



Dale Blichmann

January 5, 1926 - January 5, 2012

Dale A. Blichmann, 86, of Kingsford, died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain.

He was born March 12, 1925, in Dubuque, Iowa, son of the late Arthur and Florence (Leib) Blichmann. Dale graduated from Dubuque Senior High School in 1943, and enlisted in the United States Army a few weeks later. He served his country during World War II in New Guinea, landing at Lingayan on Luzon, and spent some three months in Japan after the war.

Upon being discharged from the service, he went on to college, first majoring in forestry, and then English. He began teaching in Kingsford in 1956, married Lorraine Bjorkquist the following June, and taught at Kingsford High School some 28 years. He taught American Literature, Composition, and Latin. He was involved in debate and the photo club, track and cross country. He enjoyed running and was one of the original joggers in the area. Dale also enjoyed hiking, and backpacking.

He was an active member of the "Right To Life" since 1972. He organized two local photography shows, "A Day in the Life of Dickinson County" and "My Seven Best Photos," and he was an active member of Road to Recovery. He loved writing and at the age of 80 wrote his autobiography.

He was a member of St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Church and the Secular Order of the Carmelites.

Dale is survived by his loving wife, Lorraine Blichmann of Iron Mountain; sons, Bob (Betsy) Blichmann of Charlotte, N.C., Tom Blichmann of Norway, and Jim (Jodi) Blichmann of Hudsonville, Mich.; seven grandchildren, Paul and Clara Blichmann, Brenda (Jeff) Gurchinoff and Dana Blichmann, Jennifer Blichmann, Justine (Matt) Anderson, and Jeffrey Blichmann; and a brother, Richard (Barbara) Blichmann of Dubuque, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Blichmann.

Visitation will be Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iron Mountain.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the church. Fr. Daniel Zaloga will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Condolences to the family of Dale Blichmann may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 10. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church
414 Prospect Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church
414 Prospect Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

KS

“ This may seem very odd to have an entry at this time, but I wanted to offer my condolences & share why Mr. Blichmann was so special to me. You may be aware of an assignment he gave all his students---their journal. I had Mr. Blichmann in the 9th grade. I HATED writing & wouldn't you know he gave the journal assignment. We had various assigned writings, some of our own choice & we did it for 1/2 a year, then he gave us each a large envelope & had us seal our journals inside with written instructions on the outside stating we were not to open it for 20yrs. He also included in the instructions that he would very much enjoy any of us contacting him when we had arrived at that date & opened it. He was the 1st to introduce trail mix into my life. He also allowed us to mark things "private" if we wrote about things we didn't care to share. I always felt that was a really trusting thing to do, especially with teens. I remember him talking about nature, a lot & I believe he planted the seeds that helped me to become a pretty socially, environmentally conscious person. I didn't call him when I read my journal & for that I am sorry. I thought about it too many times to count & finally today I decided to see if he was still with us. If I would have called on him, I would have thanked him for all the lessons he taught me, when I had know clue he was. He annoyed me. I found him a bit too "nice", but he & all that he shared with our class really impacted me. Boy, what my daughters would give to know I was a sassy, rambunctious teen just like them.....just a while ago. I'm sorry for your loss. I'm guessing he lived a very rich, joy filled life.

Kim Cichocki - Green Bay, WI - past student - May 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

R1

“ *Mr. Blichmann was a caring and kind teacher who took pride in his student's accomplishments. He encouraged each of his students to do their best.*

His smile was uplifting to anyone who knew him.

May He Rest in Peace

Rosemarie Meyer - St. Francis Missionary School, Lumberton, NM - KHS student in 1958 - January 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ *Dale has been my most memorable teacher and I still often use the lessons I learned from him in Latin and English classes. We reconnected a few years ago and developed a great friendship through e-mail. I feel privileged to have been able to enjoy his wisdom, enthusiasm, encouragement, writings, memories and great kindness. My condolences to all of the family and friends to whom he made a difference. He was a man who lived what he believed and we are all greater for having been a part of his life.*

Emma Perry Roberts

Class of 1965

Emma Perry Roberts - Lund, NV - Friend - January 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *I remember Dale as a dear friend of my father's. Dale was gentle and caring, deeply spiritual, and shared my father's love of wilderness (they backpacked together several times "Out West").*

We light this candle in memory of Dale.

-From the Warren Blomquist family.

Judy Blomquist Brey - Reedsburg, WI - Daughter of Dale's friend - January 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I will always remember him as one of the kindest and most patient teachers I ever had. His patience helped me to gain control of my stuttering problem when I was just 14 or 15 years old.
I am so sorry for your loss and can sincerely say he had a wonderful impact on my life.
Karen Jensen, one of his first students at KHS.

