



## Lynn Lary Sakel

November 24, 1935 - November 7, 2016

Lynn Lary Sakel, age 80, died peacefully on Nov. 7, 2016 in his home in DeMotte, Indiana. He is survived by his wife Tracie; his stepson, Edward (Brenda) Cummings and step daughters Cheri (John) Tuinstra and Patty (Clarence) Oudman; 9 grandchildren, Tim, Julie, Rebekah, Jon, Todd, Ryan, Mark, Lauren and Tricia, who referred to him as “Grandpa Lary” and 14 great grandchildren who referred to him as “Papa Lary”. Lary was preceded in death by his parents Maurice and Octavia “Peg” Sakel and by his first wife Mary Francis Cummings Sakel.

Lary was born on Nov 24, 1935 in Red Bay, Alabama but spent his formative years in and around Stendal, Indiana, where he graduated from High School. He attended Evansville College where he played basketball before transferring to Florida Southern from where he graduated. He later received a Master’s Degree from Indiana State University.

Lary was a social studies teacher and basketball coach at Plainville and Freelandville, Indiana. In 1963 he moved to DeMotte where he taught social studies at DeMotte High School and then Kankakee Valley High School until his retirement in 1998.

While teaching, Lary continued his quest for learning, receiving a correspondence law degree from Blackstone School of Law and then studying for and achieving status as a licensed minister in the United Church of Christ. He used his legal education by serving as Town Judge in DeMotte. He also served as Pastor of the St. Luke’s UCC church in San Pierre, Indiana. He was

Chaplain of the DeMotte Police and also Oak Grove Retirement Village in DeMotte. He performed many marriages and funeral services for his many friends and their families in the DeMotte area.

Lary will be remembered as a well-known story teller who also enjoyed singing songs with his own melodies. He was a wonderful husband to Mary and Tracie, best man and mentor to Ed, and a loving grandfather. He had a strong Christian faith with compassion and concern for all.

Lary attended the First Christian Reformed Church and was a member of the Gideon's International and the DeMotte Ministerial Association.

Friends may visit with the family at the First Christian Reformed Church on Friday, November 11, 2016 from 10 AM till 2 PM. Funeral services will be held at 2 PM on Friday, November 11, 2016 at the First Christian Church in DeMotte with Pastor Laryn Zoerhof officiating. Graveside services will be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, November 14, 2016 at the Bethel Cemetery in Freelandville, IN.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Gideon's International or to the DeMotte Christian School.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 11. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Reformed Church  
1633 South Halleck Street  
DeMotte, IN

## Service

NOV 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Reformed Church  
1633 South Halleck Street  
DeMotte, IN

## Graveside Services

NOV 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bethel Cemetery  
13673 E ST RD 58  
Edwardsport, IN 47528

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ *A truly wonderful man! Mr. Sakel will be dearly missed! I was amazed with his kindness, loving personality and compassion with his family & students! After graduating I would run into Mr Sakel quite often. He would pray with me for my health and recovery from many spinal surgeries. The love I have for you Mr Sakel will be eternal, till we meet again my friend! Heaven has received a angel!!*



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**Dawn L. Hilton McCoy** - August 13, 2017 at 11:14 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lynn Lary Sakel.*



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November 11, 2016 at 05:12 PM

BL

“ *Mr Sakal was a warm, generous man who always put others before himself. I was lucky enough to have him as a teacher in highschool, and well as having him perform the service at my wife and my wedding. There are so many stories I would like to share, converstions we had that i will always hold close to my heart. I will miss him as everyone will and I consider myself a lucky man to have had him in my life for guidance and friendship*  
*Brian lockhart*

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**Brian lockhart** - November 11, 2016 at 01:02 PM

NJ

“ We will miss, Lary. He was a very special person in our lives. I always enjoyed bumping into Lary when we visited our family. He always had a kind and funny comment to share. He was such a sweet man. We will always have the memory of him officiating our wedding. Sending our condolences to all of Lary's loved ones.

Nicki Jansen - November 11, 2016 at 12:40 PM

LW

“ Lary and I first became friends in grade school. We graduated from Stendal High School in 1954 and I have been proud to call him 'my friend' all through the years. He will be missed by many !!

Laura L. Willis - November 10, 2016 at 05:32 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Lynn Lary Sakel.



November 10, 2016 at 12:22 PM

OV

“ Oak Grove Christian Retirement Village purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lynn Lary Sakel.



