



W. Leigh Bonner

November 10, 2010

ADRIAN – W. Leigh Bonner, departed this life on November 10, 2010, at the age of 90, having been born in Traverse City, Michigan, the son of Leona and Walter Bonner. He was graduated from Traverse City Central in 1939 and continued his education at Eastern Michigan University and while a student there, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, but immediately after discharge returned to earn his M.A. and obtained a teaching position with the Clarkston Community Schools where he taught for over 35 years retiring in 1982. He will always be remembered by his students as being required to learn the presidents in their proper order.

He is survived by his wife, Lois, of 67 ½ years, a nephew Collin F. Bonner of Grawn, Michigan, a grand nephew, Brett J. Bonner of Mississippi, and two exchange students, Rosie Malarky from the Philippines, now living in New Jersey, and Aurora Cerron from Peru. His brother, Stuart, and nephew, James (Skip) Bonner, preceded him in death.

Mr. Bonner was a charter member of the Calvary Lutheran Church and at one time, very active in the Republican Party. He also was responsible in establishing the Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union.

Services for Mr. Bonner will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 15, 2010, at Calvary Lutheran Church with Pastor Jonathan Heierman officiating.

Burial will follow at Lake View Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the church on Monday from 10:00 a.m. until the service. Memorial contributions may be made to Calvary Lutheran Church or the Michigan Humane Society. You may also send condolences to the family at www.wagleyfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *W. Leigh Bonner*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *I always enjoyed the US History classes when you lectured. I was honored to have you as a teacher. I remember studying HARD for my first test in the fall of '75 and scoring 100. To this day, I associate times in my life with who was President at that time. When I returned to Clarkston on leave from the Navy, you were always one of the people I came back to see at CHS. Robert Jackson CHS 77##imported-begin##Robert Jackson##imported-end##*

November 22, 2010 at 10:10 AM



“ *i graduated from Clarkston High School in 1980. i had the pleasure of having Mr. Bonner for history (twice, due to excessive tardies as a gym assistant the class before). i was used often as an example during my second time around! i, at 48, can still recite most of the presidents, in order! may God rest Leigh's soul and comfort all who knew and cared for Mr. Bonner##imported-begin##James Mullen##imported-end##*

November 19, 2010 at 07:25 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Bonner,
Mr. Bonner altered the course of my life. I am now 72 years old and a retired educator. He secured a scholarship for me to EMU when I had no way to attend college. That action set me on a career path that I loved. I did call him when we moved to Clarkston to thank him. I saw him at our 50th class reunion and he was the most important person there that I had wanted to see. What a guy...great teacher, great sense of humor! Loved him...Bonnie Meyers Zervas....class of 1956.##imported-begin##Bonnie Zervas##imported-end##

November 18, 2010 at 07:45 PM



“ Condolenses to his family. Had him as a history teacher in 1951. Still can recite all the US presidents in order.##imported-begin##Arzela (Brewer) Kelly##imported-end##

November 15, 2010 at 08:57 PM



“ I will miss Uncle Leigh and will remember all of his great stories and memories....My first meeting with Uncle Leigh and Aunt Lois was in Houston and I was pregnant with my first daughter Donna.....that was in 1970.....That was 40 years ago and since then have been part of our family.....We will miss you lots.....##imported-begin##Diane Lanahan##imported-end##

November 14, 2010 at 09:36 AM



“ Our favorite teacher is gone from this earth, but never from our hearts. As 1954 graduates seeing "Mr. and Mrs. Bonner" has always been the highlight of our reunion. We can still say the presidents in order, remember PIP and MAC and the 5 question quizzes. Mostly we will always remember "our favorite teacher" with love as an important and wonderful part of our high school years.##imported-begin##Cherie (Littleson) and Ed Dubats##imported-end##

November 13, 2010 at 03:02 PM



“ My deepest sympathy over your loss of Leigh...he was a wonderful person and certainly left this world a better place...you are in my prayers and thoughts..Mary##imported-begin##Mary Hoover##imported-end##

November 13, 2010 at 11:54 AM



“ Washington,
Adams,
Jefferson,
Madison
Monroe,
J.Q. Adams . . .

