



Edward Bonczek

November 18, 1931 - July 30, 2024

Edward “Eddie” Bonczek, a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force, passed away peacefully at home on July 30, 2024. Eddie was born on November 18, 1931 in New Chicago, IN as the youngest son of Leopold and Roszalja Bonczek, who had immigrated from Poland before Eddie’s birth. Upon graduating from Hobart High School in 1950, he worked for several years at Elgin, Joliet and Eastern (EJE) Railway. He enlisted in military service at 20 years old and served his country between 1952-1956, including deployment in the Korean War. In 1956, Eddie returned to EJE Railway, and he married his sweetheart, LaDella Miller, on June 17, 1961. Soon after, he reenlisted in the Air Force, where he stayed until retirement, completing over 20 years of active duty, including service in the Vietnam War and stations in Labrador, Canada, as well as at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Back as a civilian, Eddie accepted a job at US Steel in Indiana, where he and LaDella lovingly raised their two children, Helen and Joseph. The entire Bonczek family were members of All Saints Catholic Church in San Pierre, IN. In addition to being a devoted husband, father, and parish member, a love of nature was central to Eddie’s life. He would often take his children on fishing and camping adventures in the wilderness, and he would frequently volunteer at the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area in Medaryville, IN. You could also occasionally find him traveling to Europe to spend time with his beloved Polish relatives, as well as visiting aviation museums to admire the aircrafts he used

to fly in and repair during his military days. Eddie was a music enthusiast and adored playing his piano at home (entirely self-taught). He will be deeply missed, but he is now at peace with God as he joins his loved ones who have passed before him. The family would like to thank the caregiving services of VNA Hospice NWI for allowing our dear Eddie to have a comfortable and dignified ending to his amazing life.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents, Leopold and Roszalja Bonczek, and his three siblings, Walter Bonczek, Stanley Bonczek, and Helen Lewman. He is survived by his adoring wife, LaDella Bonczek; his two children, Helen (Paul) Nunnelly and Joseph (Sherri) Bonczek; his five grandchildren, Nathaniel (Amanda) Nunnelly, Keara (Zach) Ruble, Danielle (Diego) Orozco, Weston (Matthew) Bonczek, and Braden Bonczek; his eight great-grandchildren, Abraham, Axel, Rowan, Lincoln, Olivia, Owen, Amelie, and Reid; along with many other loving family members and dear friends. Amongst an endless list of recollections, Eddie's loved ones will fondly remember his strong and gentle spirit, the upbeat piano and organ music he produced daily, his joy-filled face as he played with his great-grandchildren, his wonderful knack for storytelling, and his affection for the natural world and the many woodland creatures on his property.

A funeral mass to honor Edward's life will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2024, officiated by the Rev. Terry Bennett at All Saints Catholic Church, 201 W Eliza St, in San Pierre, IN. A visitation will first take place from 9:00-11:00 AM, with the service from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. A military burial will follow at approximately 12:00 PM, with a subsequent reception at All Saint's church. For further information, please contact O'Donnell Funeral Home in North Judson, IN at phone number 574-896-2149. Flowers and condolences may be sent to the family through Main Street Floral and Gifts (574-896-5797; northjudsonflowers.com).

Cemetery Details

All Saints Catholic Cemetery

San Pierre, IN 46374

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

All Saints Catholic Church
201 W Eliza St
San Pierre, IN 46374-9582
(219) 828-4281

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

All Saints Catholic Church
201 W Eliza St
San Pierre, IN 46374-9582
(219) 828-4281

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen Nunnelly - August 03, 2024 at 12:46 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen Nunnelly - August 03, 2024 at 12:37 AM

VZ

“ *Ed and Dell have always had a special place in my heart. As one of the youngest sisters in Dells family, I will always remember them for their kindness and love they showed us three girls. It was always with great anticipation when they came home. Dell and Ed treated us like we were special and important to them. He will be very loved and missed. Enjoy heaven!!!!*

Vicky Zernik - August 02, 2024 at 02:16 PM

RA

“ *Ron A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Bonczek.*

Ron A. - August 02, 2024 at 02:07 PM

AD

“ Aunt Darla, Cousins Ernie & Danna purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Edward Bonczek.



