

William E. Dunlap

DRAKES: William (Bill) Everett Dunlap died on the evening of January 3, 2016, aged 86. He was at his home with his wife and family. The son of the late Everett John Dunlap, and Edna Jane Reich Dunlap, Bill was born on February 7, 1929 in Corning, Ohio.

A graduate of Corning High School, Bill left his hometown to serve in the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1948 in its occupation of Korea. Upon completion of his two-year deployment, he returned home and met Frances (Fran) Tharp, the beautiful daughter of Wesley and Nettie Tharp of Hemlock. A three-year courtship began, which resulted in marriage on August 11, 1951, and sixty-four more years together.

Bill attended Ohio University where he earned a Bachelor's (1954) and Master's (1958) degree in Education. He would spend his entire professional life as a teacher and educational administrator near his hometown. Bill's first teaching job was in a one-room schoolhouse in Gosline. He would then work as an elementary teacher and coach at Corning before becoming its principal in 1970. He served as principal for the elementary schools of Corning, Rendville and Moxahala before his appointment as principal at Miller High School in 1971, and later, as the superintendent of the district. Bill was the superintendent of the Southern Local Schools for thirteen years until his retirement in 1985.

Those who knew Bill greatly appreciated his devotion to the school district during his career and after. His unwavering support for Miller's sports continued after retirement. Bill was a fixture at numerous sporting events where he was often greeted by the Miller teams at the beginning of each game. In 2003, the Miller girl's

volleyball team recognized Bill, their favorite fan, with a plaque for his faithful attendance. He also continued his efforts to bolster the school's academic agenda. In 2000, Bill and Fran invested in the lives of many young Miller students with the establishment of the William and Frances Dunlap Scholarship. The funds raised through this scholarship program continue to be conferred to Miller graduates to help provide opportunities for higher education.

Bill's unceasing dedication to the school district garnered local recognition and commendation. Much appreciated by his former colleagues and the local community, Bill was honored in 1994 when the gymnasium at Miller High School was named in his honor—the William E. Dunlap Gymnasium. In 2001, he was inducted into the Southern Local Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, and, in 2015 a Gingko Biloba tree was planted and dedicated in the honor of Bill and Fran at the entrance of Miller High School's football field. His work for the Southern Local School District will not soon be forgotten.

Bill's life was also devoted to other pursuits. He was a member of seventy-four years in the United Methodist Church of Corning, where he served on the administrative board and in the positions of treasurer and trustee. Additionally, Bill belonged to several civic organizations: the Corning Masonic Lodge #584, the Scottish Rite, the Corning American Legion Post #327, the Ohio Education Association, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, and the Retired Teachers Associations of Perry County and of Ohio. He served eighteen years as treasurer for the Citizens for Southern Schools and was appointed to two terms on the Ohio Lottery Commission. Until recently, Bill sat on boards for the Perry County Library, Perry-Hocking Educational Service Center, and the Tri-County Career Center.

Along with his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his sister Betty Jane Bingman and her husband Eugene Bingman; father-in-law Wesley Tharp and mother-in-law Nettie Tharp; and brothers-in-law Randy Tharp, Wesley Tharp Jr., and Raymond Tharp. He is survived by his wife Frances Dunlap and their two children: Anita (Steve) Pompey of Crooksville, and Jeff (Jodi) Dunlap of Dresden; six grandchildren: Zachary (Lindsay) Pompey, Seth (Theresa) Pompey, Jordan (Danielle) Pompey, Travis Dunlap, Tyler Dunlap, Alicia Dunlap, and Trisha (Jason) Blake; eight great grandchildren: Owen, Jack, Josie, Norah, Maisy, Annabelle, Stella, and Kathryn; sisters-in-law: Connie (Bob) Spergin, Kathy (Terry) Jones, Vicky Tharp, and Glenna Tharp; brothers-in-law: Mike (Patricia) Tharp, and Bill (Debbie) Tharp, along with many special nieces, nephews, and friends.

Bill was a committed and caring family man. He loved his family immeasurably and he meant the world to all of them. Bill's life and legacy will endure among family, friends and his community for generations.

The family would like to thank Dr. Stephen Ulrich and the hospice staff of Genesis Healthcare for all of their care and assistance.

The J. E. Humphrey Funeral Home in Shawnee has made all arrangements. Calling hours will be held at William E. Dunlap Gymnasium at Miller High School Wednesday, January 6th from 4 to 8 PM and one hour prior to the funeral service. The Masonic Lodge will hold their services at 8:00 PM on Wednesday. Funeral services will be held at Bethany United Methodist Church Thursday at 1 PM with the Reverend John Kay officiating. The burial will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in New Lexington with military honors presented by the Corning Post #327 of the American Legion.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bethany United Methodist Church or to the Southern Perry County Academic Endowment Fund, PO Box 498, Corning, Ohio 43730.