Oak Grove Christian Retirement Village - November 09, 2016 at 10:54 AM

BM

“ *Mr Sakel always had a smile and words of encouragement. He conducted my wedding ceremony in 93 and spoke to me anytime he saw me and always remembered my name, which is amazing knowing how many people he has been around over the years! I can hear him singing Ghost riders In the Sky . My sincerest condolences to his family!*

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**Brian McDaniel** - November 08, 2016 at 10:39 PM

BR

“ *Mr. Sakel never could call him Larry, I had so much respect for this great teacher and all around kind man. He officiated at my daughters wedding and I am so glad he did, it meant more to me having him do it. He also attended our class of "72" class reunion and we were looking forward for him to attend our 45th next summer. I guess he will look down from heaven to bless his former students. Rest in peace Mr. Sakel, you will be missed.*

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**Beverly Rader** - November 08, 2016 at 07:23 PM

RS

“ *Lary was a wonderful man who touched so many lives, including mine.....Rozanne Sanders, Pendleton, Ind.....formerly Demotte.*

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**Rozanne Sanders** - November 08, 2016 at 07:13 PM

 Cindie Hilliard

“ *A favorite teacher, always an admirable human being. Our condolences to the family.*

*John Compton*

*Cindie Hilliard-Compton*

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**Cindie Hilliard** - November 08, 2016 at 06:46 PM

RS

“ of all the great teachers I had,he was number 1,love the story he told about being a reknowned race car driver and people would amass just to get a chance to touch his clothing.he was one of a kind!!!

*rick sytsma class of 77*

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**rick sytsma** - November 08, 2016 at 02:15 PM

JT

“ I will see you at Homecoming later! Praise God! Jim Tanis class of 1964.

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**Jim Tanis** - November 08, 2016 at 01:47 PM



“ Ahhhh, Mr. Sakel, my forever friend. I will miss your shining, happy face around town. I wanted you to officiate my daughter's wedding in July.

*"Go rest high on that mountain*

*Your work on earth is done.*

*Go to heaven a-shoutin'*

*Love for the Father and the Son." ~ Vince Gill*



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**Irene Conley** - November 08, 2016 at 12:57 PM

VM

*Mr. Sakel was my first teacher of psychology, and he officiated my wedding 23 years ago. He was also an alum of my university, and I will miss him very much.*

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**valerie Fase Milholland** - November 08, 2016 at 08:19 PM



“ He was a kind, smart, very caring man. Teacher, judge, & community advocate... Always around town, Oak Grove, anywhere he could project a positive vibe to everyone he encountered. The area has lost a great man!

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**Mike Scamihorn** - November 08, 2016 at 10:28 AM



“ He was a great man who was involved in his community. From teaching to a judge with heart and compassion to a good Christian. He will missed.

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**Joseph Fyda** - November 08, 2016 at 10:03 AM



“ Tracy, I am so sorry for your loss. You know how we all loved him at St. Luke. He was such a gentle man who showed love for all and will be missed but a host of friends.

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**Anne Eckert** - November 08, 2016 at 07:44 AM



“ A great man and a true teacher. We lost a great one for sure.



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**Marcus** - November 08, 2016 at 02:58 AM

DW

“ Tracy, so sorry for your loss, he was a wonderful Christian man! Our family will be praying for you and your`s

*Duane Vander Woude Family*



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**Duane Vander Woude** - November 07, 2016 at 11:20 PM

DS

“ My teacher and my judge. The compassion of Mr. Sakel is one of the most remarkable things I remember. I had him both as a teacher and a judge. When I was 14 or 15 I was riding my motorcycle over to my girlfriends house when I got stopped by a DeMotte Police officer. I don't recall doing anything "wrong" except for being underage on a public road. We all road our motorcycles everywhere back then. Anyway, I was brought up before the Judge. He had a pow-wow with my dad and the officer. They all agreed to a verbal scare/reprimand. They knew it was just kid being a kid. What I took away was his compassion. Decades later, I still recall his kind act.

*His kindness and knack for knowing the right thing to do also transferred to his teaching and Christian life. I am so honored to know him. Much love to Judge Sakel and his family.*

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**Darren Serhal** - November 07, 2016 at 10:52 PM

RP

“ Robin Palermo lit a candle in memory of Lynn Lary Sakel



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**Robin Palermo** - November 07, 2016 at 10:42 PM

WS

“ Larry probably had more friends than any one. I had him for a teacher, Police Chaplin, and a close Christian friend. He will be missed by many. God bless you my good friend.

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**Wayne Swanson** - November 07, 2016 at 10:34 PM



“ Best thing he always did was if I got a ticket he told me to come see him, he help me get out of a few tickets back in the day, Greatest teacher ever had.

