



James H. Dirlam

February 19, 1925 to January 7, 2016

Norma M. Dirlam

August 23, 1926 to December 9, 2017

Relationship to St. Andrew United Methodist Church: James and Norma were members of St. Andrew United Methodist Church, joining after moving to Westminster Village in 2008.

Family: Jim and Norma were married in June, 1948.. They are survived by three daughters, Diana Pennell (husband Stephen) of West Lafayette, Jane Malavich of Xenia, Ohio, and Gretchen McLaughlin (husband Joel) of Phoenix, Arizona. They are also survived by eight grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren.

Recognitions, Activities and Special Interests:

James: Jim was born in Bismark N.D. in 1926. He graduated from Butler University and the IU Dental School in 1950. He completed his Masters in Oral Maxillo Facial Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania in 1957 and an oral surgery residence at Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University. He served in the US Air Force from 1948 until 1970 and retired with rank of Colonel. He moved to Lebanon, IN and began second career as Professor of Oral and Maxilofacial Surgery at the IU Dental School in Indianapolis until he retired in 1990. Jim received many awards for his teaching.

He had many talents and interests, including restoring antique cars, farming, raising sheep, making jewelry and planted more than 90,000 trees in Boone County. He was an avid fan of IU basketball. He was a devout Christian and dedicated his life to serving his family, his country and his profession.

Norma: Norma was born to German immigrants, Walther and Hedwig Messmer, in 1926, in Indianapolis. She attended Butler University where she met James. She transferred to Indiana University in Bloomington to complete her BA in Education and continued to learn, including working toward her M.A. in Library Science. After she and Jim were married in 1948 and while Jim completed dental school, Norma taught in the first integrated elementary school in Indianapolis. While Jim was in the Air Force, they made a home in San Antonio, Texas, England, Savannah, Philadelphia, Atlanta, the Philippines and Ohio.

When she and Jim moved to a small farm south of Lebanon in 1970, Norma enjoyed a variety of church, farm, and community activities. She was well known for her friendly and cheerful spirit and she enjoyed singing and music. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She was an active member in her Christian church wherever she lived. Norma would say she loved God first, then Jim Dirlam.

Use of Memorial Funds: An endowment was established for St. Andrew United Methodist Church, in their memory, by Diana and Steve Pennell and memorial contributions given in their memory.



James H. Dirlam

James H. Dirlam 90

James H. Dirlam passed away on January 7, 2016. Jim was born in Bismarck, N.D. to Horace and Josephine Dirlam on February 19, 1925. Jim graduated from Butler University in 1948 and the IU Dental School in 1950. Jim and Norma (Messmer) Dirlam were married in June, 1948. Jim completed his Masters in Oral Maxillo Facial Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania in 1957. He completed an oral surgery residency at Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Jim served honorably in the United States Air Force from 1948 until 1970. He retired from the Air Force with the rank of Colonel. He moved to Lebanon, Indiana and began a second career as a Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the IU Dental School in Indianapolis until he retired in 1990 as Professor Emeritus. Jim was Chairman of the Undergraduate Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Jim was a frequent recipient of teaching awards from graduating dental classes, including the Most Favorite Professor Award.

Jim was Board Certified in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He was a diplomat of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, a Fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and a member of the American Dental Association. Jim served as President of the Theta Theta Chapter of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society. Jim had many talents and interests. Jim enjoyed many hobbies including restoring antique cars, farming, raising sheep, making jewelry, and planted more than 90,000 trees in Boone County. Jim was an avid fan of IU basketball. Jim and Norma moved to West Lafayette in 2008 and became members of St. Andrew Methodist Church.

Jim was a devout Christian and dedicated his life to serving his family, his country, and his profession. Jim was soft-spoken. Jim was a skilled oral surgeon and teacher who was greatly respected by his students and colleagues for his knowledge and compassion. He was a loyal, generous, kind, patient and loving person, especially to the members of his family and his beloved wife Norma.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Norma Dirlam, his three daughters, Diana Pennell (husband Stephen), Jane Malavich, and Gretchen McLaughlin (husband Joel); eight grandchildren: James Pennell (wife Susan), Lauren Galbraith (husband Steven), Brian Malavich (wife Andrea), Scott Malavich (wife Lauren), Cameron McLaughlin (wife Claudia), Heather Doyle (husband Nathan), Colin McLaughlin (wife Natalie), and Connor McLaughlin. Jim is survived by seventeen great grandchildren. Jim is also survived by his brother, Jasper Dirlam, and two nephews, John and Mark Dirlam.

Services will be held Saturday January 16, 2016 at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 4703 N. 50 W. in West Lafayette; with visitation at 9:00 am and services beginning at 10:00 am. Graveside services to follow at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis starting at 3:00 pm. Memorial contributions may be made to the IU Dental School, attention of Pamela Lovejoy, IU

Foundation Account Manager, IU School of Dentistry, 1121 W. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. You may sign the guest book and leave memories at www.soller-baker.com

Norma M. Dirlam

WEST LAFAYETTE - Norma Messmer Dirlam went to Heaven on December 9, 2017 at 1:45 at Westminster Village in West Lafayette, Indiana. Norma Messmer Dirlam was born August 23, 1926 to Walther and Hedwig Messmer, German immigrants, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Graduating from George Washington High School in 1946, she attended Butler University where she met James H. Dirlam. She transferred to Indiana University in Bloomington to complete her BA in Education, and continued to learn including working toward her M.A. in Library Science. She and James H. Dirlam were married on June 20, 1948. While Jim completed dental school, Norma taught in the first integrated elementary school in Indianapolis. Jim became a Colonel in the Air Force where he served as a dental officer. Together, Jim and Norma made a home in San Antonio, England, Savannah, Philadelphia, Atlanta, San Antonio (again), the Philippines and Ohio.



Retiring to a small farm south of Lebanon, Indiana in 1970, Jim began teaching at the I.U. School of Dentistry. Norma enjoyed a variety of church, farm and community activities. She enjoyed cultures and people, making friends wherever she went. She was well known for her friendly and cheerful spirit, greeting people with, "Hi friend." She had a radiant smile and enjoyed singing and music. Norma was a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Norma and Jim were life-long companions who were married for 67 years before Jim passed away in 2016. Norma was an active member in her Christian church wherever she lived. Norma would say she loved God first, then Jim Dirlam.

Norma is survived by three daughters: Diana Pennell (husband Steve) of West Lafayette; Jane Malavich of Xenia, Ohio and Gretchen McLaughlin (husband Joel) of Phoenix, Arizona. She is also survived by eight grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren, a brother-in-law, Jasper Dirlam, and two nephews.

The burial service will be Thursday, December 14, 2017 at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis at 1:00 pm with visitation with the family at 12:00 pm. There will be a memorial service at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in West Lafayette on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 11:00 am and visitation with the family at 10:00 am. The family requests that any memorial contributions be made to the James. H. Dirlam scholarship fund at the I.U. School of Dentistry or to the St. Andrew United Methodist Church. You may sign the guest book and leave memories at www.soller-baker.com