



Alan H. Meyer

November 2, 1934 - November 22, 2023

Alan H. Meyer, 89, of Kankakee passed away peacefully on November 22, 2023, at Riverside Hospital.

Alan was born on November 2, 1934, in Beecher, IL to Gustave and Velma (nee Graves) Meyer. He graduated from Grant Park High School in 1952. Grant Park is where he developed his love for basketball. He was starting guard for 3 years for the Grant Park Dragons. During that time the Dragons won 59 games and lost only 20 games. From Grant Park Alan was recruited to play for Illinois State University. As an ISU Redbird, he thrived as a scoring guard. He captained the Redbirds his junior and senior years and set the single game scoring record of 51 points. That record stood until Doug Collins broke it in 1972. At ISU he met the love of his life, Jane (nee Thompson) Meyer. On June 10, 1956, a day after graduating, they were married. They moved to Baltimore, MD where Alan was stationed in the Army. They returned to Illinois to begin teaching careers in Peotone. Alan taught History, was the athletic director and the head baseball and basketball coach from 1959-1963. In the early 60's, Alan began working for his father-in-law, William Thompson, who had begun opening several restaurants called the Redwood Inn. In 1964, Alan & Jane became the operators of the Kankakee location. As Jane Meyer once said, "This is a family run establishment and the people working with us and the people we serve are part of our family." Jane & Alan both believed that this core philosophy allowed them to run a flourishing business for 34 years.

Alan was an active volunteer in the Kankakee Community. He served as President of the United Way and was chairman of several campaign drives. He was a board member of the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Hospice and the Kankakee Basketball Holiday Tournament.

Alan was a strong supporter of the Kankakee YMCA. He joined as a board member in 1972. Over the years he served as membership drive chairman and in every office of the board of directors and every YMCA committee, and in the capital campaigns. He served as President for 2 years and in 1991 was the recipient of the Blitz Award for his commitments to volunteerism.

Alan loved to follow Chicago sports, but his greatest joy and frustration came from watching the Chicago Cubs. He would travel by train to Wrigley Field as a young boy and was fortunate to see Jackie Robinson play in his first series in Chicago. He also witnessed the 500th career home run of Ernie Banks. And after many up and down years he finally got to see them win a World Series in 2016.

Alan was a loving father to Lynn (Greg) Cornwell and Tamra (Jeff Compton) McNamara. Bepaw loved his grandsons, Justin (April) Cornwell, Adam (Amanda) Cornwell, Aaron Cornwell, Ryan McNamara, Tyler (Hannah) McNamara, and his great grandchildren Jace, Callie, and Emerson McNamara, Miles, Cecilia, and Emily Cornwell.

Alan is preceded in death by his wife Jane, brother Hollis Meyer and his great granddaughter Kaia Cornwell.

Memorial visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the 1:00 p.m. memorial service on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, Kankakee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Kankakee YMCA.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

DEC 2. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

DEC 2. 1:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

GR

“ *RIP Mr Meyers...*

I knew Mr Meyers as Lynn's father and as a very supportive sponsor of Westview Athletes...

Mr Meyers gave me a job that was flexible to our football, basketball and baseball schedules... We were responsible for refilling the food throughout the buffet... We made the jello salads, did dishes, etc... a great contribution to a number of Kayhawk athletes.

To this day, it was very memorable and appreciated.

A great family that will miss him dearly. I was fortunate to have him in my life...

RIP Mr Meyers -

Garry Reichert / Class of '76

garry reichert - February 09, 2024 at 10:52 PM

DO

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of AL. Such a loss for you especially during the holidays. I was one of the many young people who were lucky enough to work at the Redwood Inn in high school and college (1967-71).

Al was a shining example of a life well lived. He was a caring and respectful mentor to so many of the young people that crossed his path, a devoted family man and outstanding volunteer.

He treated all of his employees with great respect, which was a new experience for some of us teens. He had a gift for growing young people's confidence and self esteem. Although Al left the field of education, he never stopped teaching, to the benefit of his many young employees. I do not think that I would have made it through college without the Redwood Inn and Al's (and Jane's) encouragement.

