



Floyd Thomas "Tom" Risinger

September 6, 1935 - August 19, 2016

F. Thomas Risinger, age 80, of Westfield, Indiana, formerly of Dugger and Rensselaer, Indiana, passed away Friday, August 19, 2016, at Wellbrooke of Westfield. Tom was born in Dugger, Indiana on September 6, 1935, the son of George William "Bud" and Mildred V. (Thomas) Risinger.

Tom was a 1953 graduate of Union High School Dugger, Indiana. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Education and a Principal's License in School Administration from Indiana State University. Tom began teaching in 1963 and was a teacher and an administrator until his retirement in 1995. He taught Science and Biology at Kankakee Valley High School before returning to his hometown as principal of Union secondary schools. Tom enjoyed coaching young people. While in northern Indiana, Tom coached track, cross country and basketball. He was an avid golfer and St. Louis Cardinals fan.

On August 31, 1978, in Rensselaer, Indiana Tom married Donna Clark Fortune.

Tom was a member of the First Presbyterian Church Sullivan, IN., and the Masonic Prairie Lodge #125 F&AM, Rensselaer, Indiana. He served as an Indiana State Teachers Association Representative and served sixteen years on the Sullivan County Public Library Board Sullivan, Indiana. He was also a member of the Sullivan Elks Rinky-Dinks Senior Golf League.

Surviving with Donna, his loving wife of 37 years, are his daughters, Bonnie Risinger of Indianapolis and Sally "Sal" (Deb) Risinger of Tucson, Arizona; step-children Clark Fortune of Farmington Hills, Michigan, Gretchen (Patrick)

Rafferty of Sheridan, Indiana and Stephanie (John) Smith of Noblesville, Indiana; grandchildren Amber Risinger, Chris Risinger, Katie Risinger, Natasha Pearce, Alex Pearce, Kalli Fortune-Ball, Lindsay Fortune, Wilson Smith, Samuel Smith and Shaela Rafferty and eleven great-grandchildren. Tom was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, three sisters and his son, Barry O Risinger.

Graveside Services will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. at the Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer, Indiana with Rev. Elizabeth Hartmann officiating.

A celebration of life was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Sullivan, Indiana on August 24, 2016.

Memorial donations may be made to the ALS Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Weston Cemetery

Weston Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5626

Previous Events

Graveside Services

SEP 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Weston Cemetery
Weston Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5626

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Judy Beehler lit a candle in memory of Floyd Thomas "Tom" Risinger*



Judy Beehler - September 09, 2016 at 01:53 AM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Floyd Thomas "Tom" Risinger*



Judy Burvan - September 02, 2016 at 10:37 PM

KW

“ *Dear Donna, Clark, Gretchen, and Stephanie: Rick contacted me about Tom's passing after it was announced at church. Being involved in education, Tom influenced many people of all ages. He will be greatly missed. I will keep all of you in my prayers. Love, Kathy Williams*

Kathy Williams - August 24, 2016 at 05:08 PM

JL

“ *Jim & Dorrie Lefler lit a candle in memory of Floyd Thomas "Tom" Risinger*



Jim & Dorrie Lefler - August 23, 2016 at 10:43 PM

JS

“ After four years of teaching, And having been RIFFED for the second straight year at IPS, Tom talked me into staying in the education field. 25 years later and in my 29th year of teaching, I once again thank Tom for his encouragement. Tom, you were a fantastic father in law, a second father to me, an incredible grandfather to my two sons, second father to my wife, and you will surely be missed. Fortunately, I can now talk to you all the time and I know you will listen. Continue to be by my boys side Tom. Finally, thanks for teaching me great sayings like, "North end of a south bound skunk." AND my favorite when you catch the pivotal trick in a card game, "Oh, sweet Dolly, I'm coming home!" Love to ya Thomas!!!!

John Smith - August 23, 2016 at 08:29 PM

RC

“ I was director at the library during Tom's time on the board. He was a dedicated board member. I will always remember how he was left speechless when learning that the State Legislature had approved weapons in the library. Condolences to Donna and family.

Becky Cole

Rebecca Cole - August 23, 2016 at 08:04 PM

DK

“ Several years ago, after he retired, Mr. Risinger was hired to attend special education conferences as a designated administrator for Southwest School Corporation in Sullivan County where I teach developmental preschool. We could not hold conferences with special education students' parents without an administrator and the school principal was unable to attend. Mr. Risinger was always very interested in my students and their families. He attended my conferences for a couple years, around 40 conferences. We once went on a "Field Trip" conference to a student's home when we were unable to get the parent to come to the school. He certainly won my admiration as he sat on a soiled floor in his suit with cats crawling all over him during our meeting! One cat was missing its tail, except for the two inch bone sticking out of it! We laughed about that one for quite awhile! He was always respectful to the families and truly wanted to make a difference in my students' lives. I loved chatting with him between conferences, sometimes for an hour or more as we waited for the parent to show up. He was very proud of his children and family. I feel honored to have known him!

*Debbi Kendall
Developmental Preschool Teacher
Greene- Sullivan Special Education Cooperative*

Debra Kendall - August 23, 2016 at 07:37 PM



“ Tom and I were on the Library Board together for several years. He usually brought homemade candy to our Christmas meetings. He was a Principal when my son was a student at Union high School. He was also a member of my Church. Always enjoyed his sense of humor and gentle ways Never heard him say a bad word about anyone. He will be missed. Prayers for his family.

