



Dr. Carl D. Zurcher

January 18, 1924 - September 11, 2020

Dr. Carl D. Zurcher, age 96, of Huntington, died at 11:15 a.m. Friday, September 11, 2020 at Heritage Pointe of Huntington.

Visitation will be from 3 – 7 p.m. Thursday, September 17, 2020 at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington Indiana. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, September 18, 2020 at College Park United Brethren Church, 1945 College Avenue, Huntington, with Dr. Ray Seilhamer officiating. There will be one hour of visitation prior to the service. Burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Huntington County.

Memorial contributions may be made to College Park United Brethren Church or Huntington University, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana, 46750.

Carl was born on January 18, 1924 near Berne, Indiana, the son of Fred F. and Martha (Valentine) Zurcher. He was a 1941 graduate of Geneva High School and served as a Corporal in the United States Army in the 104th Infantry (Timberwolf) Division in Holland, France, and Germany during World War II. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Huntington College in 1948 and taught for one year at Huntington Township High School before completing his Master's degree at the Northwestern University School of Speech in Evanston, Illinois in 1950. He married Mabel I. (Alpaugh)

Thompson on June 5, 1951 in Kunkle, Ohio; she preceded him in death on February 10, 2018. He was awarded the PhD degree in Theatre by Purdue University in 1973. Dr. Zurcher retired a Professor Emeritus from Huntington College in 1989, having been a member of the faculty since 1950. He taught speech and theatre and directed numerous dramatic productions. He was Chairman of the Division of Humanities and Bible. At his retirement, he was awarded an honorary doctor's degree by Huntington College. In 2003, the auditorium in the Merillat Centre for the Arts was named Zurcher Auditorium in his honor. For several years following his retirement, he was a teacher in the Adult Basic Education Program of Huntington County and a member of the Huntington County Literacy Coalition. He was a member of College Park United Brethren Church in Huntington and served on the Huntington College Alumni Board.

Survivors include daughters Beverly Ann (Dan) Brauchler of Converse and Carla Jeanne Zurcher of Huntington, granddaughters Amber (Jeremy) Roberts and Ashley (Scott) Lindvall, both of Fishers, Indiana, great grandchildren Kensley Roberts, Avery Roberts, Madelyn Roberts, Elliana Lindvall, Connor Lindvall, and Emery Lindvall, and several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, sisters Lois Bluhm and Louise Zurcher, and a brother, Rev. Reuben Zurcher.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Hope Cemetery

1700 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 17. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Visitation

SEP 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

College Park Church
1945 College Ave.
Huntington, IN

Service

SEP **18**. 11:00 AM (ET)

College Park Church
1945 College Ave.
Huntington, IN

Tribute Wall

BL

“ Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Carl D. Zurcher



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - September 15, 2020 at 10:32 PM

NA

“ I will turn home at last once more
Knowing that a true soldier's rest
Once earned is sweet
His peace complete
Who gave until the last his best

National Timberwolf Pups Association - December 20, 2020 at 02:06 PM

BF

“ Brenda Ferrell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Carl D. Zurcher



Brenda Ferrell - September 18, 2020 at 05:18 PM

EK

“ Dr Zurcher was a tremendous influence in our lives as young college students. He was a confident, a person who understood us and gave us good direction when we came to him. He was going to sing at our wedding, but got laryngitis and sent the President's secretary instead and he and I cried over the phone. We have stayed in touch with him through the years and two weeks ago we received a letter from him, giving us blessing and encouragement. May the Lord bless his family as they grieve the loss of him, but rejoice in the fact that they will see him again and that now he is with his beloved wife.

Earl and Lois Jean Kinney

Earl & LoisJean Kinney - September 17, 2020 at 08:09 AM

MT

“ Evan & I cherished over 70 years of friendship with Carl and Mabel. Many fond memories over the years including college professor, church/Sunday School activities and summer painting jobs. Our prayers are with you at this during time of grief.

Isiah 57:2 - Those who walk uprightly enter into peace. They find rest as they lie in death.

Mary Towne & Linda Towne/Schweikhardt - September 16, 2020 at 11:37 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Carl D. Zurcher.



September 16, 2020 at 05:34 PM

RL

“ Carla, Bev and Dan, We're sorry for your loss. In my freshman year I helped back stage on a production. My sophomore year I auditioned for and got a part in the Fall Production. From then on, I worked with Dr Zurcher on several productions throughout my student years. What a wonderful man! One year I was on a team to pick up furniture and other props around Huntington for an upcoming production. He didn't just assign the work, he was in the trenches with us that day. As a young student, I was impressed that a professor would give up his Saturday to help us. He truly embodied the fruits of the spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. A wonderful legacy and a life well lived. God Bless you Dr Zurcher.

