



Richard A. Thompson

May 18, 1934 - September 14, 2024

Richard A. Thompson, 90, passed away Saturday, September 14, 2024. He was born in Putnam County on May 18, 1934, a son of Fred and Hazel Thompson.

Dick grew up in Putnam County along with his siblings Donald, Ethel, Shirley Sue, Norma Jean, and Judy. He attended school in various towns throughout the county and graduated from Bainbridge High School in 1952. He remained active in the Bainbridge Alumni Association and served as president in the past.

On January 2, 1955, he married the love of his life, Clara Maude Wilson, (with Purdue basketball being a close second) while still a student at Purdue University. He and Clara started their family in West Lafayette and remained there until he graduated from Purdue in 1957. He went on to receive his master's degree in Secondary Administration from Purdue and was a proud member of the Purdue Alumni Association and the John Purdue Club.

Dick and Clara moved to North Salem in 1961 when he began teaching chemistry and physics at North Salem High School. They raised their family there and were an active part of the community for several years. He founded and coached Little League baseball in the community, including coaching all four of his sons, served as the parade chairman for the Old-Fashioned Days

celebrations, was a member of the United Methodist Church, the Lions Club organization, Eastern Star, Shriners, the North Salem chapter of the Masons, a member of the Hendricks County Farm Bureau, and the Gideons.

Dick was a teacher, coach, and principal at North Salem and New Ross schools, and was the first principal at Tri West High School when the school opened in 1975. He continued as an administrator and teacher until he retired to focus on his career in the Indiana State Legislature. He was a State Representative for 6 years, a State Senator for 12 years and was dedicated to serving his constituents. Dick also owned a painting company with his brother-in-law, Roger Clark, and was often seen throughout the county painting barns, grain bins, and houses.

Dick served on many committees and held many positions throughout the years, including on The North Salem State Bank board of directors, a Hendricks County Councilman, the Hendricks County Republican Chairman, on the Central Indiana Boy Scouts council, Hendricks County 4-H Fair Board, and the Indiana Barn Foundation where he was instrumental in having the Normandy Barn moved to the State Fairgrounds and did much of the restoration. He also received numerous awards and recognition including Sagamore of the Wabash, Tri West Wall of Excellence, Indiana Horse Racing Hall of Fame, and was a Torchbearer for the Hendricks County Bicentennial.

Dick considered his greatest achievement in life being a father, a Papaw, and a great grandfather. He was so proud of his grandchildren and attended countless events with a smile on his face and was often heard bragging about them to anyone with ears!

Dick was preceded in death by his parents; parents-in-law, Lester and Lillie Wilson; a brother; three sisters; and grandsons, Noah Thompson, Chet Thompson, and Chad Thompson.

He is survived by his wife, Clara; his sons, Jeff (Michelle), Bert, Kent (Beverly), and Todd (Patti) Thompson; daughter, Lori (Rick) Sheffer; grandchildren, Keith, Tylan, Matthew, Jordan, Cara, Caleb, Isaac, Quinton, Marissa, Abe, Lydia, Josiah, and Anna; 10 great grandchildren; sister, Judy (Rick) Parent; brother-in-law, Harve (Dixie)Wilson; and his dedicated caregiver, Deedee Orazine.

Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at Tri West High School, 7883 IN-39, Lizton, Indiana. Visitation from 10:00 a.m. until the time of services. Interment will follow services at Fairview Cemetery in North Salem. Porter and Hunt Funeral Home of North Salem has been entrusted with his arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his name to Hendricks County Community Foundation, 6319 E US Hwy 36 Suite 211, Avon, IN 46123, or to the Tri-West Dollars for Scholars, North West Hendricks School Corporation 104 North Church Street, PO Box 70, Lizton, IN 46149.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

State Road 236
North Salem, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 21. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Tri West High School
7883 IN-39
Lizton, IN 46149

Funeral Service

SEP 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Tri West High School
7883 IN-39
Lizton, IN 46149

Tribute Wall

JB

“ I had the honor to know Richard as a Member of the Jamestown indiana Lions Club and as a State Senator as well as a State Represenative , I Represented Indiana General Contractors concerning legislation ,and often the same lagislation issues would be on both of our calenders. In my 40 years of making many trips to the State House I testified for and against legislation with Senators and Represeenatives . Richard was one of the few I had great respect for as many did in the State House . Richard always showed great respect for any body who came across his path . Richard weather he was for or against issue all were treated with respect he conducted himself always as a a respected professional .