Aunt Darla, Cousins Ernie & Danna - August 01, 2024 at 06:44 PM

PN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Paul Nunnely - August 01, 2024 at 03:56 PM

LL

“ Love, Ken and Debbie Lee purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Edward Bonczek.



Love, Ken and Debbie Lee - August 01, 2024 at 03:30 PM

PN

“ I would like to thank the VNA Hospice Not-For-Profit group in Valparaiso, Indiana. They were instrumental in assisting Eddie and our family, providing excellent end of life care.



Paul Nunnely - August 01, 2024 at 09:22 AM

TA

“ Tina A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Bonczek.

Tina A. - August 01, 2024 at 09:04 AM

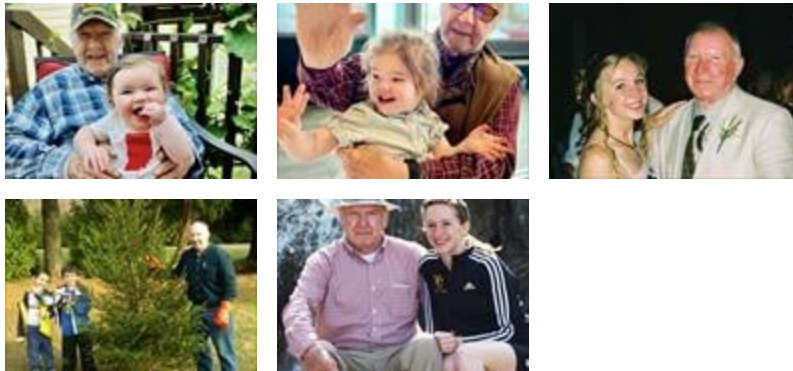
KP

“ Growing up I spent a lot of time with Aunt LaDella and Uncle Ed's family. I'll always cherish my memories of summer at Edward's Airforce Base in California and their house in Medaryville was practically my second home. Uncle Ed really introduced me to nature, taking me on a family vacation to Yellowstone, my first ever National Park and later vacationing with my kids and Helens family in Glacier National Park and Banff, Canada. I remember he took Helen and I on an overnight hiking trip up Mount Whitney when we were 13 years old. I'd never done anything like that. I remember camping outside under the stars and it was amazing!! Until it wasn't, but that's another story lol. He was such a fun, kind, gentle man. I didn't get to see him much in his later years but he has always been special to me and I will miss him. Heaven got a good one today.

Kim Phillips-McCulloch - July 31, 2024 at 10:15 PM



“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Danielle Orozco-Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 08:44 PM

PN

“ About two years ago, Eddie and I were working in the woods. I was trying to roll a giant log and could not do it. Eddie jumped in and pushed it easily. He was 90 at the time.

Paul Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 08:43 PM

BK

“ Brian and Kim planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Bonczek.

Brian and Kim - July 31, 2024 at 08:23 PM

TC

“ The Austin, Nosek, & Davis Clan purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Edward Bonczek.



The Austin, Nosek, & Davis Clan - July 31, 2024 at 07:45 PM

TC

“ The Austin, Nosek, & Davis Clan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Bonczek.

The Austin, Nosek, & Davis Clan - July 31, 2024 at 07:45 PM

SW

“ Smith Transport Warehouse purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Edward Bonczek.



Smith Transport Warehouse - July 31, 2024 at 07:34 PM

TB

“ I have fond memories of visiting Aunt LaDella and Uncle Ed during the summer. He was always kind and made us feel welcome.



Tara Wren Blue - July 31, 2024 at 07:08 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 07:05 PM

PN

Those raccoons loved Eddie. They followed him everywhere.

Paul Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 09:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 07:05 PM

SN

What a joy filled photo!

Shannon Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 07:19 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 07:04 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Helen Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 07:02 PM

PN

In the photo with the cross, you can see a small drop in the mountain behind. The other picture of him in the red jacket, was taken at the top of that mountain. This was in 2005 in Southern Poland, he was 73!

Paul Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 09:08 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Helen Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 06:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 06:56 PM

PN

We talked about everything in this location for the past six years, including him way with animals. (Like the woodpecker on his leg?)

Paul Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 09:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen Nunnelly - July 31, 2024 at 06:54 PM