I have been fortunate to have had some good bosses in my career but Al was head and shoulders above all them. His managerial style is best summed up by a quote from the baseball player Reggie Jackson (1968-87):" A great manager has a knack for making you think that you are better than you think you are. He let's you know that he believes in you and once you realize how good you really are, you never settle for anything but your very best."

Al and Jane were very talented individuals in their own right, but what they accomplished together in terms of family, successful business partners, and as devoted volunteers, was nothing short of spectacular. My life was richer because of knowing them. To have known them, was to love them.

Rest in peace, Al.

Doris O'Connor - December 01, 2023 at 01:00 PM

RH

“ My mom, Ruby grew up in Grant Park and graduated HS with him in '52. They probably knew each other their entire lives! She was cheerleader as well. She kept old photos and I found his HS pic as well as this team pic from the journal. WOW...crazy! Rob Hana....son of Ruby and Ed Hana



Rob Hana - November 30, 2023 at 12:19 PM

RM

“ Rest in peace and enjoy the reunion with your sweet Jane. You were wonderful neighbors.

Rose and Gary Mitchell - November 29, 2023 at 10:13 PM

S1

“ Peotone High School Class Sponsor for 1963. He attended most of our class reunions. Sincere sympathies to the family.



Sandra and Lane Hafele, Class of 1963 - November 29, 2023 at 07:59 PM



“ I'm So sorry I never KNEW Mr.Meyer but I did eat at that Restaurant (Redwood Inn) he & his wife ran!Thanks for that Mr.Meyer!!!!

Kay Graham - November 29, 2023 at 10:35 AM

MR

“ Marilyn Roy lit a candle in memory of Alan H. Meyer



Marilyn Roy - November 29, 2023 at 10:14 AM

SB

“ I feel so honored and blessed to have known Al (and Jane) Meyer for many years because of their love and devotion to the Kankakee YMCA. As a 30 year employee there, we all shared many memories of their time as members but even more so for their volunteerism. They gave from their heart, and the impact on so many will be felt for generations to come. I had the recent pleasure of unexpected visits with him at the Riverside senior living facility where he continued his legacy of pure kindness toward others. He was a one-of-a-kind who will be so greatly missed. My heartfelt sympathies to his family.

Suzanne Boudreau - November 29, 2023 at 12:59 AM

MT

“ So sad to learn of his passing. I spent a few minutes with him a week before n pinned him to thank him for his service to our country. He and Jane were a wonderful couple, great parents, generous resturanteurs and so generous with their time and talents. May God's peace and comfort be your and may your fond memories help fill the void in your hearts and bring smiles.
Mary and John Thomson

Mary Thomson - November 28, 2023 at 10:23 PM

BM

“ Deepest sympathy to Lyn and to all of the family and his friends as well. Sounds like Al was a wonderful man and inspiration to others. May he rest in Peace until he is welcomed into His arms.

Bill Maass - November 28, 2023 at 10:10 PM

JR

“ I had the privilege of knowing Alan and Jane while serving them at Riverside Independent Living. They both were always so kind and the love he showed to her was so heart warming. Such an inspirational man who was so proud of The Redwood Inn and the service and employment it provided for so many!

Jean Rousey - November 28, 2023 at 09:23 PM

BD

“ May we all aspire to be or to raise humans like this man; my mentor and my friend. He did so much for so many, yet remained so humble (a necessity for Cub fans). He was respectful of those who may have shared contrasting or less well-informed views in his many discussions at a table Redwood with young staff members or his long-time friends at the McDonald's by the YMCA. He was a lifelong student of history and current events, a patient listener and wise observer the world. Through he and Jane's private generosity and encouragement, I finished my degree in four years, and the years of character-building toil at steaming dishwashers and hot stoves/fryers were stepping stones to a rewarding career. Few life events are more challenging than Mother's Day at the Redwood Inn. I look forward to seeing some very old friends with whom we fought in restaurant industry trenches. Please remind me of your name and years of employment if we meet. Thank you and farewell, Al.

Bill Davison - November 28, 2023 at 08:19 PM

JG

“ *Joseph Giacchino lit a candle in memory of Alan H. Meyer*



Joseph Giacchino - November 28, 2023 at 04:32 PM