

In Memorial
Dr. Richard E. Hill
February 6, 1930 – March 17, 2017

Dr. Richard E. Hill, 87, passed away on March 17, 2017 following a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease.

Dick was born on February 6, 1930, the only child of the late Emmett and Ruth (Bergman) Hill. Raised on a farm near Bargersville, Indiana, Dick won many 4-H awards, was president of the Junior Leaders, and was a 4-year starter and co-captain of the Union Township High School basketball championship team. His love for his parents, friends, and community of his youth held special meaning throughout Dick's life.

The U.S. Army ROTC program provided an opportunity for Dick to be the first in his family to attend college. He earned a B.A. from Indiana University in 1953, followed by his service as a 1st Lieutenant in Japan and Korea from 1953 – 1955. He was later a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves, and the awardee of three service medals.

With help from the GI Bill, Dick earned an M.B.A. from I.U. in 1956. While in Bloomington, he met a young nursing student, Barbara Ann Snyder, who was to become the love of his life. Dick and Barbara were wed in Indianapolis in 1957. The two were inseparable, sharing all of their life experiences as partners.

Dick earned a Ph.D. at Purdue University in 1970, and joined the faculty of Western Kentucky University. In 1971, he moved his family to his wife's hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he was a Professor in the Business School of Indiana-Purdue University for 20 years, before retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1991. Dick saw tremendous value in higher education, and was admired by his students for encouraging them in their academics and careers. He believed that people should be treated fairly in the workplace, and used his Human Resources expertise to serve as Executive Director of the Personnel Accreditation Institute. He was appointed Commissioner on the Metropolitan Human Relations Board and served as an AARP National Trainer.

Having encouraged Barbara to earn a doctoral degree and to become a Professor herself, the two shared their passion for education as an IPFW couple, continuing their support and involvement as "Mastodons" even after retirement. Dick supported the Fort Wayne community he loved through many generous sponsorships. Founding a nursing scholarship and funding specialized training programs for rehab therapists were but a few of his causes.

Dick loved traveling all over the country with Barbara in their RV, and attending and hosting Hoosier Cruisers RV rallies. He was most proud of his parents, wife, children and grandchildren, and cherished his lasting friendships with childhood friends, IPFW colleagues, special neighbors, former students, and friends from Plymouth Church and the Parkinson's Support Group.

Respectfully submitted,

Department of Management and Marketing