



Edward Pickell

October 4, 1934 - July 8, 2015

Edward "Ed" R. Pickell, 80, of Peoria passed away on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 2:47A.M. at Apostolic Christian Skylines in Peoria. Ed was born on October 4, 1934 in Detroit, Michigan to Edward and Josephine (Goeman) Pickell.

Surviving are his son, Michael (Stacy) Pickell of Washington; three granddaughters, Allie, Katie, and Courtney; two sisters, Barbara (Kermit II) Pentecost of Florida and Beverly (Norman-deceased, Les Bigelow) Wenger of Arizona; nieces and nephews, Barbara (Brian) Bestrom, Deborah (Mike) Fedewa, Kermit III (Minda) Pentecost, all of Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Ed received his Bachelors degree from Albion College in Michigan. He went on to earn his Master's degree from Michigan State University. For 45 years, Ed worked as a teacher and administrator in Illinois and Michigan, including at the Department of Corrections for the State of Illinois.

He was a member of Crossroads United Methodist Church in Washington. He was a member of several organizations including the Joseph Robbins #130 Masonic Lodge, The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, Illinois Grade School Music Association where he judged various

children's competitions, Nashville Country Music Association, Peoria Orpheus Men's Chorus, and the Peoria Scottish Rite Consistory.

Ed loved to sing and compose music. He had fond memories of his years teaching high school band, especially of leading his band's participation in the Indianapolis 500 Festival in 1964.

Memorial contributions may be made to Crossroads United Methodist Church in Washington.

There will be no services. A private interment will be held at a later date in Maple Grove Cemetery in Mason, Michigan. Deiters Funeral Home & Crematory in Washington is assisting the family with arrangements.

Tribute Wall

SC

“Mike and Stacy, I didn't get to see your dad but did spend quite amount of time on the phone with him. If it wasn't for Ed and would have never met the family. He got the ball rolling. I can tell from what I have heard that your father was a great gentlemen, He gets that from his dad. Uncle "Bunk" and Aunt Marion were nice people. I know that it is a sad day in your lives but you will see him again someday. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family. Steve and Rinda Chapman

Steve Chapman - August 04, 2015 at 03:53 PM

BE

“ *"My Dear Brother"*

I sure miss our phone conversations, your cheerful voice and upbeat attitude. But that hasn't changed. I can still talk with you as you listen from above.

I can remember all the fun times we had on your visits to Michigan. One week-end we took off and decided to visit all the homes we once lived in. Also the one room school house that you, sister Barb, and I went to. We couldn't believe it was still there, and how pleased we were that it had a historical marker on it. We went to the school you graduated from, and were valedictorian. I got out all the pictures we took, so glad for these memories.

Many times on the phone, we laughed about all the crazy and funny things, you, sister Barb, and myself did growing up, and the time we spent with Granny and Grandpa, with them picking on us.

Then there were the mischievous pranks you and sister pulled on me, of course, I was the youngest little angel, ha, ha. What great laughs we had reminiscing.

Brother you brought joy and love to so many friends and family. When we went to pick out your monument, you had inscribed on it "With a Song in My Heart", and all the music you wrote and sang expressed this.

So with a song in "My Heart" I love and Miss you.

Sister Bev

Beverly - July 24, 2015 at 01:36 PM

LO

“ Uncle Ed was one of the kindest people I ever knew. He was always so grateful and joyful about even the smallest things. Quick with a smile and a kind word, he was easy to talk to and be with. Mom used to tell stories about their giggle fits while trying to record themselves singing and playing music. Hopefully they are together having a great time in heaven. He is so missed!

Lori - July 18, 2015 at 05:16 PM

BA

“ What a wonderful man! He blessed many not only with his talent for music and education, but also with the gift of being able to accept people for who they were and support them in any way needed. Enjoy your music again in heaven Uncle Ed!

Barb, Bryan and Emily

barb - July 17, 2015 at 08:14 AM

TI

“ Thanks to God for such a musical friend as Ed Pickell! Since our Albion College days, we have always enjoyed the fun of hearing Ed's singing, instrumentals, compositions, and general leadership. We certainly will miss him. Perhaps we can attend the time in Mason. Patricia and Tom Brown II '53 and '56, Albion College

Tom Brown II - July 16, 2015 at 07:10 PM

DB

“ I enjoyed meeting Ed at Apostolic Christian Skylines where I work. He was such a smart man and always knew the answers to our Trivia Questions. I will miss him and Al singing together every week. Now he is singing in heaven. Molly And Diane Bussman

Diane Bussman - July 15, 2015 at 01:09 PM

KP

“ Out of all my uncles, Uncle Ed was always the most soft spoken. He was a very patient man and a very good listener. He and I would talk on the phone quite often about anything and everything. I'm going to miss hearing your voice Uncle Ed.

I love you.

Kip

Kermit Pentecost - July 14, 2015 at 12:44 PM

KW

“ I had the honor and pleasure of working with Ed at the Illinois River Correctional Center in Canton during the years of 1997-2001. He worked hard and cared deeply for the adult inmates as he taught Adult Basic Education classes (literacy and math). He was respectful to and respected by inmates, prison staff, and colleagues in the education program there at IRCC for several years. We appreciated his pleasant disposition, his gentleness, his laughter, and his music! He shared his gifts with all of us. "Well done thou good and faithful servant, Ed Pickell, and enter into the joys of the Father's kingdom!"

Mike and family,--- May God comfort you in the loss of your father/grandfather and draw you near to Himself at this time of your loss.

Ken Williamson

Brother in Christ, and member of Illinois Heartland Emmaus Community

Ken Williamson - July 13, 2015 at 09:56 PM

RP

“ I had great honor meeting Ed . I worked at AC Skylines n we had so many good talks laugh n sang together. Such a wise man. My thoughts n prayers go to Mike n family.

rachelle pike - July 12, 2015 at 07:54 PM

TW

“ I have many good memories of Ed, his gentleness, his smile and his 'jolly' laugh. Thoughts and prayers go out to you all.....may he rest in peace.

Teressa Weiss - July 10, 2015 at 10:03 AM

MH

“ Mike and family .. Our sincere sympathy. We so remember your dad and all of his music talents. Your dad gave us a cassette one year for Christmas and every time we listen to the cassette - it would just send chills thru you. Your dad was a great gentleman and we enjoyed him. I'm sure he has already organized his choir in heaven. God will take good care of him. So sad he had to suffer for the last few years. Mendel and Louan Hasler

Mendel & Louan Hasler - July 10, 2015 at 09:27 AM

TA

“ Mike, Stacy and girls, thoughts and prayers for all of you through this difficult time. The dark cloud has been lifted and he is home safe. Hugs to all
Tonya and Kevin Alig

Tonya Alig - July 10, 2015 at 06:45 AM