



## Les Fenimore

May 4, 1936 - June 9, 2017

Harold Leslie (Les) Fenimore, 81, a long time Rushville resident, passed away June 9, 2017 in Rushville. He was born May 4, 1936 in Muncie to Harold E. and Kreszentia (Siegwart) Fenimore. Les was a 1954 graduate of Muncie Burriss High School. He obtained his BS in Chemistry from Indiana University in 1958, his teaching certificate from Ball State University and his MA in teaching from Purdue University in 1965. Continuing education at Ball State University, Earlham College, Ohio Wesleyan, DePauw University, Miami of Ohio University and Indiana University rounded out his educational experiences. He married Ann Gilkey on July 31, 1959 in Crawfordsville. She survives.

Les taught science and math for 51 years, 1 year in Winchester and 50 years in Rushville. He was a dedicated teacher who expected excellence from his students. His greatest joy was having former students return from college and tell him how well prepared they were for their chemistry and physics classes. In addition to teaching, he served as sponsor of National Honor Society, Junior Class, and Yearbook.

He was selected by students as an ISTAR award winner numerous times. Rose Hulman and Trine University recognized him as an outstanding high school teacher. Students also recognized him twice by nominating him for the "Realizing the Dream" award from the Independent Colleges and Universities of Indiana. Professional memberships included: NEA, ISTA, RUTA, and Phi

Delta Kappa.

Les was a music lover. He played trombone in high school and at Indiana University in the Marching Hundred. He was a member of the Community Band. Old movie musicals were his favorites.

Photography was a hobby which became a second job. Hundreds of weddings, sporting events, team pictures, Christmas cards, and high school dances were taken and then processed in his dark room in the basement (known as "The Mole Hole"). When digital photography arrived, he used his computer in the "Eagles Nest" to do his processing. He loved to photograph wildlife, snow scenes, fall color and of course his family. He doesn't appear in many pictures because he was always behind the camera!

Baseball was a favorite sport. He seldom missed a game when his boys were participating. He coached and was president and treasurer of Little League and president of Babe Ruth. He announced and kept score at games at all levels.

Woodworking, building boxes, and fixing things were hobbies. He restored a 1946 Willy's Jeep and used it to deliver the Sunday Star Newspaper for awhile. Number 1 son learned how to drive using the Jeep.

Archery, trap and skeet shooting, and shooting muzzle loading rifles added to his hobbies. He was a member of the Rush County Conservation Club serving as president for several years and also taught several hunter safety courses.

Les was a member of First Presbyterian Church where he was a deacon and sound technician; and a former member of St. Paul United Methodist Church where he served as treasurer, Sunday School teacher, and sound technician.

In addition to his wife, Ann, he is survived by his sons, Dr. Craig Fenimore (Carol) of Rushville and Bruce (Joni) of Rushville and 6 grandchildren: Chelsea, Kera, Caleb, Mariah, Hallie and Alexis. Les was preceded in death by his parents and brother, William Arnold Fenimore in 1952.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 17, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church of Rushville. Friends are welcome to visit from 4-8 p.m. Friday evening, June 16 at Moster Mortuary, Rushville. Inurnment will take place in the Columbarium at Rushville's East Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 226 N. Morgan St., Rushville, IN 46173; The Rush County Community Foundation "Thank A Teacher Fund", 117 N. Main St. Rushville, IN 46173; Our Hospice of Decatur/Shelby, 1201 N. Lincoln St. Suite A, Greensburg, IN 47240; or the donor's favorite charity.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **16**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Moster Mortuary  
334 North Main Street  
Rushville, IN 46173  
(765) 932-3914  
info@mostermortuary.com  
<https://www.mostermortuary.com>

## Memorial Service

JUN **17**. 11:00 AM (ET)

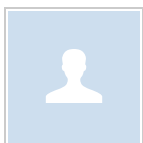
First Presbyterian Church  
Rushville, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fenimore was a mean-spirited teacher who delighted in making fun of me when I was struggling as a sophomore taking chemistry. Teachers should not make their struggling students feel stupid for not understanding something. I will not miss him.* ”

A.J. Brocklesby - January 21 at 10:29 AM



“ *Les Fenimore* ”

January 28, 2023 at 12:19 PM



“ *Donna Mosley lit a candle in memory of Les Fenimore* ”



Donna Mosley - August 07, 2017 at 02:32 PM



“ *Greg Raiké lit a candle in memory of Les Fenimore* ”



Greg Raiké - June 13, 2017 at 11:15 AM

SB

“ *Sam, Pirkko, Nathaniel, Kristiina and Brian purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Les Fenimore.*



