



Martin Desmond "Des" Ryan

January 26, 1933 - July 22, 2010

Martin Desmond "Des" Ryan, age 77 of Rensselaer passed away Thursday July 22, 2010 in Sarasota, FL. He was born in Lake Forest, Ill. on January 26, 1933, the son of the late Thomas and Frances (Cuffe) Ryan. He was raised in Wadsworth, Ill. and attended grade school in Waukegan, Ill. and Campion Jesuit High School in Wisconsin. He graduated from Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind. and held a doctoral degree in sociology from Purdue University. From 1953 to 1955 he served in the U.S. Army.

Des began his career as a professor of sociology at St. Joseph's College. In 1975, he was hired by the Indiana Catholic Conference as Director of Research. In 1976, he became the Assistant Director and later Executive Director from 1980 til his retirement in 2004.

Des received a number of awards and recognitions over the years. Among them, he was recognized by St. Joseph's College with an honorary doctorate and later as Alumnus of the Year. He was also recognized by the State of Indiana as Sagamore of the Wabash, the award is the highest honor to which the Governor of Indiana may bestow. It is a personal tribute usually given to those who have rendered a distinguished service to the state or governor.

On December 11, 1954, in Chicago, Ill., Desmond married Leone Marie Devitt, who preceded him in death on October 25, 2009. From this marriage, they

were blessed with five children:

Desmond (Michelle) Ryan, Brookfield, IL - son;

Eileen (Kevin) McGrath, Sarasota, FL - daughter;

Maureen (Larry) Kosanovich, Rensselaer, IN - daughter;

Mary (Richard) Skorepa, Sanford, FL - daughter;

Also surviving are 10 - Grandchildren, & 5 - Great-Grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, one son Thomas J. Ryan, 2-
brothers

& 1-sister.

Previous Events

Service

JUL 31. 11:30 AM (CT)

Saint Joseph College Chapel
2500 South Hwy 231
Rensselaer, IN

Tribute Wall



“ Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Martin Desmond "Des" Ryan



Jackson Funeral Chapels - July 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My cousins,

Mom just told me about this web site and I was able to view the video memorial - there were some wonderful pictures. Jo and I really wish we could have come in for the service, but know our thoughts and prayers were with you all. Your parents exemplified how a Christian life should be led, they have and will continue to inspire me and so many others. We take comfort in knowing that your parents are reunited again and with Tom, are watching over the ones they love.##imported-begin##Kevin & Jo Ann Flick##imported-end##

August 09, 2010 at 02:45 PM



“ It has taken some time for us to get here. It is with a heavy heart that we now mourn the passing of Uncle Des. We send our deepest sympathy to all of our cousins and their families as you say goodbye for a second time this year. I cannot express how both Aunt Leone and Uncle Des were such positive role models for me as a child and young adult and even up until just a few months before Aunt Leone passed. I continue to make decisions on life that would reflect on how they lived theirs. I try to give unconditionally from the heart, listen to others views and opinions with an open mind and place family above others. I recall Uncle Des calmly supporting me after a difference of opinion with my Dad when we were on a joint vacation in Vegas or Reno. He honored who I was and without disrespecting my own father, he made it clear I was valued and appreciated. I hope I can do the same for my own children as they grow up. I still continue to miss Aunt Leone's quick calls to my mom to check on us, nurture the plant she sent when we had a miscarriage almost 10 years ago, and can't quite part with all of the boxes of school materials she sent me when I was student teaching in 1st grade. I have a box of cards just from Aunt Leone - always written with sincerity. It is the kindness, consideration and genuine compassion I remember from both of them. Especially, I know the bond they both shared with my mom. Aunt Leone was her rock and their frequent calls for hours at a time were shared with enthusiasm and welcomed by my mom. They will both be missed and fond memories hold strong in place. All of our love and blessings and sympathy. Katie, Bob, Nicole, Sean and Maggie Walker###imported-begin###Katie and Bob Walker and family###imported-end###

August 03, 2010 at 07:34 PM



“ As the longest serving executive director of a state Catholic conference, I have wonderful memories of Des and his beloved Leone. They were always such special persons in our meetings and social events. I always looked forward to seeing Des and conversing with him about both our unique and common experiences. May God's comfort and special blessings be with the family. Also, I did not know that Des had been honored as a Sagamore of the Wabash. We all would have enjoyed saluting Des--and perhaps even a little good-humored ribbing--on that honor.##imported-begin##James R. Cunningham##imported-end##

