



## Melvin D. Gray

May 30, 1922 - August 30, 2014

Melvin D. Gray, 92, a long time Rush and Franklin County resident passed away in Batesville, IN on August 30, 2014. Melvin was born in Fayette County, IN on May 30, 1922 to the late Wendell P. and Roxie (Kennedy) Gray. He was a 1940 graduate of Rushville High School. Melvin was married briefly to Doris Hilmershausen of Wausau, Wisconsin, prior to marrying Ellen Charlene “Pinkie” (Call) on December 23, 1950 and she survives. This first union brought us our beloved daughter, sister, and friend, Judith.

Melvin served in the United States Army Air Corps 39th Fighter Squadron and the 5th Army Air Corps during WWII as a Communications Tech in the Pacific theater in the Philippines, New Guinea and Okinawa. He received 8 Bronze Stars and an Asian Pacific Ribbon.

Melvin was a graduate of Butler University in 1951 and the John Herron Art Institute, Indiana State and Ball State Universities and received his Master’s Degree in 1960. Melvin taught art classes to children at the Indianapolis Museum of Art while attending John Herron Art Institute. Melvin was written about in an article in the 1960’s magazine Indiana Live. He was an artist and teacher at Rockville, IN from 1951 to 1955 and retired from Rushville Consolidated High School in 1979. He designed the Sr. Circle at Rushville Consolidated High School, was a co-founder of the Homer Arts Festival, a member of the Rush County Retired Teachers Association, a member of the Rushville Masonic Lodge #62, York Rite and the Park County Low 12 Club. Melvin was a past President of the Indiana Arts Education Association and the

Art Section for the Indiana State Teachers Association; he was the Rushville Creative Art Association founder, the first Indiana Representative to the National Art Teachers Association, Director of the Rush County Arts Board, and Representative to the Governors Commission of the Arts. In 1999 he received the Rushville High School-Rush County Consolidated High School Distinguished Alumni Award.

In addition to his wife, Ellen of Tucson AZ, Melvin leaves behind 2 sons, Jon Alan Gray and wife Louise of Milroy, IN and Warren Jay Gray and wife Sheila of Brighton, TN, 3 daughters Judith Ann Gray of Washington, DC, Marlesa Arlene Gray of Tucson AZ and Lora Jennifer and husband Charles Allen of Metamora, IN, -6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren..

Melvin was preceded in death by his parents and a sister.

A Celebration of Life service will take place on Saturday, November 22, 2014, from 2-6 PM (or whenever) at the American Legion, 113 S. Morgan St., Rushville. All attendees are welcome to bring a story about Melvin to share in written form or at the podium. Photographs of Melvin & his art work to display would also be appreciated.

A new scholarship fund has been set up in Melvin's name at the Rush County Community Foundation, the Melvin D. Gray Art Scholarship Fund, 117 N. Main St., Rushville, IN. 46173.

The family appreciates all the condolences & notes of sympathy they have received since Melvin's passing.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Melvin D. Gray*

January 28, 2023 at 12:19 PM



“ *Jackie Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Melvin D. Gray*



jackie thompson - June 27, 2015 at 11:30 PM



“ *As an employee of Tri-County Ambulance, I often had the wonderful privilege of driving Melvin to and from appointments. What an interesting man he was. I truly loved him. He brightened my day each time I saw him. He was intelligent, caring and charismatic. The world will be far less interesting without this man in it.*



jackie thompson - June 27, 2015 at 11:30 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Melvin Gray Tribute*



Joe Kimmell - October 06, 2014 at 10:43 AM



*Around May, 2005*

**Joe Kimmell** - October 06, 2014 at 10:44 AM

MC

“ *Very sorry for your loss.*

*Mirna Colon*

**Mirna Colon** - September 08, 2014 at 05:16 AM

SB

“ *Oh my...I don't know where to start!!! I first met Mel and the rest of his family when they bought and moved into the house across the canal from me in Metamora. I thought then and now that the Gray family was the most creative family I had ever met ..with Mel at the helm. Not only an artist and teacher, Mel was a marvelous storyteller. I loved to go to their house and listen to Mel's stories about his time in the war. ...especially about New Guinea. He blessed us with his knowledge. I remember the year he raised every herb known to man....dried them, bottled them and then cooked with them. I have such wonderful memories of the year of the blizzard (1978) when we shared meals and played games at each other's house. Mel Gray was an extraordinary man. He was a life long learner and a life long teacher. My life was enriched by having known him. Rest in peace old friend. My sympathy goes out to Pinkie, Marcie, Judy, Jon, Jennifer and Jay and their families. Love to you all. Suzy Booth*