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**Sam, Pirkko, Nathaniel, Kristiina and Brian** - June 13, 2017 at 04:06 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Les Fenimore.*



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June 12, 2017 at 05:02 PM

JD

“ *Jacqueline Duke lit a candle in memory of Les Fenimore*



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**Jacqueline Duke** - June 12, 2017 at 02:27 PM



“ *Les was one of my favorite teachers in High School. He made me love science class. Always so much fun to go to his class.*

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**Dawn Edwards Fussner** - June 12, 2017 at 12:38 PM

JS

“ *Janice Smith lit a candle in memory of Les Fenimore*



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**janice smith** - June 12, 2017 at 10:08 AM

LS

“ *I respected Les as my teacher and as a fine man. He will be missed by many. My prayers and sympathy to the family.* †

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**Linda Schroeder** - June 12, 2017 at 02:22 AM



“ *Mr. Fenimore is a man that even after 35+ years influenced my life. I had him for algebra many many moons ago and he was so patient and understanding. Math was not my strong point. Spent my year having him tutor me and trying to grasp things. He always told me, "as long as you try, you will be fine". 4 years ago, I graduated from college with Associates in Business and finally, what he taught me so many years ago, finally went off like a light bulb in my mind. I will be forever grateful for his warm, compassion caring person he was and never making you feel less important then those that was getting the high grades in his class. May you find great peace, comfort and love in God's hands during this difficult time. Jane (Brazle) Travis*

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**Jane Travis** - June 11, 2017 at 06:28 PM

AP

“ Amelia Perkins lit a candle in memory of Les Fenimore



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Amelia Perkins - June 11, 2017 at 04:02 PM

AP

“ I was blessed to have Mr. Fenimore for basic chemistry last period. He was a great teacher and inspired both a passion and interest in chemistry. He reached out and made the transition for me as a county kid into RCHS much easier. He made a last period class an adventure of pinhole cameras and lab experiments. Many thanks to a great teacher and human being. I extend my heartfelt thoughts and prayers to his family. God bless you!

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Amelia Perkins - June 11, 2017 at 03:59 PM

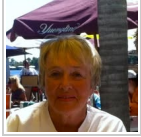


“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Les Fenimore.



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June 11, 2017 at 09:40 AM



“ Ann,  
*We are thinking of you today and have such fond memories of you and Les and all the good times we had together raising our kids, eating pizza from Pizza King, and playing games at your table. Les was a great friend and helped me so many times cutting off doors and other projects that I started but could not finish without his help. We will miss him so much.*  
*Sandy & Gary*

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**Sandy Brown** - June 11, 2017 at 08:50 AM

BE

“ *He was the reason I spent 43 years teaching high school math, my favorite teacher of all time. My wife loved having him as a teacher.*  
*Susan (Sizemore) and Bill English*

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**Bill English** - June 11, 2017 at 07:31 AM

BR

*Became acquainted with Les during archery tournaments and as members of Blue River Bowmen. A fine gentleman and good friend. He will be greatly missed. It was an honor to have known him.*

*Butch Rayl*

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**Butch Rayl** - June 11, 2017 at 01:44 PM

LC

“ Ann,  
We were so very sorry to hear of the death of your beloved husband. He was such a very good teacher for both of us. David always admired him and was inspired to continue on in chemistry obtaining his degree from Purdue in bio-analytical chemistry. Of course, Les, also took our wedding pictures. I think he felt somewhat responsible for the matchmaking of our marriage and my sister Ruth's and her husband's as we both all met in his Chemistry class.  
Blessings to you during this time of grief.  
David and Lois (Jaynes) Cornpropst

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**Lois Cornpropst** - June 10, 2017 at 07:46 PM

AM

“ Mr. Fenimore was an amazing teacher - his ability to teach chemistry stuck with me and allowed me to succeed 10 years later when I went to Vet school. He was strict and demanded professionalism and respect in the classroom; life lessons well taught and much needed.  
He will be missed.