Randy Livengood - September 16, 2020 at 12:53 PM



“ Bev and Carla, Becky and I extend our sympathy to you and your families at this time of loss. Your father and mother were such wonderful people. We are so blessed to have known them at Huntington College and even back when they would visit Kunkle. Blessings, Dennis & Becky Burkholder

Dennis Burkholder - September 16, 2020 at 11:50 AM

KZ

“ Throughout my childhood at College Park Church Dr. Zurcher was always a kind and gentle soul. Always very quite spoken and caring. When I went to Huntington College he was there too. He was very supportive of his students and taught his classes in a way that impacted his students throughout their lives. I feel very blessed to have had an opportunity to know Dr. Zurcher. Carla and Bev, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Komeh (Towne) Zilka.

Komeh (Towne) Zilka - September 15, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ 26 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - September 15, 2020 at 10:09 PM

SS

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.*

Sharon Sharp - September 15, 2020 at 01:06 PM

CW

“ *Dr. Zurcher was a true Christian. I will always remember, and be grateful for, his accepting love and kindness. My love and sympathy go out to his family. He will be held in my heart forever.*

CherylAnne Zinz Williams - September 15, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. Carl D. Zurcher.*



September 15, 2020 at 11:43 AM

MG

“ So sorry for your loss. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Marianne Goshorn

Marianne Goshorn - September 15, 2020 at 10:19 AM

LM

“ Dr. Carl Zurcher has been a great friend over many years. He was a dearly loved professor by so many who were in his classes. I had the misfortune of not having him as my speech teacher because he was on a sabbatical the year I had my speech class. I always felt as though I missed out on a lot as a result. May God bless you and comfort you in the days ahead.

Lynn Mefferd - September 14, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Carl D. Zurcher.



September 14, 2020 at 11:19 AM



“ Dear Carla and Bev, I am so glad to have spent time with your family over the years - at your home, Bible classes with your mom and plays your dad directed. His teaching and example still come to mind. I am praying for God's comfort and peace for you. Love to you all, Eleanor (Betterly) Hill

Eleanor Hill - September 13, 2020 at 10:06 PM

JB

“ I had the true privilege of not only taking a speech class that he taught but to also be his student worker one year. His gentle spirit, kind ways, thoughtfulness & superb teaching made him a campus favorite professor. He could help draw out the most timid student in speech class and at the same time strongly critique a speech in a way that made students want to do better the next time. I had the upmost respect for him.

Jennifer Boen - September 13, 2020 at 07:02 PM

TO

“ As with his interpretation of literature, Dr. Zurcher looked for the deeper good and strengths in people. Carl truly lived his faith. He exuded kindness and embraced diversity. He challenged us to expand our wisdom, to have the courage to follow our dreams and to never underestimate our strength to overcome painfully challenging situations. The legacy of Carl Zurcher lives in those he touched, and it will be embedded in the future of those who will reap the benefits of one caring and committed gentleman.

Tom Overmyer - September 13, 2020 at 04:53 PM

PS

“ The memories are overwhelming and the words insufficient. Dr. Zurcher was my teacher, mentor, cheerleader and friend. Woody and i are so blessed to have known him and know we will see him again. Thank you for sharing your Dad, Grandfather, and Great Grandfather with us. Pat Clay Stucker

Pat and Woody Stucker - September 13, 2020 at 04:41 PM

Jl

“ *His legacy is well established by his valuable contributions to the college and community.*

Jack E. Daniels III

Jack E. Daniels III - September 13, 2020 at 04:21 PM

SR

“ *Dear Uncle Carl, I love you so much. I know Mabel greeted you with smiles, hugs, and joyous tears. Way too many memories to mention,,,and each one sweeter than the next. YOU were the very best Uncle ever.*

You will be missed. Love you always. Sheri Sharp-Recknagel

Sheri Recknagel - September 13, 2020 at 02:37 PM

CB

“ *Carl was a dear man, he showed me what a real Christian gentleman was from the first play I was in as a freshman in 1968 until the last time we spoke a few weeks ago. For the last 52 years he and Mabel were caring, loving friends whose letters, calls, and visits were a joy in my life. I will miss him but know his joy is full to be with Mabel again and with the Lord. And with his gentle spirit he will be surprised to see all the people who are thrilled to see him and his reward will be great. I will carry his kindness and laughter with me till we meet again. Claudia (Walsh) Brill.*

