



Cletus P. Olinger

February 6, 1927 - March 10, 2012

Cletus P. Olinger, age 85, of Huntington, died at 3:00 p.m. Saturday (March 10, 2012) at his home, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Clete was born February 6, 1927, in Huntington, to Paul and LuLu (Sutton) Olinger. He graduated from Huntington High School in 1943. Clete went on to Huntington College after attending Art School in Fort Wayne. He served in WWII as Navy Seaman 1st Class aboard an LST Carrier and was especially proud of his military service in the pacific. He married M. Anne Bickel on April 20, 1951 in Huntington.

Clete retired from Our Sunday Visitor as a Graphic Artist after 43 years of service. He received many national awards for his graphic designs and watercolor paintings. He is a member of St. Mary Catholic Church. He was involved in the development of the Gemmer Field Baseball Diamonds and enjoyed coaching the Our Sunday Visitor Little League Team for more than 20 years. Clete enjoyed sports and played high school basketball and football but excelled in track and field. He was very active in youth programs including – baseball, basketball and baton twirling. He coached the Huntington Catholic boys CYO basketball team and lead this team to a state championship title in 1968. He loved salmon and steelhead fishing and was a die-hard Cubs fan and an avid I.U. basketball fan. He also enjoyed barbershop quartet singing and was a tenor for years in the local quartet "The HuntingTones". His

greatest joys were his loving wife "Annie," their children and their families as well as his beloved pet Muffie.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years - M. Anne Olinger of Huntington; three sons - Chip (Deb) Olinger of Huntington, Jeffrey A. Olinger D.D.S of Huntington, Jamie (Melanie) Olinger, of Huntington, three daughters - Anne (Jim) Brooks, of Dayton, Ohio, Daneen (Steve) Grove of rural Huntington, Sue (Jim) Sunderman, of Huntington, 18 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, two sisters - Gwendolyn Saunders and June Glassburn preceded him in death.

Visitation will be from 3-7 p.m. Tuesday (March 13, 2012) at Bailey-Love Mortuary with Rosary services at 6 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday (March 14, 2012) with one-hour visitation prior to mass at St. Mary Catholic Church 903 North Jefferson with Father John Pfister officiating. Burial will be held in the Mount Calvary Cemetery with Military Grave side services provided by the V.F.W Post #2689 of Huntington.

Memorial contributions are Masses to the St. Mary Catholic Church in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN 46750.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Cemetery

5025 N. Goshen Rd
Huntington, IN 46750

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 13. 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

MAR 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
903 N. Jefferson St.
Huntington, IN 46750

Service

MAR **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
903 N. Jefferson St.
Huntington, IN 46750

Tribute Wall



“ Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Cletus P. Olinger



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - March 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Annie,

I just saw the notice about Clete's death -- and now resurrection. Bless you. How hard it is sometimes to realize that death is the only way we can enter into the arms of the Lord and His Mother and all our beloved who have gone before us. Christ is Risen. Truly He is Risen.

Fr. Pat McNulty - all the way up in Canada!

Fr. Pat McNulty - April 08, 2012 at 09:25 AM

AO

“ *My grandfather was one of the most lovable and generous people I have ever met. Pampaw always had a sparkle in his eye and lots of hugs to give. I'll always remember his beautiful watercolor paintings, his sweet tenor voice singing Barbershop, and his love of colorful birds, wildlife, and fishing.*

He was a wonderful role model for young men in our community for many years, and his dedication to being a good father paid off. My dad Jamie is so much like him, and I can consider myself lucky to be the daughter and granddaughter to such upstanding men.

Pampaw, I will never forget the good memories we shared, and I will proudly display your painting in my home someday. I'll never forget your encouraging words as you proudly told me, "You will make a great teacher someday." Somewhere in heaven you are fishing on a peaceful river watching the sunset spread across the sky. Your smile and memory will always be cherished in our hearts.

I love you.

*Always your loving granddaughter,
Amanda Marie Olinger*

Amanda M. Olinger - March 15, 2012 at 06:02 PM

MO

“ *Pampaw will be missed by us all. He was a wonderful father and grandfather, and has passed down to my dad, Jamie, many things that are so detrimental to everyday life; persistence, pride, and integrity to name a few. The skills that he passed down to my dad, and from my dad to me, have helped shape the kind of man that my dad has become, and the kind of man that I hope to become. We know that Pampaw was so proud of all that dad has accomplished in life. I never got the chance to catch a steelhead with you, Pampaw, but I know you'll be watching me when the Salmon Patty floats on the St. Joe again, and I'll be sure to come show you my first salmon. Sleep in peace, Pampaw.*

*Your Loving Grandson,
Matt*

Matt Olinger - March 14, 2012 at 07:54 PM

TS

“ *Tony And Sara Smart lit a candle in memory of Cletus P. Olinger*



Tony and Sara Smart - March 13, 2012 at 07:49 PM

CC

“ *Connie Chapin lit a candle in memory of Cletus P. Olinger*



Connie Chapin - March 13, 2012 at 05:09 PM

PH

Annie, sorry to hear about Clete. I remember him as one of the smallest football players on Huntington Highs team and quite a speedy runner. Often wondered what happened to him But since I haven't spent a lot of time in Huntington since 1952, Have lost track of a lot of people. Phil Harrison, Mequon Wi.

