



## Eugene Edward Sandberg

August 17, 1921 - July 11, 2015

Eugene Edward Sandberg passed away quietly in his home on July 11, 2015. Born to Henry and Blanche Sandberg in Terre Haute, Indiana on August 17, 1921, he was named in honor of labor activist, Eugene V. Debs. Eugene enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1939 and served during World War II in the United States, Italy and Sicily. He was honorably discharged in 1945 as a staff sergeant. After his service, Eugene attended Indiana State Teacher's College where he earned Bachelor and Masters degrees majoring in English Education. Graduating in 1949, he met and married his wife and life partner, Hazel Jane (Hopkins) Sandberg of Huntingburg, who was also attending Indiana State on the GI Bill following her WWII service as a Navy WAVE. Eugene Sandberg was preceded in death by his younger sister, Norma (Sandberg) Shidler of Evansville. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Jane Sandberg of Bloomington, his daughters Susan and Sarah Sandberg of Bloomington and his granddaughter, Katy (Sandberg) DeWitt of Carmel. Eugene Sandberg was a high school English teacher for thirty-nine years before his retirement from Bloomfield High School, his last teaching position. In retirement when he and Jane moved to Bloomington to live with their daughters, he was an active gardener and handyman, quick to help build things in his woodworking shop

and fix anything that needed fixing. An avid reader to the end of his life, he was a living encyclopedia on American literature, poetry and historical events, particularly the Civil War and WWII. Eugene Sandberg arranged to donate his body as a teaching cadaver for the IU School of Medicine's Anatomical Education Program, a final wish that has been carried out by his family.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 26, 2015 at 2:00pm at Allen Funeral Home & Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, Indiana. Family will receive friends from 12:00pm until the time of service at the funeral home.

In loving honor of the memory of Eugene (Gene) Sandberg, his family encourages you to perform random acts of kindness, thank a teacher, and teach your children well.

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ Dear Sandberg family:  
So sorry to hear of the loss of your dad and husband. Losing loved ones is so difficult and hard no matter how much we know that at some point it will happen.  
Mr. Sandberg was a caring man and a wonderful teacher and obviously a great father.  
I think Steve will stop by the memorial. But I wanted to reach out and offer my condolences.

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**Alan Sickbert** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

PR

“ Mr. Sandberg taught and inspired me during my senior year (1956) at Worthington H.S. Later, I became a teacher and enjoyed working with students for 36 years. I often thought of contacting him, just to let Mr. Sandberg know how much I appreciated him as a teacher and role model. Now I regret that I failed to follow through with my intentions. I do send sincere sympathy to your family for the loss of your loved one.

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**Paula (Skomp) Ringo** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

CL

“ The New Nomads Sunday School class at St. Mark's United Methodist Church left his chair vacant this morning, and spent 15 minutes recalling the fine attributes of this wonderful man.

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**Claire Nisonger** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

KE

“ My condolence goes out to Mrs Sandburg, Susan, Sarah & Katy. What a very nice family. Mr Sandburg taught you well. As for me to honor you father I will do a random act of kindness but my teacher's hated me & its to late for Katie & Maggie. LOL. Let me know if I can help in anyway.

*Thinking of you,  
Kelly Cissell*

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**Kelly Cissell** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

MK

“ Our deepest sympathies to the entire Sandberg family. Gene was a wonderful man and the Sandberg patriarch! His family took such loving care of him until the end. "Love in Action"

*May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest and peace at the last.*

*Rest in Peace, Gene.*

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**Mike & Kathy Romy** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

CL

“ It was a pleasure have talked with Gene during fellowship time at St. Mark's UMC over a period of many years. He openly shared his knowledge and his kindness with all. Even in these casual conversations, he was keen to hear new ideas and to share his own thoughts. From reading the other condolences here, it is clear that Mr. Sandberg gave much to others. Blessings to those who knew and loved him.

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**Claire Schaffer** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

KE

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Sandburg were two of my most influential teachers at Bloomfield HS back in the early 70's. Today I am still an avid reader because they fostered the love of reading and learning in their classrooms. I now read to my grandchildren and try to instill that same love of learning both of you instilled in me.*

*Mrs. Sandburg, I am so sorry for your loss. I am sure God has surrounded Mr. Sandburg with all the books he can read for eternity. Rest assured he positively touched many peoples lives.*

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**Kenneth Lynn** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

DA

“ *Mr. Sandburg was a wonderful and caring neighbor, teacher (even for poor students like me), family man, humanitarian, etc. His positive contribution to this world will continue through the countless lives he touched. Every time I think about him I smile while remembering his passion and enthusiasm for life. Growing up next door to him was a wonderful experience. God Bless him and his family.*

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**Darrel Harris** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

