



Homer Lynch

January 23, 1931 - June 29, 2013

Homer M. "Bud" Lynch of Bloomington passed away early Saturday morning on June 29, 2013, at the IU Health Hospice House at the age of 82. Bud was born in Bloomington on January 23, 1931, to Ray and Lena (Rhorer) Lynch. Bud was a graduate of Bloomington High School, class of 1948. He married the love of his life, Catherine (Wedge) Lynch, on April 5, 1952. He attended Indiana University receiving a B.S. in Recreation in 1953. Bud was a retired Lt. Colonel, having served in the United States Army from 1953-1975. He was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart for his valor while serving in Viet Nam. Bud also retired as an Environmental Specialist at Indiana University. Bud was a member of the First United Methodist Church, American Legion, past President of the Retired Officers Association and Lions Club, IU Alumni Association, IU Varsity Club, and the Ft. Knox, Kentucky, United States Army Retiree Council. He volunteered at the Monroe County History Center and did over 200 interviews for the Veterans History Project. He loved walleye fishing in Canada and watching IU Sports, especially IU Men's Basketball and IU Men's Soccer. He also loved tending to his garden and the many birdfeeders surrounding his and Cathie's home in Bloomington. On the many occasions when he and his wife went out for meals, Bud would exhibit his friendly

personality as he sparked conversations with the wait staff serving them, winning their favor with his warmth and wit. He was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Ann Lynch; one sister, Edith Lynch; and two brothers, John Lynch and Lee Lynch. Bud is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Catherine E. Lynch of Bloomington; daughter Karen Lynch (John A. Steele) of Bloomington; son David Lynch (Catherine Guillemine-Lynch) of Evanston, IL; two grandchildren Matthieu Lynch and Caroline Lynch; and one sister Velma Zimmerman of Washington State. Funeral services will be held at Allen Funeral Home in Bloomington on Saturday, July 6, 2013 at 11 a.m. with officiating. Burial will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Friday July 5 at the funeral home. A dedicated father, a loyal and strong soldier to his country, and a proud Hoosier, Bud will be deeply missed by his family; friends, especially those whom he met with every morning for coffee; and his "extended" family at the restaurants he frequented with Cathie every week. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the IU Health Hospice House or Monroe County History Center.

Tribute Wall

ST

“ Dear Lynch Family,

Please accept my sincere condolences on your loss. I worked with Bud at EH&S from 1990 until his retirement. I remember Bud as a good man, laughing together with his friend and co-worker Charlie M. May your memories of Bud sustain you now and in the coming months and years.

*Sincerely,
Stephanie Biehn*

Stephanie Biehn - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

TA

“ *We are so very sorry to lose Bud. His quick wit and ready comebacks will be sorely missed. Unfortunately, we are in Kansas City for the national SAR convention and cannot be at the services, but we are thinking about you. Rex and April*

T Rex and April Legler - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

“ Dear Cathie and all of the Lynch Family,

I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I admired Bud so much. I first met him nearly a decade ago when I was looking for Vietnam War veterans to photograph and interview for my book, "Inconvenient Stories: Portraits of Vietnam War Veterans." From the beginning Bud helped me locate area vets and graciously consented to share his own war stories with me. Everyone had the utmost respect for Bud. He introduced me to Senator Lugar who was spearheading the Veterans History Project for the Library of Congress and for which Bud conducted many interviews himself.

Bud was a hero, of course, an incredibly brave man, the rare officer whose men would have taken a bullet for him (I met some who told me just that--they adored Bud). The story of the helicopter crash that he barely escaped from, as flames shot overhead, is something I'll never forget. He took the measure of war and knew it for what it was-- a terrifying though occasionally necessary thing.

Bud (and Cathie too) was there for me when I was given some award from IU. He loved his alma mater and the town of Bloomington, where he grew up and spent so many years. And Bud was a worldly man who lived in many wonderful places due to his military service (witness the beautiful German Grandfather clock that graced his and Cathie's home--a souvenir of their time in Germany).

I could go on. Bud was a good man; a family man who talked at length and lovingly about his children and grandchildren. He loved Cathie--the two were so close. Bud was generous; caring; smart; funny. He was respected by all who knew him. Bud was a war hero and a peaceful man who loved life. Bud was my friend and I will miss him greatly.

Jeffrey Wolin

Ruth N. Halls Professor of Photography

Indiana University
Indiana UNiversity

Jeffrey Wolin - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

JW

“ I know every MOAA member has memories of Bud, but I thought I’d mention a few:

WFIU asked me to “appear” (like, you know, one can really appear on a radio show) on one of their Friday Noon Edition shows. I was Monroe County Veterans Service Officer at the time. Must have been why they called.) Topic was D-Day. I immediately asked if Bud could also attend. They said yes, he did, and after the first question it became obvious to everybody listening and everybody in the studio who the expert was – Bud. He went on to spend the entire period of the show summarizing actions before, during, and after D-Day. What units did what, when, where, why, and the results. The moderators asked a few questions, which Bud answered fully. Mostly, they did not have to ask.

Bud described his French daughter-in-law’s family escorting him through Normandie. The counterpart Father-in-law told Bud, “Wear your beret and Airborne wings. You’ll find out why.” Bud did, and found out how well the people of Normandie still feel about Airborne Americans. He was hugged, kissed, and offered drinks everywhere he went. The counterpart pre-deceased Bud, but was almost as tough. Member of the French resistance, imprisoned and tortured before being liberated.

We all know about Bud’s aggressive management of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. (It seems that Bud did everything aggressively.) Think of the hundreds of veterans whose memories are now recorded for posterity and, more locally, for their families. Would not have happened – certainly not happened to that degree – without Bud.

Remember Bud’s and Cathy’s trips to Ft. Knox to represent military retirees. He always shared the information from these conferences – and sometimes shared his frustration with 1) lack of progress on some critical issues, and/or 2) lack of sufficient information. Shared not only with us back in Bloomington, but also with those he held

accountable. Bud did not seem to be shy.

I miss him.

John W. Tilford - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

JU

“ *Cathie -- SO sorry to learn of Bud's passing. Seems like just last week when I saw you both at Bell Trace. Hope your own rehab is going well -- so much has come your way. Blessings to you, and hope to see you before long. Love, Judy Holy*

Judy Holy - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

BA

“ *Sorry we cannot be there but you are in our prayers. What a guy.....
Mac & Avis*

Bob & Avis McDaniel - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

DE

“ *Dear Cathie and David and Family,
I am sorry to hear that Bud is gone. He was a brave man with a grand spirit. I recall the day I met him, about four years ago: Bud and Cathie stopped by our house on an errand and we were soon talking and laughing like old friends. He filled the room with adventure and exuberance though he was fighting for his health. Later I learned a little about his war heroism.
I wish you all comfort in memories of his life well-lived, and in knowing that his spirit shines in other hearts as well. I send you my condolences in your loss.
Sincerely,
Dell Harmsen*

Dell Harmsen - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

EV

“ So sorry to see Bud's passing!

Bud was instrumental in the vision and creation of the Monroe County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Northwest Corner of the Courthouse Square. A group called, Vietnam Era Veterans Alliance (VEVA) worked on that Memorial from 1984 until it was finally dedicated on Memorial Day, 1991.

It was a proud day for Bud and all the rest of us in attendance.

God speed, Bud, and thank you so much for your service!

Evelyn Powers - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM

MI

“ Dear Kathy,

We were sorry to hear about Bud's passing. We always enjoyed his quick wit and positive energy. We are in Florida, and cannot attend the service, but you will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Mike and Diana Love

Michael Love - October 26, 2015 at 04:10 PM