



Milan Dakich

May 23, 1929 - June 30, 2020

Milan Dakich, age 91, passed away on Tuesday, June 30, 2020. He is survived by his wife of sixty-six years, Edith; sons Peter (Karen) Dakich, Mark Dakich, and David (Melissa) Dakich; grandchildren Julia Dakich, Jimmy Dakich, and Christopher Dakich; brother-in-law Roderic Daniels; and many devoted nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Ljubo, mother Leposava, and brother Monchillo, brother-in-law Ned North, and sister-in-law Martha Daniels. Milan graduated from Emerson High School in 1948, and earned Bachelors and Masters degrees from Indiana State University. He worked for forty-two years at Purdue University Calumet as a professor in the Department of Communication and Creative Arts. Previous to teaching at Purdue, Milan taught in the Gary Public Schools. Milan held numerous civic offices, both elected and appointed. He served as a Trustee on the Merrillville Town Board from 1976 to 1983, and also served on the Merrillville Planning Commission, as well as the Board of Zoning Appeals. He was a Merrillville representative to the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, a Ross Township Representative to the Lake County Drainage Board Advisory Committee, and a Board Member of the Merrillville Conservancy District Board. Milan was a life-long member of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church. In recent years he was very active in the church's Historical Society. Milan's kindness, good humor, and devoted community spirit will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Contributions may be made in Milan's memory to the St. Sava Historical Society or to Purdue University Office of Institutional

Advancement. Funeral services for family will be held privately. A public memorial service will be announced and held at a later date. Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point, entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

CG

“ *Edith & the Dakich family,*

I am so very sorry to hear that Milan has passed. Milan picked me up from the Tri-State terminal in Merrillville the year I interviewed at PUC (1996). His warmth, humor and generosity were always at the forefront of his interactions with others. I loved going to our department meetings just to hear the day's witty comment. I remember one meeting in particular when Milan was wearing sunglasses. Bill Robinson, then our department head, was going around the room and asking all of us to share what was happening in our lives. When Milan's turn came, he took off the sunglasses to reveal a massive black eye. Without missing a beat he said, "Edith did not like how I made the toast this morning." Of course the room erupted in laughter because of how preposterous the statement was. Then he told us how he had tripped and hurt his eye.

I also always enjoyed seeing Milan visit the department after he retired. His contributions to the growth of the Communication & Creative Arts Department are many, and we are grateful. It was a privilege to have him as a colleague and friend.

I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

*Cathy Gillotti
Associate Professor
Purdue University Northwest*

Cathy Gillotti - July 05, 2020 at 06:24 PM

NN

“ *Edith and the Dakich family,*

Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of Milan. He and I shared adjoining offices in Porter Hall on the Purdue University Calumet campus for a number of years.

We enjoyed conversing about Lake County, state and national politics; about Purdue and Chicago sports; and on rare occasions about his longtime association with actor Karl Malden.

As a teacher, Milan valued the fundamentals of public speaking. He did not have much interest in later pedagogical developments in the communication field that he called "touchy-feely." I think he would appreciate that the introductory public speaking course has been refocused recently on the basics.

Please know that there are many of us in the Purdue community who valued Milan's collegiality and his contributions to the university.

Neil Nemeth

Associate Dean, College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

Associate Professor of Communication

Purdue University Northwest

Neil Nemeth - July 05, 2020 at 04:44 PM

BH

“ Mrs. Dakich, I'm so sorry to learn that you've lost your beloved husband. Although I never had the opportunity to meet him, it's clear that he was a very special man, indeed.

I was one of your student teachers around 1972. (My older brother, Pete Billick was also teaching at Andrian at that time.) I vividly remember having to deal with rambunctious freshmen boys who were eager to write limericks about each other. I certainly had to rethink my lesson plan on poetry. With your guidance, I developed a method of teaching which I used for 22 years in both Hammond and Chicago.

Know that I will say a rosary for your intentions. May our Savior's love surround, strengthen, support and comfort you.

Brenda Huerter

Brenda Huerter - July 05, 2020 at 03:04 PM

FM

“ Dear Edith,
Please accept my sincere sympathy. I am so sorry to learn about Milan's death. May he rest in peace.

*Sorry we have lost contact over the years. Please know I shall remember you
and your family in thoughts, good wishes and prayers.*

Fr. Joe Moffatt

Fr. Joe Moffatt - July 05, 2020 at 02:37 PM

MK

“ Edith, I am so sorry to hear of Milan's passing. I will always remember him as a kind, gentle, and generous man. He never had anything but a friendly word for me when we were together. May he rest in the heavens with the angels, and may you find consolation in sixty-six years of memories.



Mary Kopil - July 05, 2020 at 09:55 AM

WT

“ Dear Edith and Family,

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Milan.

I was fortunate to work with Milan during the years he was Member of Merrillville Conservancy District's Board of Directors. He was a nice, thoughtful person and cared about his community. My wife, Frances, and I always enjoyed sharing a social occasion with Milan and you, Edith. You were a pleasant and engaging couple.

It is always so difficult when a loved one passes and your sense of loss must be overwhelming in the moment. But I hope you are also being comforted by recalling the good memories from Milan's well lived life. He will be missed by those who knew him.

William Touchette - July 05, 2020 at 07:57 AM

DB

“ *My condolences to Edith and the Dakich family on the death of Milan. I knew him (and Edith) from their participation in the Lake County Library Circle of Readers discussion group. Milan always shared his thoughts and considerations of a book and many times inserted some personal experience. He was the very essence of a gentleman scholar. I'm sure his family will cherish his memory. - Dorothy Bishop, Hobart, IN.*

Dorothy Bishop - July 02, 2020 at 05:27 PM