Thanks, and rest well.....##imported-begin##John Steele, Clarkston Class of '79##imported-end##

November 13, 2010 at 10:23 AM



“ Lois, my deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to you. Mr. Bonner touched so many lives in the Clarkston community, truly an iconic figure. I did not have the honor of being in his history class, but my sister Maxine and my late husband Larry did and because of Leigh I now have the base of our family trees to pass on to my two sons and I am so grateful. I have you in my prayers today and am grateful for the love and support of your many friends and family during this time in your life.##imported-begin##Carol Sage Faust##imported-end##

November 12, 2010 at 12:46 PM



“ I feared and liked Mr. Bonner throughout my whole year of history class. His famous TAKE OUT HALF A SHEET OF PAPER & A PENCIL will live on as much as having to know ALL the presidents in order and spelled correctly. Look how much this man and his sense of humor has effected so many us his old students...just the memory of those famous words and knowing all the presidents. I remember the WHOLE GRADUATING CLASS STANDING AND SAYING ALL THE PRESIDENTS IN ORDER at graduation in his honor!! Good man and better teacher. May his memories live on with smiles. Sincerely, Diane Parker, class of 1977##imported-begin##Diane Parker, class of 1977##imported-end##

November 12, 2010 at 11:32 AM



“ Mr. Bonner was a teacher who made a difference and is still remebered fondly after 50 years. His impact was grea. His impact was a topic at our 50th Reunion earlier this fall.##imported-begin##Donna Ruggles Scott##imported-end##

November 12, 2010 at 10:35 AM



“ *May you rest in peace Uncle Leigh. I remember many fun spring break weeks down here in Port Aransas with you and Aunt Lois. Doreen and I always looked forward to when ya'll came down from Michigan. Walking the beach, searching for shells, talking to you while you smoked your pipe, whatever time we spent together was and will always be cherished. I love you and miss you!##imported-begin##Donna Lanahan Hopkins##imported-end##*

November 12, 2010 at 10:21 AM



“ *I looked forward to Mr. Bonner everyday. Everyday he would say to me Ms. Covarrubias would you like to share something with the class. Half the time I don't think I was talking..LOL He still remembered me twenty years later. He was great. Joni##imported-begin##Joni Covarrubias Fortuna##imported-end##*

November 12, 2010 at 09:32 AM



“ *Dear Lois -- My heart goes out to you on the loss of your husband, and our favorite US History teacher and all-around GREAT GUY, Leigh. Truly, he was a wonderful man and will be missed by all of us "Robinsons" who embraced learning through his fine teaching. My prayers are with you this week and always. Love, Tudi Robinson Harwood##imported-begin##Tudi Robinson Harwood##imported-end##*

November 12, 2010 at 08:13 AM



“ I'm sorry to hear that Mr. Bonner has passed away. He was well liked by our class. We've had a couple of class reunion and he was our guess of honor. He will be missed.

Floyd Robertson

Mesa, AZ.

Class of 1956##imported-begin##Floyd Robertson##imported-end##

November 11, 2010 at 07:54 PM



“ To the family of Mr. Bonner.
My husband and I graduated from Clarkston High School in 1977. We both remember mr Bonner very well, and like the rest of his students can recite the presidents to this day! He was a great teacher with lots of stories to tell which always made it more interesting. He will always be remembered and we are all better off to have had him for our teacher. Geoff and Jeannie (Bickford) Becker##imported-begin##Jeannie Becker##imported-end##

November 11, 2010 at 07:02 PM



“ Mrs. Bonner: I was saddened to hear of the passing of your husband, a legend in Clarkston Schools, and want to offer my sincere sympathy in your loss. I fondly remember his history classes, and many students and I have had a fun day posting the presidents in order on Facebook today. My mother, Olga Anderson who played bridge with you also sends her condolences, bit of us wishing you the best from Naples, Florida.##imported-begin##Mary Jane (Anderson) Hiestand##imported-end##

November 11, 2010 at 06:22 PM