Karen Jensen - Sarasota, FL - Former Latin student - January 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I remember the Saab, 3 cylinders, 2-cycle engine. Mr. Blichmann was so proud of that car.

I also remember Latin class. Mr. Blickmann made a dry subject come alive. We had a lot of fun "playing" with the language.

My condolences to the family. May God comfort you in this time.

Bob Divine
KHS class of 1966

Bob Divine - Austin, MN - Former student - January 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ My mother informed me of Mr. Blickman's passing. My sincere condolences. He taught me much more than Latin at KHS. Life lessons I learned from him I still use today. Again, my condolences.
Beau Lawrence

Beau Lawrence - Howell, MI - former student - January 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dale's passing. I never had the pleasure of meeting him personally. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Julie

Julie Blichmann - Oskaloosa, KS - 2nd cousin - January 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Dear Lorraine and Family,

Dale was my debate coach throughout my four years at Kingsford High School. The debate team learned many lessons from him in terms of logic and debating strategies, but even more, we learned to honestly present arguments and to respect our opponents. I also taught with Dale for quite a few years at Kingsford High School. He was always a respected member of the faculty, a gentleman and a gentle man, who cared for his students, their families and his fellow faculty members. He stood up for his beliefs in an ardent and professional manner. He was a devout Christian and family man. We all have benefitted from the fine example he provided in his daily life.

Please accept my sincere condolences. We know he is now at peace with the Lord, who certainly said "Well done, my good and faithful servant" when Dale appeared at the gates of heaven.

Bill Cummings

Bill Cummings - Iron Mountain, MI - student/faculty member - January 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FM

“ My condolences to Dale's wife and family on their temporary loss. I still remember Dale's courage in attending Holy Mass at St Mary & St Joseph Church whenever he could, in spite of his illness. May God grant his soul Eternal Rest!

Fr. Gregory Veneklas - Iron River, MI - January 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GT

“ My sympathy goes out to the Blichmann family. Mr. Blichmann inspired me in highschool with my running and he encouraged me to stay focused and try to not waste so much time playing around. He became a good customer and someone I looked up to. Once again sorry for your lost.

Gary and Connie Jacobson - Kingsford, MI - Past Teacher - January 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Mr. Blichmann was my Latin teacher and I remember him as a kind, sincere man who really was ahead of his time. He drove a Saab...I think that was it... and loved to run! I had an opportunity to chat with him a few years ago at Super One when I was in IM. Still a vibrant mind and favorite teacher. May he rest in peace.

*Carol Constantini Jeske
Class of 1971*

Carol Constantini Jeske - Menominee, MI - January 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ I will always remember Latin classes with Mr. Blichmann! His enthusiasm for both the language and teaching made his classes hugely enjoyable. I remember him trying to get a group of us girls to go out running every day after school as there "might be" a girls track team coming and we should be ready. But what I remember most was his warmth and humor and his willingness to take extra time if you needed help.

Veni, Vidi, Vici Mr. Blichmann and thank you.

Carol (Wender) Friendewey - January 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ My deepest sympathy to your family.

I have alot fond of memories of Dale as my teacher in Literature and Latin class at Kingsford. I still remember the "Ides of March" because of him. He was devoted in his teaching kids about life in general. Even more he was a friend. I met him a few years back, after not seeing him for along time. He remembered me and we had a great conversation. The education world has lost a great teacher and society has lost a great man.

*Terry Strutz
Sobieski, WI
KHS Classof 1976*

Terry Strutz - Sobieski, WI - friend - January 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CI

“ *Mrs. Blichmann & Family,
I have such warm memories of many high school classes with Mr. Blichmann. I especially remember his "word lists" which I still challenge myself to use today (only one new word per week, I am too old for ten new words now).*

Please accept my sincere condolences, such a wonderful man who touched many lives through his long and blessed life. I hope the prayers of many will help ease the pain of your loss.

*May God Bless You
Carol Famiani - Chicago IL
KHS Class of 1983*

Carol Famiani - Chicago , IL - January 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Mr. Blichman:
My bus driver, English teacher, mentor, advisor, neighbor and friend.
To his family,
Because my brother, Gary, can not communicate to you at this time,
I also speak for him. The Mannigel family extends our deepest sympathy to all the members of our longtime friends and neighbors, the Blichmans. May all your fond memories of Dale sustain you and give you peace.*

The Mannigels

Rock and Pam Mannigel - Pulaski, WI - Friends and neighbor from Cass -
January 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM