

John Michael Van Curen

John Michael Van Curen, 71, Mentone, passed away at 10:40 a.m. Feb. 29, 2016, at Miller's Merry Manor, Warsaw.

He was born March 22, 1944, in Warsaw, to Wilbur and Bernice Baker Van Curen. On June 10, 1994, he married Susan Kay Norton, who survives in Mentone.



He worked as a machinist for over 30 years at Chore-Time Brock International, Milford. He had attended Nazarene Bible College for a number of years in Colorado Springs, Colo., and he was a member of Warsaw Family Worship Center.

He will be lovingly remembered by his daughter, Joanna M. Van Curen, Warsaw; a son, Timothy Van Curen, Warsaw; three stepdaughters: Joan (and spouse Roger) Scott, Rochester; Tammy Jasso, Plymouth; Melinda (and spouse Todd) Carter, Burket; 16 grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter. Also surviving are two sisters: Wilberta (and spouse Steve) Banghart, Warsaw, and Joyce (and spouse Bill) McBroom, Milford; and his brother, Phillip (and spouse Carol) Van Curen, Warsaw. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Russell Van Curen; and his sister, Sue Banghart.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Redpath-Fruth Funeral Home, Warsaw, and officiated by Pastor William Whitaker and assisted by Pastor Keith Cole. Burial will take place at a later date at Oakwood Cemetery, Warsaw.

Calling is from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials to Warsaw Family Worship Center, 1250 Husky Trail, Warsaw, IN 46582 and would be appreciated by the family.

Online condolences may be sent through the funeral home's website at www.redpathfruthfuneralhome.com

Times Union March 1, 2016

Dr. Douglas P. Vanator

CHARLOTTE, Mich. - Dr. Douglas P. Vanator, 79, Olivet, died Jan. 6, 2016.



He was born June 1, 1936, in Warsaw, to Robert and Mary Parker Vanator.

For 57 years he was married to Marie, who survives.



He received Christ as his personal savior at 8 years of age and was very active in his church. He ministered to others as a Gideon for more than 40 years. He served in the Indiana National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves, starting in his high school years.

He was a small-town doctor who served his patients as if they were his own family. He moved to Olivet in 1964 and opened his medical practice where he worked until retirement in 2007. It was his desire to be a doctor in the office and a friend on the street. He supported his local community and was always interested in working to find a solution for a problem. He was a long-time Rotary member who was famous as the chairman of the annual walleye fish fry.

He graduated from high school in Claypool in a graduating class of 11 people. His was the first generation in his family to leave the farm and attend college. He strongly believed in education and what could be achieved, using his own life as an example to inspire others. He graduated from Manchester College, taught high school sciences and math for one year in Akron; and then attended Chicago Osteopathic School of Medicine and received his medical degree in 1963. His wife, Marie, is a registered nurse and worked to put him through medical school. As a professional, he served as chief of staff, chief of surgery and chief of OB at Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, was on staff at Lansing General, and was an assistant clinical professor at Michigan State University Osteopathic College of Medicine. As a doctor, his favorite thing was delivering babies. He also served as a FAA medical examiner and Eaton County Medical Examiner. After his retirement in 2007, he went on three medical mission trips to Mexico.

He was never far from his roots growing up on the farm. He was as comfortable on a tractor as he was with his stethoscope. He enjoyed the outdoors. It was not unusual in his early years to fly his Cherokee Six as an air ambulance and later flying his Lance airplane out west or into Canada with his friends and family to hunt or fish. He had a gift for fixing things, learning from growing up on a farm.

Also surviving are four children: Carolyn (and spouse Larry) Wehr, Jim (and spouse Lori) Vanator, John Vanator, and Cathy (and Brian) Kelenske; a brother, Gordon Vanator; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a nephew. He was preceded in death by a son, Charles Vanator; a daughter-in-law, Heidi Vanator; and two grandchildren, Guy and Jordan Vanator.

Services will be at 9 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church, Charlotte, with Pastor Steve Byrens officiating.

Calling is from 6 to 8 p.m. today and 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

Memorials to First Baptist Church of Charlotte or City On A Hill Church in Olivet. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Doug on his tribute page at www.prayfuneral.com

Card 12, Director died at 9:25
Warsaw Times Union Jan 7, 2016

Gordon H. Vanator

Gordon H. Vanator, a lifetime resident of Kosciusko County, passed away at 11:19 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017, in Fort Wayne's Lutheran Hospital. He was 83 years old.

One of two sons born to Robert "Guy" Vanator and his wife, Mary E. Parker Vanator, Gordon was born on June 2, 1934, in Warsaw. He was a graduate of Claypool High School and earned a bachelor's degree in education.

Gordon would later go on to earn his master's degree and had attended both Indiana University and Manchester College.

Gordon was also a proud veteran of the United States Army National Guard. He served for nearly 10 years and oversaw the main mess hall, ensuring everyone was fed.

Gordon was married to Jane Hamman Bohlin on Oct. 11, 2016, in Coldwater, Mich., by their good friend, Pastor Larry Burkhart. Jane survives in Warsaw.

Gordon was a man with a great sense of humor, many talents and countless interests. He enjoyed staying abreast of changes in agriculture and local farming and loved his family's farm, Vana Dell Farms. After his father was no longer able, he devoted himself to it.

A teacher by trade, Gordon was an advocate for local 4-H programs and other youth programs. He was certified as a referee and had officiated basketball and football games for many years. Later, he was in charge of hosting referees for home games, choosing to donate his pay back to the athletic department.

Professionally, he had taught, first in math and history, before working as a guidance counselor and then as a principal before his retirement. After retiring, he served for eight years as a member of the Warsaw Community School Board, serving as president for three years.

Gordon was a certified chemist, owned his own fertilizer business, was licensed as a private pilot, and was a member of the Masonic Lodge and of North Webster American Legion Post 253.

In addition to his wife, Jane, survivors include a son, Robert (Nichole) Vanator of Indianapolis; a stepson, Kerry Morton of Leesburg; stepgrandchildren: Elizabeth Brumblow and Marcus Brumblow of Claypool and Devan Morton of South Whitley; stepgreat-grandson, Jackson; and sister-in-law, Marie Vanator. He is also survived by numerous, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Those who preceded Gordon in passing include his parents, Guy and Mary; and his brother, Dr. Douglas Vanator.

The family will receive friends for a time of visitation on Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. in Titus Funeral Home, 2000 Sheridan St., Warsaw.

A funeral service, officiated by Pastor Larry Burkhart, will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Warsaw's Oakwood Cemetery, with military honors by members of American Legion Post 253, North Webster.

Memorials to Kosciusko County 4-H Council, 202 W. Main St., Warsaw, IN 46580.

To sign the guestbook, visit www.TitusFuneralHome.com.



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