TO

“ *Susan, so sorry for your loss. What a life of service to his country and to the youth of Bloomfield! The only time I saw your mother and father since we graduated from BHS was in the early 1980's at a grocery store in Bloomfield. When we shook hands he apologized for his appearance, having just come from his garden. I said he was a gentleman farmer in the tradition of Thomas Jefferson, and he liked that.*

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**Tom Tidwell** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

WW

“ To Jane, Susan and Sarah:

*Over the course of eighteen months, as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, I came to know Jane and Eugene well. At every visit, I was unfailingly greeted with bright smiles and cheerful conversation. Once Eugene learned that I, too, loved history and literature, and had written a biography of well known IU professor and environmental visionary, Lynton Keith Caldwell, he loved to share with me details of the books he was currently reading: there was always a good pile of books by his armchair! Jane and Eugene even bought a copy of my book which I signed for them. I believe Eugene even read some of it!*

*Over time, I came to see that Eugene possessed many of those fine qualities that we should all do well to try and emulate: he was knowledgeable, thoughtful, kind, caring, astute and endlessly curious about life.*

*I shall miss seeing him very much and am only glad that his passing was peaceful.*

*With love and sympathy to Jane and deep condolences to Susan and Sarah.*

*Wendy*

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**Wendy Read Wertz** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

DK

“ *Best English teacher! Loved it when we took apart lyrics to the 70's songs....inspired me to be the poet I am today. So fortunate to have had him as my teacher!*

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**Donna McIntosh Kluesner** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

H(

“ *Drear Family,  
So sorry for your loss. I'm proud to have known Mr. Sandburg. I didn't have him as a teacher but know he was respected. Rest in peace Sir and thank you for your service for our country! ????*

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**Harlene Eggleston (Thompson)** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

WI

“ *So sorry for your loss. Mr. Sandberg was my Teacher and although we did not keep in touch I did make a point of stopping by the school a few years after graduation to let him know that it was his lessons that served me best in life. What a great guy. Class of 1986.*

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**William Morris** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

J(

“ *So sorry for your loss. He was my high school English Lit teacher. So enjoyed his class. He was such a good teacher. Prayers going out to the family.*

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**Janice (Allen) Flynn** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

TC

“ *SUSAN & SARAH: I WAS SO SAD TO READ OF YOUR DAD'S PASSING...BUT THEN I THOUGHT, WHAT A LONG, WONDERFUL AND ADVENTUROUS LIFE HE HAD. YOU 2 ARE SO BLESSED TO HAVE HAD THIS MAN FOR YOUR DADDY. I ALWAYS, ALWAYS LIKED HIM AS MY TEACHER, THEN LATER ON, MY FRIEND. HE GAVE ME AN A+ ON ONE OF MY PAPERS AND I STILL HAVE IT!!!!. MAY GOD LAY HIS HAND OF COMFORT ON YOU AND YOUR MOTHER AND KATY. LOVE,  
TENA & RUSSELL CHIPMAN*

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**TENA ROUDEBUSH CHIPMAN** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

BE

“ Dear Susan and family,

*I'm so sorry to learn of your father's passing. May his smile, laughter and memories he gave you remain in your hearts forever. Your parents gave so much to us when we were their students at BHS and we were blessed to have had them in our lives. Again, my deepest sympathy to you and yours. Take care and you'll be in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Sincerely, Beth*

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**Beth George-Seaton** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

MR

“ On behalf of BHS Class of 1974 - we celebrate the life of Mr Sandberg. So many memories, and such a great influence on all our lives.

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**Marilyn Burcham Reese** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

MS

“ To my dear friend, Sarah, and all your family -- So sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He was such a wonderful educator -- not "just" a teacher. I still think of him whenever I see red and white striped petunias -- I always put them in my garden because he grew them! Glad you got to have him with you for a good long time. When I was a stranger and new kid in town, your family was very very good to me and helped make me feel welcome -- your dad left a very deep imprint on so many of us. Thank you for sharing him with us, My Friend.

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**Marilyn Hartman Sullivan** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

BE

“ I remember how kind Mr. Sandburg was to me after my sister's death. He was a classy guy, who certainly deserved more respect than the average high schooler can give. He fueled a lifelong love of reading and good literature in me. He made my life better. Thanks so much.

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**Beth Robinette** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM

AG

“ With dearest sympathy. Mr. Sandberg's Senior English class has been the most useful class I have taken. It not only prepared me for college, back in fall of 1982, but continues to help me with compositions needed for job applications and correspondence in everyday life. I would have needed remedial classes in college if I had not had that class, and the knowledge gained there was a crutch as I homeschooled both my children for 12 years. I am eternally grateful.

Sincerely,

Alice Hunter Guthrie

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**Alice Hunter Guthrie** - October 26, 2015 at 03:58 PM