Claudia Brill - September 13, 2020 at 01:45 AM

JV

“ *What a Wonderful Man! I learned so much from him and loved to hear his voice! I was so honored that he was able to attend my Father's 90th Birthday Party at the Heritage. It was good to see him! Our Family grieves with you. The Zurcher Family is very special to all of us! Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God comfort you in the days ahead. I know that Mrs. Zurcher was awfully glad to see him!! With Deepest Sympathy,*

Jane Hale Varney

Jane Hale Varney - September 12, 2020 at 09:05 PM

JV

“ *Jane Hale Varney lit a candle in memory of Dr. Carl D. Zurcher*



Jane Hale Varney - September 12, 2020 at 08:59 PM

DJ

“ *Dr Zurcher was big on details, tender with grace and ever about grace. When he smiled, the world was right. He was my first advisor at Huntington University and my speech professor. He was always so kind to me. I remember he was big on recycling old envelopes. He would send me a a clipping here and there through campus mail. Years later, out of the blue, he I got a note from him. This was a fresh envelope and stamped, through U.S. Mail. He thanked me for using him in a comedy bit at Davis Hall Follies about him in a bit about a secret faculty basketball game. It was complete with silly one liners like about our favorite staff members I specifically credited Dr. Z with a thunderous dunk. He thanked me for elevating his basketball legend and thinking of him, then said, he was delighted to listen and brought him great joy at the unlikihood of it all. But one of his greatest influences on me was a subtle one. I remember before class, he asked to speak with another student and I. He politely asked us to remove our hats in our class. Naturally we did. He did it so kind but with authority we couldnt help but be compliant. I never wore a hat indoor again because of a little tiny lesson. RIP Dr. Zurcher.*

DEAN JACKSON - September 12, 2020 at 08:02 PM

DJ

“ *Dr. Zurcher was everything that is said in these memories. My first advisor and of course speech professor. He was tough on details, big on grace and loved us all. Ever the encourager.*

And, I never wore a ball cap indoors, again, after he subtly challenged me to take it off as a sign of respect. I never forgot that.

DEAN JACKSON - September 12, 2020 at 07:38 PM

GB

“ So sorry for your loss, Dr. Zurcher was always a great role model. He always was the finest example of a Christian gentleman. A true gentle man.

Gary L. Brandeberry - September 12, 2020 at 02:54 PM

JW

“ A very loving and and kind man!

Jean Walmsley - September 12, 2020 at 10:20 AM

HD

“ I can't begin to share a memory because there are so, so many. The Z taught me my craft, honed my skills and gave me a work ethic. I have done the same for my students for 30 years. He lives in them even if they don't know it.

Helen Dixon - September 12, 2020 at 01:33 AM

JD

“ He was an amazing man who was full of integrity and excellence. He was a model to me when I came to Huntington College in the fall of 1980.

Jerry Davis - September 11, 2020 at 10:41 PM

MH

“ I remember sitting in on his class a few times when I was in elementary school. I'm thinking it was probably a snow day, and we didn't have a place to go. He was always so nice to us, and my dad really looked up to him. You will be missed.

Mandy Helman - September 11, 2020 at 10:41 PM

DR

“ When you’re raised without the benefit of a Christ loving father, as I was, you scramble to collect exemplars about how to become a Christlike man. Carl was a stunning gift to my life, as I met him a mere 3 years after coming to faith in Jesus. Now, 48 years later, no one has replaced him as an example of how to serve others with selfless excellence and heartfelt encouragement. I still possess and treasure notes Carl wrote me after HC fall productions. And then, to enter my career as a professor under the care of Dr Zurcher as my division chair, only inspired me more to become a better man. For the glory and singular applause of our Lord Jesus Christ, I envy the joy Carl knows in this moment. My heart soars in this memory, full of gratitude. Prayers of comfort to the family, trusting that the certainty of Carl’s legacy will thunder through eternity.

Dave Rahn - September 11, 2020 at 09:45 PM

DG

“ A very special man! Was shocked to read this. God had put him on my heart the last couple of days. He was always so kind to Joe and me. Always a gentleman. Carla, Bev, Dan, and family our thoughts and prayers are with you. We feel honored to refer to him as our friend! Hugs!

Diana Grogg - September 11, 2020 at 06:03 PM