August 02, 2010 at 07:31 PM



“ My sincerest condolences to the family of Des and Leone. I had the honor and privilege of bring Communion to Des and Leone from St Christopher's Parish in Indy. During my visits, I enjoyed Des and found him to be a devout Catholic Christian person and a loving family man. May the Good Lord hold all of you very close at this most difficult time in your lives. I will hold up Des and Leone to the Lord in my prayers. Blessings and Peace be with you.##imported-begin##Mike Dryer##imported-end##

July 29, 2010 at 03:43 PM



“ Dear Ryan Family,
You dad, father, friend was a very valued member our our group for decades. his faith, his love for his beloved wife, his belief in the sanctity of life and the importance of family inspired us all. Not only that, as you know he was a good man who treated allwith repsect. You are in our prayers.
We live in joy and hope,
Ned Dolejsi
California Cathollic Conference##imported-begin##Ned Dolejsi##imported-end##

July 29, 2010 at 01:33 PM



“ My sincere condolence and prayers to the family and friends of Des. I had the good fortune of working with Des for many years when he was working for the Indiana Catholic Conference and I was Director of Pro Life Activities for the Archdiocese. He was a great man, filled with faith and had a really strong sense of Justice. While he lived in Indy during the week, his heart was always at home.

I will remember him in prayer.

Rev. Larry P. Crawford
Archdiocese of Indianapolis##imported-begin##Rev. Larry P. Crawford##imported-end##

July 29, 2010 at 09:19 AM



“ My symphany to the family of Des and Leone on the death of your Dad/grandad.I had great respect for the good work Des did his years at the ICC. As well as coming to know them better my years here at St Chris.

I was chaplain at Methodist hospital many years and was with them the day their son died w3 and shared this pain with them. They were marvelous, good and loving people and Des did such good work for the Church and the Gospel.

May he now see the face of God.##imported-begin##fr DAvid Lawler##imported-end##

July 27, 2010 at 10:53 AM



“ Des~ I was saddened to learn of your father's passing. I only met him once, but could tell what a wonderful and joyous man he was. He is with your Mother now and both of them will watch over you and your family always. With heartfelt sympathies,
Zonda##imported-begin##Zonda Zschau##imported-end##

July 27, 2010 at 10:07 AM



“ Word of Des' death struck Ray very hard. He keeps saying, "We could put Des in the library for three days and be an expert on anything!" His life and his work are a contribution to the Church and the work of justice through the Church. We rejoice he is with Leone and with the risen Lord, in peace, and in no pain. He was a friend we will never forget.##imported-begin##Ray and Beth Ann Rufo##imported-end##

July 26, 2010 at 08:08 PM



“ To the family of Des Ryan:
I am so sorry for your loss of a wonderful person. Accept my sympathy.
Phyllis Farley###imported-begin###Phyllis Farley###imported-end##

July 26, 2010 at 07:10 PM



“ We have many fond memories of Des and Leone. Of the time we attended the German fest in Renseleer. Hewas a man of great integrity and a champion of those less fortunate in the world. Marilyn and I are better people because of Des. We will try to make the funeral but have some health issues to deal with.###imported-begin###Jack and Marilyn O'Leary###imported-end##

July 26, 2010 at 04:25 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all,your DAD was a great man but he is at peace now and together with your MOM! our sympathy and love,jim and janice###imported-begin###Jim and Janice Devitt###imported-end##

July 26, 2010 at 12:43 PM



“ *Des and family:*

Just a note to let you know that I am thinking of you of your family. Having also lost my dad I know how hard it is and I trust that you have the fond memories of his life to give you comfort.

Warm regards to you all:

Deborah Bowen (from ACHE)##imported-begin##Deborah Bowen##imported-end##

July 26, 2010 at 10:45 AM



“ *Thanks for all the fond memories thru the years. We will cherish them always. May God hold you in the palm of His hands. Love always Roland & Mary Ellen##imported-begin##Roland & Mary Ellen Tenne##imported-end##*

July 24, 2010 at 11:05 PM