was born in Lebanon, Indiana, on May 29, 1921, to Jewell (Crooks) and Paul R. Honan, Sr. He is a 1939 graduate of Lebanon High School.

In his senior year at Wabash College, Paul decided to go to medical school because a friend and fellow Sigma Chi, who was a year older than he, was in his first year of medical school and influenced him to go. He began his studies at Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia in 1943 and completed them there in 1946. During World War II the school operated year round to graduate doctors in 3 years instead of the normal 4 in case they were needed by the war effort.

He opened his office for general practice in 1948 in Lebanon, Indiana, where he provided care for patients with a wide variety of illnesses, delivered babies, and shared with other local doctors in staffing the emergency room at Witham Hospital. In 1953 with the Korean War being fought, doctors were need by and drafted into the military. Dr. Honan had to close his practice. He then served in the Army from 1953 – 55.

During part of his time in the Army, he worked in the eye clinic at the Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, Washington. He became interested in specializing in ophthalmology due to his experiences at the eye clinic. In 1955 he began his residency at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. He completed his residency in 1957 and started his ophthalmology practice in

Lebanon, where he practiced until May 12, 2017.

He developed an interest in contact lenses in the early 1960s. He presented many courses for doctors from across the U.S. on contact lenses. In 1967 he was concerned about the quality of contacts available and established Medicornea to make high quality rigid lenses. He served a year as president of the Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists (CLAO). For over 40 years he was a professor in the Department of Ophthalmology of IU School of Medicine working mainly in the contact lens department.

In March 1975 Dr. Honan travelled to The Netherlands to take a course in intraocular lenses by Cornelius Binkhorst M.D. In July 1975 he inserted an intraocular lens (IOL) during a cataract surgery in Lebanon IN. It was one of the first, if not the first, intraocular lens inserted in Indiana. Inserting an IOL was not looked upon very kindly by Indiana ophthalmologists at the time but now is the standard.

In the early 1970s he became concerned with loss of vitreous fluid during cataract surgery. He developed the Honan Intraocular Pressure Reducer, the Honan balloon, to soften the eye before surgery and to increase the probability of successful surgery. His father, who had been in manufacturing, helped refine the design, so that it could be commercially made and sold. He brought in his son David in the early 1980s and later his son-in-law Jon to help run the company that still produces Honan Balloons. They are still used all over the world prior to modern cataract and corneal transplant surgery.

He remained active in many medical organizations. In addition to CLAO he is a member of the AMA, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS), Indiana State Medical Association, and Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology (IAO), serving as president for a year. In 2010 he received the Honored Guest Award from the ASCRS. He received The Harold Ridley Distinguished Visiting Professor Award for "creativity, innovation, perseverance and productivity in medicine and ophthalmology" in 2013. The IAO presented him with their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

He was a long time member of Ulen Country Club, the Lebanon Rotary Club and Otterbein United Methodist Church. After admiring the bread in Europe on a trip in 1970, he began baking French bread, a long time hobby which he shared with family and friends and taught to next generations.

His life was one of service. He led by example. His family has been so blessed.

Survivors include his sister Martha Ann Parr, daughter Linda (Jon) Silverberg, son David and daughter Susan (David) Jones; grandchildren Jon (Tiffany) Silverberg, Katie (Peter) Jones Schmitt and Shannon Jones; and great granddaughter Katharine Elizabeth Silverberg.

His practice was so very important to him that it was his fervent wish that it continue after his death to serve patients. His associate, John LaTona, MD, will continue the ophthalmology practice in the same location, while Dr. Lisa Conard will ensure that the NAET allergy treatments are still available.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 73 years, Kathleen Kouns Honan, and by his parents.

Visitation will be held at Myers Mortuary, 1502 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon, on Thursday, May 25 from 4 to 7 PM. The funeral service will be held on Friday, May 26 at 2 PM at the mortuary. Interment with military rites will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lebanon.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his honor to Otterbein United Methodist Church, 804 S. Lebanon St., Lebanon, IN 46052.