Shar Strahle - August 23, 2016 at 06:14 PM

SA

“ *Scott Adamson lit a candle in memory of Floyd Thomas "Tom" Risinger*



Scott Adamson - August 23, 2016 at 11:40 AM

BN

“ *Sorry to here of Mr. Tom Risinger's Passing he was one of my teachers at K.V.H.S. and also my track coach, I really enjoyed him as a teacher but even more as a track coach to this day I can remember things from my days as a student athlete learning from him, for more than 30 years now I have always wanted to let him know that he was right I did have more that day but he still let me know I did a good job in that final race. Now he knows sorry and what a great person.*

Brian Nannenga - August 22, 2016 at 07:58 PM

RS

“ Donna and family, We are so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. He was principal when we lived in Dugger in 89-90 & told us he "had a house in Rensselaer" we might be interested in when moving further north. The timing wasn't right for purchasing the house but we sure loved the town of Rensselaer it was close to. He told us & our son Clint that if Rensselaer didn't work out, we could always come back to Dugger. We knew it was in jest but made us feel like we had options! He even told us the date we had to re-enroll Clint if we did move back - for him to be eligible to play high school basketball per the IHSAA guidelines. We had sporadic contact with both of you over the years but were always so happy to have those visits. He was so proud of you and your talents and of your families. Please know that we will not be able to attend the memorial service but you and your families have our sincere thoughts and prayers..

Larry and Ruth Swan and family.

Ruth Swan - August 22, 2016 at 05:49 PM

SL

“ Selina Garland Lucas lit a candle in memory of Floyd Thomas "Tom" Risinger



Selina Garland Lucas - August 22, 2016 at 05:45 PM

DS

“ Tom was principal at Union HS at the same time that I was principal at North Central HS. We shared administrative meetings and several evenings together as our schools competed in sporting events. I had the opportunity to watch him in action as a principal. He had a wonderful rapport with his young people. We also spent time together in Indianapolis as part of the Indiana Association of School Principals conventions. We also enjoyed playing golf on the way home. I was proud to know Tom both as a fellow principal and as a friend. He was one of the good guys and will be missed.

Dave Scott - August 22, 2016 at 04:53 PM

JB

“ Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Floyd Thomas "Tom" Risinger



Judy Burvan - August 22, 2016 at 12:35 PM

NB

“ Donna and family, I am retired from SWSC and got to know Tom when he was our admin for special ed. conferences and he also filled in for principal, Maria Manzola, at SES when I taught there. I really liked and respected him. He was also a hoot, which helps in the education profession.
Our home borders the Sullivan Elk's golf course. My husband, Tom Booker, Jr., would bring him over for some "high octane" which helped their golf games.
Please accept our sincerest sympathy for your loss. Tom and Nancy Booker

Nancy Booker - August 22, 2016 at 12:06 PM

DW

“ Our deepest sympathy to all of you. May the hand of God lead you through these difficult days.
Don & Gloria Waymouth



Don & Gloria Waymouth - August 21, 2016 at 04:25 PM

PB

“ Donna You have our deepest Sympathy on Tom's passing.you have the Bilyeu family's prayers+ thoughts your way.From Paul+Rosie Bilyeu

paul bilyeu - August 21, 2016 at 03:26 PM

JZ

“ Donna, I was sad to read of the death of your husband, Tom. I shall keep you and your family in my prayers. Jane (Holt) Zebendon



Jane Zebendon - August 21, 2016 at 02:43 PM

LA

“ Mr. Risinger was such a GREAT Teacher. I have wonderful memories of his classes at K.V. during the 1970's. Condolences to his family.

Lori Anderson - August 21, 2016 at 11:40 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Floyd Thomas "Tom" Risinger.*



August 21, 2016 at 10:20 AM



“ *Me. Risinger was definitely my favorite teacher. He always made sure we had a fun time along with learning. My deepest sympathy to all the family & may the comfort of the Lord help you through this difficult time.*



debbie schultz - August 21, 2016 at 06:25 AM



“ *He was such a cool teacher. He was a fun teacher. Always there to lend a hand or an ear!!!*

Bobbie Hunter-Hixson - August 20, 2016 at 08:27 PM



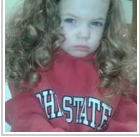
“ *One of the greatest teachers. Never gave up on me in my beginning years of education when the others had. He always told me to prove them wrong. Really nice guy.*

Pauline Miller - August 20, 2016 at 08:16 PM



“ *One of my favorite teachers. He was truly a great influence on kids. Prayers to the family.*

Jessie Armstrong - August 20, 2016 at 08:03 PM



“ *Mr Risinger was always one of my favorite teachers. He was a great man. Smart with a quick wit and always there for us when we were kids. He will be greatly missed.*

Prayers for his family

Beth Spriggs

Beth Winemiller - August 20, 2016 at 07:44 PM

RP

Totally agree Beth. I had him for Biology and I enjoyed his class so much. Prayers to all he touched.

Rena Patton - August 21, 2016 at 11:24 AM