Phil Harrison - March 13, 2012 at 08:02 PM

MW

“*Anne and family, Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one. Truly this is a time of great sorrow, remembrances and the faith and hope that you hold. Thinking of you at this time and wishing you God's peace and comfort.*
Marcia Waters



Marcia Waters - March 13, 2012 at 04:50 PM

MM

“*Clete was such a talented man in so many areas. He once painted a beautiful watercolor for our family for which we feel so fortunate to have hanging in our home. He will be missed by so many and our thoughts are with your family at this difficult time.*
Peace!

Mary Machall and Louie Machall - March 13, 2012 at 11:43 AM

SU

“*Steve And Pam Updike lit a candle in memory of Cletus P. Olinger*



Steve and Pam Updike - March 13, 2012 at 08:37 AM

NS

“ *Nikki Saunders lit a candle in memory of Cletus P. Olinger*



Nikki Saunders - March 13, 2012 at 08:30 AM

TS

“ *Terry E Scher lit a candle in memory of Cletus P. Olinger*



Terry E Scher - March 12, 2012 at 07:46 PM

JG

“ *To the family of Cletus Paul Olinger and especially to Cory, beloved grandson of Cletus. To each of you at your time of loss, Jerry and I send our sincere thoughts and prayers. The pain you are feeling at this time is a result of many years of love and sharing of family memories of happy times due to your relationships with Cletus as a father, grandfather and a friend to many in Huntington. I read his Obituary today in the Huntington HP and also heard of your loss when we dined at TW's Saturday evening. The Obituary described Cletus very well and identified his importance and contributions to the Huntington Community, his family and friends. May God Bless you in your time of loss and also as you celebrate Cletus' life. Sue and Jim, you have a very special son in Cory. Sincerely, Jerry and Darlene Garrett.*

Jerry Garrett - March 12, 2012 at 06:48 PM

BC

“ *Bill Chapin lit a candle in memory of Cletus P. Olinger*



bill chapin - March 12, 2012 at 06:37 PM

TF

“ *Mrs. Olinger, Chip, and all of the children of Clete's family -- I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your husband/father. Clete was a good man on so many levels, and, along with many others, a good roll model "Dad" for the boys in our school/parish @ St. Mary's. May the good memories of the past help sustain you & your family through this difficult time.*

*The Joseph Wall Family (Jan, Joe, Robin & Allison)
Bowling Green, KY*

The Joseph Wall Family - March 12, 2012 at 05:26 PM

PM

“ *Anne and family: Our sincere sympathy to you for your loss. May God bless you all.*

Pat & Judi Mettler - March 12, 2012 at 05:21 PM

DC

“ Our Sunday Visitor is where I first met Clete. His watercolors were amazing! Clete's laughter was contagious. So many of his sayings/descriptions will always stick in my mind, "Ankle biter, Apron string puller" were just a couple.
Little did I know, that just a few years from my meeting Clete, would my brother Jim would fall in Love and marry Sue. Our paths would cross occasionally over the years, and Clete still made me smile!
Rest In Peace Clete!

Sincerely,
Deb (Sunderman) Clark

Deb (Sunderman) Clark - March 12, 2012 at 01:03 PM

IC

“ I remember Clete being at Dr. Cope's helping young pitchers. He was such a blessing for the youth of our community. My sincere sympathies

Iris Clark - March 12, 2012 at 11:24 AM

BS

“ Anne and family

My sympathies to you and the family at Cletus' death. He will be in my prayers. You and the family will also be in my thoughts and prayers especially on Wednesday as you say a final farewell to him. God bless you.

Brother Jim Scher

Brother Jim Scher - March 12, 2012 at 10:52 AM

GS

“ I am so sorry to read of Clete's passing. My heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Olinger and his family. He was a gift from our creator to the youth of Huntington County. His legacy lives.

Gerald Sailors - March 12, 2012 at 10:48 AM

GS

The should have read "Mrs. Olinger and his family"

Gerald Sailors - March 12, 2012 at 01:36 PM

BR

“ Brenda lit a candle in memory of Cletus P. Olinger



Brenda - March 12, 2012 at 04:52 AM