



## James G. Bovard

October 16, 1927 - October 26, 2017

James Grant Bovard, age 90, passed away peacefully on October 26, 2017 at Wittenberg Lutheran Village. Jim was born on 10/16/1927 in Indianapolis, IN to Vinson and Ethel Bovard. He graduated from Arsenol Technical High School and then attended Butler University for 1 and 1/2 years. Jim was drafted into the Army and, after serving his duty, went on to his beloved Indiana University, graduating in 1951. Jim then began his career as a History teacher at Merrillville High School. It was there that Jim met the love of his life, Grace, whom he married in 1952. Jim served the Merrillville school system for 37 years, as a teacher and principal at Merrillville High School. He spent his career making a difference to hundreds of students, encouraging them to pursue their education and their passions toward successful lives. Even after his retirement in 1988, he kept in consistent contact with graduates by attending reunion picnics, breakfasts and class trips. They were his "kids" and he never stopped supporting them. He felt their love and support in return. Jim was preceded in death by his wife- Grace (Garmong) Bovard; his parents- Vinson and Ethel Bovard; sister- Nancy Newman and brothers-in-law- John, Richard and Charles Garmong. Jim is survived by his brother-in-law- Wayne Newman; nieces- Kathryn (Gary) Seibert, Carol (Bill) Fouty, Janet (Rob) Canary, Janice (Lee) Shirer; nephew- Rick (Gloria) Garmong and special great-nephew Troy (Mari) Shirer, along with numerous other great and great-great nieces and nephews all around the country. Even as the family grew, Jim never forgot a birthday. Jim would also count all his "former students" as

surviving family as well.

Jim was a man who valued faith, family and his country. He was a life-long Indiana Hoosiers fan. He loved to travel, to read, to always continue to learn. Even when he lost his eye sight in his later years, it didn't keep him from enjoying books on tape or engaging anyone in conversation to learn about them and what they were doing. He loved history and exploring family ancestry. In the last years of his life, Jim became a member of the Wittenberg Lutheran Village community. He found old and new friends there and became a favorite among all levels of the Wittenberg staff. He was treated like family and felt the same about everyone there. Friends may visit with Jim's family on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point from 2 to 7 p.m. Funeral service will be held Thursday, Nov 2, 2017 at Wittenberg Chapel, 1200 E. Luther Dr., Crown Point IN 46307. Visitation at 10 a.m. with funeral service beginning at 11a.m. Rev. Corey Wielert officiating. Interment Prairie Vine Cemetery, Morocco, IN. In lieu of flowers, the family appreciates donations in Jim's memory to Wittenberg Village, 1200 E. Luther Dr., Crown Point IN.[www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Prairie Vine

Morocco, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 1. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Visitation

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

Wittenberg Village  
1200 E. Luther Dr  
Crown Point, IN 46307

## Funeral Service

NOV 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Wittenberg Village  
1200 E. Luther Dr  
Crown Point, IN 46307



# Tribute Wall

DC

“ *My deepest sympathies to the Bovard family. Was so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Bovard. He was my high school principal and I remember him as a great advocate for students. He helped make MHS a better high school. I have fond memories of his good humor and care of the institution he led. Mary Cardaras Class of 1973*

Dr. Mary Cardaras - October 31, 2017 at 10:30 AM

GB

“ *Jim always asked about my two children and always had a smile on his face when you saw him...just to say hello. Jim's sight had failed him but certainly not his heart. One great man! Thanks for the memories Jim and know you are with our savior.*

*Gary Batty*

Gary Batty - October 30, 2017 at 10:06 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of James G. Bovard.*



October 30, 2017 at 01:20 PM

JK

“ *Mr. Bovard was my principal and Mrs. Bovard was my business teacher when I was a student at MHS ('66). After graduating from Indiana State in 1970, Mr. Bovard hired me in to teach business subjects at MHS and Mrs. Bovard was my department chairman. We enjoyed their company at their home at the Lake of the Four Seasons, and after they had retired we went to dinner in Crown Point. Grace reminisced about her days as a Sunshine Girl sponsor and Jim about the students and staff we knew from our years at Merrillville.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Bovard were both mentors, friends and colleagues to me. It was because of their influence, and friendship I became and educator.*

*Jim Kurth*

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**James Kurth** - October 29, 2017 at 01:06 PM

J'

“ *Mr. Bovard was a wonderful person - even when he caught us ditching school or driving out the lower parking lot during lunch our senior year in '68 - he'd give us a "blue slip" to let us back into school (after a very stern warning). He really cared about all the students at MHS - and it showed throughout his career. We will all miss him.*

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**John Kopack '68** - October 29, 2017 at 08:27 AM

VH

“ Me. Bogarde was my assistant principal in 1966 at Merrillville High School. I wanted to graduate mid-term and he helped me with that decision. I just turned 17 at the time but., he was supportive with my decision. I also, had Mrs. Bovard as a teacher. She was so sweet. She helped me when I graduated and set up an appt. for an interview for a job. What a great couple they cared about us as students. They are together again. I have thought about them over the years. I will always be grateful to them.

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**Vicky Klemm Hunter** - October 28, 2017 at 10:56 PM

BN

“ Mr and Mrs Bovard will always be missed and never forgotten. As others have said, they both touched so many lives. My fondest memory of Mr Bovard was getting caught at Wrigley Field on 'senior ditch day', we had such fun that day. My deepest sympathy and condolences to the family. RIP Jim and Grace!

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**Bert Nichols** - October 28, 2017 at 09:26 PM

MC

“ Mr an Mrs. Bovard were very special people. They touched so many lives. They will never be forgotten. My deepest sympathy to the family. Marianne Pavazzi Charnetzky

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**Marianne Charnetzky** - October 28, 2017 at 08:52 PM

CS

“ A wonderful principal. My Dad appreciated how he'd watch over us until he got there to pick us up. Me Bovard suggested he could let us drive in hs but Dad told him, he liked it just the way it was, even though he drove 15 miles to pick us up at least 3-4 days a week when we had after school activities.

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**Cheryl Surdez Schupbach** - October 28, 2017 at 08:28 PM

CS

“ *Mr Bovard was a great leader! Rip!*

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**cathy dziadosz smith** - October 28, 2017 at 05:03 PM

 Karl  
Nehring

“ *Mr. Bovard was a wonderful man of whom I have fond memories. He was always positive and uplifting. I graduated in 1967 and was tickled to see him in 1987 at our 20-year reunion. My heart goes out to his family at this time of loss. He was a great man who was much loved!*

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**Karl Nehring** - October 28, 2017 at 01:27 PM

DP

“ *Mr. Bovard was a great guy!! He was always fair. Knew every single one of us!! He will be missed!!*

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**Doreen Petrain** - October 28, 2017 at 01:01 PM

KG

“ *Uncle Jim, you will be truly missed. My fondest memories are with you and Aunt Grace at the lake. I still have all of my birthday cards where you always called me the blizzard baby. I will miss getting those every year. I hope Aunt Grace gave you a big smooch with that beautiful red lipstick. Your great niece will love you always,*

*Kim Garmong*

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**Kim Garmong** - October 28, 2017 at 09:40 AM