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

935 East Washington Street  
Lebanon, IN 46052

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 25.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Myers Mortuary  
1502 North Lebanon Street  
Lebanon, IN 46052  
(765) 482-0620  
[office@myersmortuary.com](mailto:office@myersmortuary.com)  
<https://myersmortuary.com/>

## Service

**MAY 26.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Myers Mortuary  
1502 North Lebanon Street  
Lebanon, IN 46052  
(765) 482-0620  
[office@myersmortuary.com](mailto:office@myersmortuary.com)  
<https://myersmortuary.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Paul R. Honan, Jr.*

November 27, 2022 at 01:43 PM



“ *Paul Honan became my ophthalmologist in early 1959 when he fitted me with contact lenses. I always enjoyed my periodic visits for examinations and adjustments and he rapidly gained my complete trust. His continued practice and interest in pioneering in his field kept me returning to him in spite of the distance. I marveled at the breadth of his interests and his continued pursuit of advancements in the his field. I always felt he was an interested friend and enjoyed our many and varied discussions. He will be sorely missed.*

*Richard T. Payne, Greenfield, IN*

**Richard Payne** - August 10, 2017 at 08:29 AM



“ *Heaven has received a Great person. My sympathy to all the family.*

*J.C. Bogan*



**J.C. Bogan** - May 26, 2017 at 08:39 AM



*Very saddened by this news...  
Heaven is a lil happier w Dr. Paul Honan... He was a great man!  
He will b greatly missed!  
May God give u comfort & peace during this very difficult time 🙏*

**Jeanette Poskey** - July 07, 2018 at 06:46 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Paul R. Honan, Jr..*



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May 25, 2017 at 12:19 PM



“ *Dr. Honan was a very good and interesting man. I admired his life long commitment to continuous improvement. I am proud to say that he inspires me to do the same. Mike Kincaid*

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**Mike Kincaid** - May 25, 2017 at 10:50 AM



“ *I have been a patient of Dr. Honan's since 1973 ,somewhere along in that Doctor/Patient relationship, he became a trusted Friend, and mentor*

*He was just interested in treating me as a patient , but also interested in me, as I progressed in my career ,as a service engineer in Nuclear Medicine*

*He always had interesting stories or information about new developments*

*It wasn't like I was going for a Doctor appointment, but more of like, I was going see a Friend*

*Thank you Dr. Honan and Staff, for all you have done for me over the years*

*You will be greatly missed*

*Kim Linn*

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**Kim Linn** - May 25, 2017 at 10:14 AM

KN

“ *Susan and Family:*

*I was sorry to hear of the death of your father - he was always a kind, gentle, warm person when I would go in for my check ups.....just remember the good times and he will be with you forever.*

*Prayers are being sent your way....*

*Karen Neaville*

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**Karen Neaville** - May 24, 2017 at 01:09 PM



“ *Dr. Honan was beloved and well respected by our community. I am one of the babies he delivered so long ago . May he rest in peace and may our Lord surround the family with his comfort and peace. Sincerely, Janet Starkey Petsch*



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**Janet Petsch** - May 24, 2017 at 01:03 PM

RE

“ *My condolences to a wonderful persons family you were very blessed for sure*

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**Rosalind and charles edens** - May 23, 2017 at 03:22 PM

AB

“ *Amy Burgett lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul R. Honan, Jr.*



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**Amy Burgett** - May 23, 2017 at 10:04 AM

 Tim Nelson

“ *Tim Nelson sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Paul R. Honan, Jr.*



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**Tim Nelson** - May 23, 2017 at 07:59 AM

 Tim Nelson

“ *Tim Nelson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul R. Honan, Jr.*



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**Tim Nelson** - May 23, 2017 at 07:59 AM

Tim  
Nelson

“ My mother, Doris Douglas, worked for Dr. Honan for 18 years, so I had the honor of seeing Dr. Honan quite a lot during my life. He was always kind, gentle, and friendly. A real blessing to all he knew. He will be greatly missed. Rest in peace.



*Tim Nelson and Family.*

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**Tim Nelson** - May 23, 2017 at 07:56 AM

JC

“ I remember telling Dr. Honan that I retired from teaching. He said he was retired. (but he was checking my eyes.) I seemed puzzled: but he said that you are to do something that you enjoy, and he was "doing" what he enjoyed.

