



Edward Dixon "Ed" Heath

May 3, 1935 - December 26, 2017

Edward Dixon "Ed" Heath, USAF Lt. Col. (ret.), a computing administrator and academic advisor who put family, community, and kindness above all else, died on December 26, 2017 in Indianapolis. He was 82.

His devotion to family and delight in gatherings during the holidays found him enjoying celebrations Christmas morning surrounded by his wife and many children and grandchildren at his home in Bloomington before falling suddenly ill that afternoon and ultimately dying of heart failure the next evening. Ed battled and beat colorectal cancer earlier this year and had been home for the last two months. Ed's family would like to express appreciation to IU Bloomington Hospital, Bloomington doctors and nurses, Bell Trace Rehabilitation Center, Franciscan Hospital, and Methodist Hospital for their excellent care and support.

Ed was born to Edward D. Rou, Jr., and Cecile (Ritter) Whipple in Gainesville, Florida, in 1935 and was also son to Lowell F. Heath after his mother's remarriage. He grew up in Reddick, Florida, and Indianapolis, graduating from Ben Davis High School in 1954. He earned his B.A. in political science from Indiana University in 1957, certificate in meteorology at St. Louis University in 1958, and M.S. in public administration from George Washington University in 1972. He also attended Oklahoma University and George Mason University for graduate work. While at Indiana, Ed joined Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. He traveled extensively during his first career in the Air Force Air Weather Service, stationed in England, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia,

Greenland, Illinois, and again Virginia before retiring as Lt. Colonel there in 1983. His work with meteorological computing systems led to further work in computing in the Defense Communications Service and then as director of academic computing at George Mason University, 1983-1990. He held a similar role at Catholic University before his last and, he would often say, most rewarding career change to academic advising in the healthcare field at Indiana University, 1994-2011. He so enjoyed helping students and took such great pride in their accomplishments he would often make connections to them with anyone he encountered in the medical field.

Ed's passion for family and for helping others ties strongly to his faith and involvement in the United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Linda (Cater) Heath, whom he met in 1964 while he was stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base and married in 1965. Survivors from the immediate family also include his sister Carolyn Heath (John Agen), son James R. Heath (Mary Duray), daughter-in-law Bridgette I. Heath, daughter Melanie H. Priest (D. Wesley Priest), son David E. Heath (Alice B. Heath), and nine grandchildren: Rory Priest, Erica Heath, Bailey Priest, Sylaine Duray, John Heath, Elijah Heath, Keegan Priest, Audrey Priest, and Nicholas Heath. Ed is also survived by nieces, nephews, and many cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward D. Rou, Jr., Cecile (Ritter) Whipple, and Lowell Heath; sister, Nancy Rou; and son, John E. Heath.

In light of his love for spring, a memorial service will be held April 14, 2018, at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers and in the spirit and celebration of Ed's life, please consider a donation to St. Mark's United Methodist Church or to the Indiana University Foundation in his memory, toward the establishment of a scholarship for students in the healthcare field. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at www.allencares.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

APR 14. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St Marks United Methodist Church
100 State Rd 46
Bloomington, IN 47408

Memorial Service

APR 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

St Marks United Methodist Church
100 State Rd 46
Bloomington, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

NS

“ Ed was such a delight to work with, even before I became part of the HPPLC-ans! He would make his rounds in Moenhaus every morning and say hello to everyone who was working that day. I came to admire him even more as I worked with him in HPPLC. He was such a kind and caring co-worker, an he became my friend over the 4 years we worked together. I am so sorry for all of us that we will not experience his warm presence on this earth and only see his beaming, smiling face again in photos. May he rest in peace.
Natalia Schau

Natalia Schau - February 19, 2018 at 12:25 PM

AI

“ I’m so sad to hear of Ed’s passing.

I had the good fortune of meeting Ed when he changed careers by joined University Division at IU Bloomington. I was the trainer for that new class of academic advisors. It was clear right away that Ed was a special person—patient, kind, professional, well-organized and caring. He took to the task of learning admission, certification and degree requirements with gusto. But most importantly, he understood that while it was essential to know the factual information—it wasn’t the heart of the matter. Quiet simply, Ed cared about students. He fostered student achievement and success, was an excellent role model and shared his quiet wisdom in his characteristically gentle way. I was very fortunate to have him as a colleague.

My thoughts are with his family. May you take comfort in knowing Ed left a lasting impression on students, colleagues, and everyone else who had the good fortune to know him.

—Amy J. Ira

Amy J. Ira - January 04, 2018 at 06:04 PM

JS

“ I was so saddened to hear of Ed’s passing. I hope his family can take some comfort in knowing that he had a profound affect on the lives of countless students. Due to his influence and guidance, there are untold scores of nurses and other health professionals out there helping others --in this way his memory will live on and he will continue helping others for many generations to come. Thank you, Ed, for your service to this country, your service to IU and Bloomington and for helping all of us academic advisors who learned from you. - Jim Sizemore (and the Out to Lunch Bunch)

Jim Sizemore - January 04, 2018 at 01:27 PM

HA

“ Dear Linda,
So sorry to hear of Ed's passing. I know you remember that we started as advisors in University Division way back in 1994! He was one of my most favorite people and cherished colleagues. Peace and blessings to you and your family!
Arnell Hammond



hammond - January 04, 2018 at 01:11 PM

JT

“ Please accept our deepest condolences on Ed's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Linda, and your family.
With many good wishes,
Joe and Diana Tompa
Your Tamarron neighbors

Joe and Diana Tompa - January 03, 2018 at 03:29 PM

GS

“ Dear Linda,
I was so sorry to hear this sad news about Ed. I am praying for peace and strength for you as you face this new unwelcome chapter in life. Please call me if you ever just need someone to listen. I didn't know Ed well but can tell he was a wonderful man who will be missed beyond words. May God's love surround and sustain you in the days and months ahead.
Georgia from Garden Club

Georgia Sumner - January 02, 2018 at 04:04 PM



“ *What good times we had as students at BD and as friends in the MYF when we were young! Then to be able to stay in touch over 64 years and share new good times over these past few years at reunions and road trips in Southern Indiana was a true blessing.*
Nancy Tolson

Nancy Tolson - January 02, 2018 at 11:53 AM



“ *Ed - you were a man of honesty, faith, duty, and country. Your love of life and your caring for your family and students will be deeply missed. I shall deeply miss your wisdom.*
May God bless you Linda and all of your family in this time of sorrow and may He wrap His loving arms around you.
Heaven has taken home another Angel. 🙏🙏🙏

Cindy Moore - January 01, 2018 at 09:16 PM



“ *Linda and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you all! Dick was very special and loved by all his Rou cousins! He will be missed! Love, Sandra (Rou) Weber and Joyce (Rou) Malone*

Joyce Rou Malone - January 01, 2018 at 12:53 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Allen Funeral Home and Crematory - December 30, 2017 at 08:13 AM