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**Amie** - June 10, 2017 at 05:05 PM



Andrew Hunter

“ *Mr. Fenimore was one of, if not THE, most impactful teachers I had in high school. A primary reason I decided to go into engineering. I am positive his teaching ways and passion for what he taught helped prepare me for college and a career as much as anything during that time in life.*

*Having gotten to know him in the church as well, I know that he will be missed by many who knew him as the kind, helpful person he was.*

*Prayers are with the Fenimore family.*

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**Andrew Hunter** - June 10, 2017 at 04:27 PM

RG

“ *Praying for the Fenimore family at this difficult time. Mr Fenimore's teaching and encouragement are one of the reasons I went to college where I did and studied what I did. He made chemistry fun and cared about his students success.*

*Ryan Gruell*

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**Ryan Gruell** - June 10, 2017 at 01:30 PM

BM

“ *A very good teacher kind and was a good friend RIP*

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**Brenda Spriggs McLean** - June 10, 2017 at 10:03 AM

NA

“ *I often find myself remembering Mr. Fenimore when at work. There are habits that he helped develop in me through his classes that I still use today. I'm very sorry for your loss.*

*Nathan Hedrick*

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**Nathan** - June 10, 2017 at 08:20 AM

KB

“ Mr. Fenimore was one of the best teachers I have had in my life, including elementary through physical therapy school. It was very obvious how well prepared we were for college chemistry when I could sail through my first semester of college chemistry while other undergrads with the same college professor were struggling. (And, they had taken chemistry at their respective high schools, too.) I sure wished Mr. Fenimore had also taught us a semester of organic chemistry in high school! My thoughts are with his family, especially Craig who is the family member I knew well as a member of the RCHS class of '78.

*Kammi Barnard*

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**Kammi Barnard** - June 09, 2017 at 11:27 PM

SU

“ My memories of Mr Fenimore originate from my childhood church family at St Paul's UMC. He was dad to Craig and Bruce. He also was photographer for our family's annual Christmas cards. My condolences to his family.

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**Suzanne** - June 09, 2017 at 11:07 PM

MT

“ Mr. Fenimore was a great teacher and made science fun. He would have laughed to know that I got my degree in Physics from Indiana! Know that we are keeping the family in our prayers!

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**Mathew Truster** - June 09, 2017 at 10:21 PM

BD

“ Most remember Mr. Fenimore as a science teacher. I remember him as a Sunday School teacher. Thinking of the Fenimore family and hoping sweet, funny, poignant memories bring you comfort. Betsy Riebsomer Draper

Betsy Riebsomer Draper - June 09, 2017 at 09:13 PM

KD

Very sorry for your loss. He was one of the best high school teachers and helped prepare me for college chemistry. Can't say thank you enough for all his years of preparing kids to learn. Karen Mahan Dones

Karen Mahan Dones - June 09, 2017 at 10:18 PM

TM

“ Mr. Fenimore was one of my favorite teachers. So sorry for your loss.



Tammy Mayse - June 09, 2017 at 08:31 PM

GO

“ Such a wonderful person. I was so honored to be his student and then "fill" his shoes as a substitute for his classroom. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Gina O'Dell - June 09, 2017 at 07:44 PM

AM

“ Aww one of my favorite high school teachers. Praying for Ann & his family💕💕

Ann Megee - June 09, 2017 at 06:39 PM

JF

*My heart goes out to you and your family. God keep you in his care.*

**Joyce and Doug Lowes and Family** - June 09, 2017 at 07:10 PM

LP

*Loved his enthusiasm for teaching his classes. He was a great teacher!*

**Louann Phares** - June 09, 2017 at 07:15 PM



*I am so sorry for your lost did know the family put i know craig i will be praying for you and the family*

**Lauri Jackson** - June 09, 2017 at 09:08 PM

DR

*So very sorry to hear of the passing of Mr Fenimore. He and Madelyn Knight were my 2 favorite high school teachers. When I took chemistry in college, I was amazed how many of the people who did not understand valences. College chemistry was very easy for me thanks to Mr Fenimore. His dedication to the teaching profession inspired me to always want to learn more about everything in my life. What a great teacher and sensational inspiration !!!! He will be greatly missed. I am quite certain when God welcomed him home God said "well done, Oh good and faithful servant".*

*David Roberts*

**David Roberts** - June 11, 2017 at 03:54 AM

SW

*So very sorry to hear of Mr. Fenimore's passing. Thinking of him brings back such fond memories. My first day of high school found me sat in the front row of Algebra with a teacher working hard to scare us all about how tough he intended to be. Because that class mattered that much. I walked away with a strong foundation for many classes to come but what he REALLY taught me was problem solving skills. He taught me how to analyze a situation and consider various paths to an appropriate outcome. This has carried me throughout my life. And even though he was one of the toughest teachers I've had, he showed his dedication to my academic success to compel me to make sure I took future classes he taught as well. Rest well, Mr. Fenimore. My prayers to your family, sir.*

**Stacey Howell Wayman** - June 12, 2017 at 12:16 AM