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**David Phillips** - November 07, 2016 at 09:45 PM

KE

“ Not only was he the sweetest teacher in high school, but he performed our wedding ceremony 23 years ago....telling my husband at the rehearsal that we should leave "obey" out of the vows because Brian probably didn't want to have to vow to obey me. Mr. Sakel was a funny man. He knew each of his students very well. He reminded me of that on my special event when he told Brian that if he put obey into our wedding vows, it meant that Brian would be obeying ME until our eternity....because he knew that I certainly would be the one dishing out the rules!  
Rest in peace, sir. You were an angel walking on earth. I can still hear Ghost Riders being sang through the halls when we had convocations at KVHS!

*Brian and Kandace (Billings) Evers  
(Kandace Billings-KVHS 1991)*

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**Kandace Evers** - November 07, 2016 at 09:43 PM

JS

“ My first memory of beloved Mr. Sakel was when he allowed me as a freshman to take his upper level Bible History class. Through the years he became a dear friend and prayer warrior for me and my family. Heaven is truly a sweeter place to go to now that my friend Lary is there. I will be looking forward to seeing him there. Thank you Lary for your kindness to all.

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**John M. Swart** - November 07, 2016 at 09:09 PM

BW

“ One great guy. The kindest, friendliest person I have ever meet. I asked him to marry Dawn and I back in 2005. He said yes on the spot. He loved it because he got to see and talk to so many of his former students. RIP Larry

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**Bruce Williamson** - November 07, 2016 at 08:54 PM

PN

“ Judge Sakel was one of the true gentlemen in this world. He was one of the few people that everyone had something positive to say about him and with a smile on their face. As a student I truly enjoyed his class and stories. As the teacher who replaced him in the social studies department I have discovered that you cannot fill Lary's shoes. I just spoke to Judge Sakel on the phone the other week and he was keeping a close eye on this election, particularly with a family relative, John Gregg, running for Governor. I guess my mind at this time remembers Judge Sakel singing "Ghost Riders in the Sky."

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**Paul Norwine** - November 07, 2016 at 07:32 PM

KA

“ I am so very sorry to read this. I have known Judge Sakel for many years. He always made me feel like he was so happy to see me. He always had a kind word for everyone- along with words of wisdom to share! He was a genuine, kind, caring, good hearted man. He will be greatly missed in our community!! ❤️

Kathy - November 07, 2016 at 07:12 PM

MM

“ My dad died on April 26, 2003 and I went home to see the family and help plan his funeral. My sister, brother-in-law, and mom had suggested a few preachers and I thought about it a minute and said no. I mentioned Mr. Sakel because I wanted someone I could trust. We called and left a message and in about an hour he called back and said he would do it.....he didn't want or expect money like most do....he just wanted to sit and eat with us after. We just lost a very honorable and good man.

Max Martin - November 07, 2016 at 07:10 PM

DS

Mr Samuel was my school teacher a great man sad to hear this

Dennis sayers - November 07, 2016 at 07:57 PM

LS

“ One of my favorite teachers has passed away! Mr. Sakel we all loved you! My favorite memories of Mr. Sakel were when he would sing Happy Birthday to a student and we would tell him it was someone's birthday just so he would sing!! The BEST was when he brought in a TV so we could all watch Luke & Laura get married on General Hospital our freshman year during last hour! He was the best!! We will miss you Mr. Sakel! May you rest in peace!!! Love Lisa & Jerry Smith family

Lisa Smith - November 07, 2016 at 06:58 PM



“ *I never had him as a teacher, but always heard nothing but good things about him. He married my husband and I. God grant you peace.*

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**Susan Elizabeth** - November 07, 2016 at 06:51 PM

BS

“ *I met Lary when I first began teaching at KV. What a special man he was and continued to be his entire life. I seriously believe he never met a stranger..he loved chatting with everyone! And the best part is..he never forgot the conversations over the years. He always had a smile. His kindness will be missed in this world.*

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**Bonnie Sparks** - November 07, 2016 at 06:41 PM



*You are right, Bonnie, he had a fantastic memory of people*

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**Irene Conley** - November 08, 2016 at 06:32 PM



Steven  
Comptor

*God Bless, Mr. Sake!!!! My Favorite Guitarist in High School.. He taught a class in Old Testament.. before the elite Banished God.. See you in Heaven, My Friend!!!!!! :) Love you!*

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**Steven Compton** - November 08, 2016 at 07:12 PM