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**Judy Clark** - May 22, 2017 at 08:42 PM

PM

“ Linda, David, and Susan,

*Your families are in my thoughts and prayers at the lost of your dad. Our dads were good friends in school at Lebanon and at Wabash. My dad always thought so highly of your dad. When dad passed in 1995, your dad wrote a letter to the editor of the Lebanon Reporter acknowledging the accomplishments of my dad during WWII. Him taking the time to write and send that letter to the paper about someone else exemplified the kind and caring person that your dad was.*

*Pennie (Shirley) Miller*

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**Pennie Miller** - May 22, 2017 at 04:01 PM

DF

“ *Darlene Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul R. Honan, Jr.*



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**Darlene Ferguson** - May 22, 2017 at 02:03 PM

SB

“ *My family has been using Dr. Honan since we moved to Lebanon in 1998. He was a dedicated and special man, especially to work until the very end. I don't think the word "retired" was in his vocabulary. I also find myself smiling thinking how every time he saw me or a family member for care, he made sure to remind us to take Vitamin C every day. Prayers to his family, both related and not (his staff). Not sure if I will ever find another eye doctor like him. He will be missed*

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**Susan Burnworth** - May 22, 2017 at 12:01 PM

DF

“ *Dr. Paul was a visionary. Sincere condolences to his family and staff.*



*Douglas family*

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**Douglas family** - May 22, 2017 at 11:27 AM

DF

“ *RIP Dr. Honan. You will be greatly missed. You fitted me and my two sisters with our first pair of contact lenses back in the early '60s. You were also the family eye doctor to my parents and my aunt and uncle and cousins. Our condolences to your family.*

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**Diane Finnell-Skillrud** - May 22, 2017 at 09:30 AM

SM

“ Please accept my condolences.

*Dr. Honan was always so kind. He fitted me for my first pair of glasses in the fall of 1956. He continued to fit me for glasses and 30 years of contacts. He oversaw my cataract surgery a few years ago and just fitted me for driving glasses last month. My husband and I will miss him a lot. We'll keep the family in our prayers.*

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**Sally (Thrine) Morgan** - May 22, 2017 at 09:13 AM

DD

“ To all the family of Dr. Honan, please accept our condolences.

*I worked for Dr. Honan for 18 years. I enjoyed working right beside him during that time. He taught me a lot in those years.*

*So sorry for yours and the Medical Fields loss as well.*

*Doris & Milton Douglass*

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**Doris & Milton Douglass** - May 22, 2017 at 08:27 AM

RS

“ *Dr. Paul Honan was our family eye doctor for more years than I can remember. He was treating my parents and sisters before I even came to life. What a wonderful person and a great healer who was the best in his field. May he now rest for eternity in the arms of Jesus and no longer be separated from his loved ones that have already passed on. Your smiling face and great human nature will be missed now and for always. God Bless, The Raymond Snoke Family*

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**Raymond Snoke** - May 21, 2017 at 09:07 AM

DF

“ Res.  
*t in peace my dear and wonderful man. You will be very much missed*

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**Dawn Fairchild** - May 20, 2017 at 03:39 PM

DI

“ *sending prayers to his family*

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**DAVE PADGETT INDIANAPOLIS** - May 20, 2017 at 03:19 PM

SA

“ *When I went for my annual appointment 2/21/17 as always we reminisced about Witham Memorial Hospital since I worked there 30 years and we shared many memories. Witham has lost a faithful friend and benefactor.*

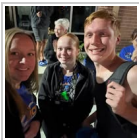
*As I left we shared a hug and I feel I have lost not only a physician but a true friend. I will miss him.*

*God bless you in your sorrow.*

*Sandra D. Alwine*

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**Sandra D. Alwine** - May 20, 2017 at 01:52 PM



“ *Judy Pettifer lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul R. Honan, Jr.*



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**Judy Pettifer** - May 20, 2017 at 12:34 PM

SB

“ *Sally Byrd lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul R. Honan, Jr.*



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**Sally Byrd** - May 20, 2017 at 12:25 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the Paul Honan family. Dr. Honan will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of working with him over the years. As much as he loved the science and practice of ophthalmology, he also loved lifestyle and disease prevention medicine. I was lucky enough to have had his support for my commitment to nutrition science for more than ten years. He was a difference maker with a huge impact.*

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**Ellen Troyer** - May 20, 2017 at 12:02 PM