James H Brown - September 20, 2024 at 01:32 PM

TF

“ The Durham Familes, The Charles family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard A. Thompson.



The Durham Familes, The Charles family - September 20, 2024 at 12:25 PM

MM

“ Martin Marietta purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Richard A. Thompson.



Martin Marietta - September 20, 2024 at 08:12 AM

MM

“ *Martin Marietta planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard A. Thompson.*

Martin Marietta - September 20, 2024 at 08:12 AM

RS

“ We are so sad to hear about Dick's passing and our prayers are going out for Clare and the family.



We were fortunate to spend two years in North Salem when I became the basketball coach in 1970. Since Dick had been a very good basketball coach, I was a little apprehensive that he might be looking over my shoulder and giving me coaching advice. My fears were not warranted. He never suggested any changes in my coaching techniques. He was still a great mentor for this young coach, because of his knowledge of the community and my player's strengths and weaknesses. I wish I had been smart enough to ask him for more advice on coaching.

I am so glad I was able to reconnect with him about four years ago when I ask him to preview a book I was writing about playing and coaching basketball in Indiana. We had some great conversations about our two years at North Salem.

He was the best principal I had the privilege to work with and I worked with several. The fact that he kept teaching the chemistry class while being the principal was a testimony to his dedication to setting an example for all his teachers while keeping that personal contact with his students. Leaving North Salem was a difficult decision for us because of our friendship with Dick and Clare, the faculty, and the community.

We wish we could be there for his memorial, but travel is very difficult for us at this time.

God Bless the Family,

Ric And Margaret Schaekel

Ric and Margaret Schaekel - September 19, 2024 at 02:09 PM

BM

“ I was fortunate to know Dick from an early age as Clara and my mother were cousins. He took an interest in me as I studied Political Science and thought I might want a career in government and politics. He was so gracious with his time and hosted me at the State House and helped me obtain a fellowship in the Governor’s office. He was the epitome of a servant leader and a kind and gracious man. He had an incredibly positive impact on me as a young professional and I am sure many others as well. I only wish today’s political leaders could carry themselves with the purpose and dignity he did in his career. Clara, you, and your family are in the thoughts and prayers of the Mendenhall family.

Brad Mendenhall

Brad Mendenhall - September 18, 2024 at 09:36 PM

PA

“ I don’t know how he fit it in with everything else he accomplished, but he was also a bus driver for North Salem.

My husband told him when my first son, Travis, started to ride the bus, that if he had any problems with him to let us know. Dick said all he had to do was look at him and he straightened up in his seat...Mrs. Duane (Pati) Adams



Pati Adams - September 18, 2024 at 05:14 PM

NC

“ Northview Christian Church purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Richard A. Thompson.



Northview Christian Church - September 18, 2024 at 12:27 PM

CG

“ Charla G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard A. Thompson.

Charla G. - September 18, 2024 at 12:22 PM

ST

“ I am so sorry to hear this news; my thoughts are with Clara, Jeff and his family.

sharon thuma - September 18, 2024 at 12:18 PM

PI

“ Professional Firefighters Union of IN purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard A. Thompson.



Professional Firefighters Union of IN - September 18, 2024 at 10:21 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard A. Thompson.



September 17, 2024 at 11:48 AM

KE

“ Karen E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard A. Thompson.

Karen E. - September 17, 2024 at 11:48 AM