

Edward von Gunten

(August 2, 1924 - October 28, 2009)

Edward Dale von Gunten of Berne, Indiana passed away at 4:15 a.m. Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Edward was born on August 2, 1924 in Adams County, Indiana the son of Osia and Matilda (nee Moser) von Gunten of rural Berne. He married Marjorie (nee Branch) on March 23, 1944.



Edward and his wife Marjorie celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary in March of 2009. They were the third generation to live and work on the family farm on Road S 100 E, northeast of Berne, and they were honored to receive a 100 year Indiana Homestead Award from the state in recognition of the von Gunten family's long history on the land. Edward's grandparents, John and Barbara Lehman von Gunten, first settled the land in 1876. The farm remained a dairy farm until 1966 when Edward and Marjorie built a layer house and entered the poultry business. He left the farm in 2002 and the couple moved to Berne.

Edward also spent forty-three years as a school bus driver for Adams Central Community Schools and later for South Adams Schools, before retiring in 1989. In addition, he served as a director of the Farm Bureau Co-op for many years.

Edward gave his life to the Lord at a revival meeting in his youth and joined the First Mennonite Church in Berne on May 22, 1938, the day Rev. Suckau baptized him upon his confession of faith. He was an active member of the congregation and served as a Senior Sunday School teacher, a member of the Board of Deacons, and more recently he and Marjorie served as volunteer visitors to the sick and shut-ins.

Edward enlisted as a 1A-O conscientious objector during World War II, working as a cook in the Asian Theatre and drove a truck on the Ledo Burma Road. His travels during the war took him around the world by ship, first from California to India and later from India to New York.

Edward is survived by his wife Marjorie; sons: Neill (Edith) von Gunten of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and Stanley (Dianne) von Gunten, who are presently living on the family farm in rural Berne, foster daughter, Marie Hess; seven grandchildren: Jenny (Warren) Jutzi of Parker Hill, Ontario; Kevin (Danella) von Gunten of Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba; Karin (Richard) Dyck and Kathi (Greg) Wiebe of Winnipeg, Manitoba; Mark (Tawnya) von Gunten of Berne; Todd von Gunten of Bluffton; Chad (Danette) von Gunten of rural Berne; foster grandchildren, Teresa and Rose; seventeen great-grandchildren: Justin and Caleb Jutzi; Vicki, Brittany, Kevin Jr., Darren, and Johnny Lee von Gunten; Anthony, Carly, and Abigail Dyck; Tyler and Alexander Wiebe; Natasha von Gunten; Mitchell von Gunten; and Olivia, Isabel, and Aidan von Gunten; four step-great-grandchildren: Morgan and Taylor Isch, and Christian and Jessica Humann; and two foster great-grandchildren: Karen and Ryan.

Edward is also survived by his sister, Louneta Bixler of Monroe, and sister-in-law, Naomi von Gunten. Edward was preceded in death by his parents, Osia and Matilda, his brother, Sherman, his brother-in-law, Glenn Bixler, his first great-great-grandchild, Jacoby A. von Gunten, at two days old, and his foster granddaughter, Lorie Jones.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, October 31, 2009 at the First Mennonite Church in Berne with the Rev Jerry Flueckiger officiating. Interment will follow at the M.R.E. Cemetery of rural Berne. Graveside military rites will be conducted by the Berne American Legion Post #468. The pallbearers are Edward's grandsons: Mark, Todd, and Chad von Gunten, Warren Jutzi, Richard Dyck, and Greg Wiebe.

Family and friends will be received from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 30 at the Yager-Kirchhofer Funeral Home in Berne.

Gifts in Edward's memory can be given to the First Mennonite Church Multi-Purpose Building Fund in Berne or to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort

**Yager-Kirchhofer Funeral Home online obit (accessed 7/17/2013)**