**Suzy Booth** - September 03, 2014 at 04:36 PM

MG

*I am a distant relative of Mel's. I met him at a couple of family reunions in Connersville at the home of Robert (Bobbie) Gray. Mel is so creative and artistic! He took all the information from our family tree and wrapped it into a beautiful oak-type tree on parchment-type paper. It was artistically designed. Only Mel...I, and my sisters were blessed to know him. Marnie Gray Cordes, Brookshire, TX.*

Marnie Cordes (daughter of Archie Gray) - March 28, 2024 at 10:01 PM

TE

“ Sorry to hear of Mr. Gray's passing. A Wonderful man and Artist. He was my high school Art teacher. Wish some of his Talent rubbed off on me. May God rest your soul Sir, you will be missed. Terry eckart



terry eckart - September 02, 2014 at 08:48 PM

JG

“ 1 file added to the album Melvin Gray Tribute



Jon Grau - September 02, 2014 at 12:29 PM

TS

“ Tim And Teresa Sadler lit a candle in memory of Melvin D. Gray



Tim and Teresa Sadler - September 02, 2014 at 12:18 PM

RM

“ *My sincere heartfelt condolences to Jon, Louise and the entire Gray family. I had the privilege of meeting Mel only a couple of times. The last was just a few weeks ago. I was amazed as Jon and I were showing Mel pictures of family, friends and artwork going back several decades, he still remembered all his family and friends pin pointing several by first name. Just a quick testament of the love and affection he had for all. And, so lets keep dear Mel in our memories for all the fun and enjoyable moments we have had with him.*



*I pray that god almighty has mercy on his soul and grant him the highest status in eternal paradise - Amen.*

---

**Ron Merchant** - September 02, 2014 at 11:51 AM

HJ

“ *You can shed tears that he is gone, or you can smile because he has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back, or you can open your eyes and see all he's left. Your heart can be empty because you can't see him, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember him only that he is gone, or you can cherish his memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back. Or you can do what he'd want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

---

**Holly Jones** - September 02, 2014 at 11:08 AM

HJ

“ *Holly Jones lit a candle in memory of Melvin D. Gray*



---

**Holly Jones** - September 02, 2014 at 11:06 AM

JF

“ *Jon & Louise Gray And Family lit a candle in memory of Melvin D. Gray*



---

**Jon & Louise Gray and Family** - September 02, 2014 at 09:24 AM

JO

*You will be sorely missed by all!*

---

**Jon** - September 02, 2014 at 09:24 AM

HH

“ A sample of Mel Gray's genius. A friend and I were caught chewing gum in Mr. Gray's 7th grade art class. He assigned a project for us to share as atonement for our misbehavior. He instructed us to make two posters, one to say "Merry Christmas" and the other would say "Happy New Year", both to be done in Old English style lettering. We eagerly set about the enjoyable task and were thrilled with discovering our dazzling talent at poster making and were both left with pride in our effort and the finished product. We were able to admire our contribution to the walls of the art room throughout the remainder of the Holiday Season. An insignificant moment in our lives you might think but it illustrated to me just one of the many things that set Mr. Gray apart and made him special. I'll not forget his example of how a little creativity can transform an otherwise nasty encounter into a positive life lesson that's carried with us for the rest of our lives. Thank you sir for your elegant and exquisite "punishment".

---

Hollis Heuer - September 02, 2014 at 08:40 AM



“ 4 files added to the album RHS/RCHS Photos



---

Greg Raike - September 02, 2014 at 07:00 AM

L(

“ Lowell (Toad)Redden lit a candle in memory of Melvin D. Gray



Lowell (Toad)Redden - September 01, 2014 at 06:39 PM

L(

“ Lowell (Toad)Redden lit a candle in memory of Melvin D. Gray



Lowell (Toad)Redden - September 01, 2014 at 06:38 PM

JG

“ Jon Gray lit a candle in memory of Melvin D. Gray



Jon Gray - September 01, 2014 at 08:08 AM

ND

“ One of the kindest, most creative people I've ever had the privilege of knowing. As a teacher, a friend, an artistic soul who loved to talk about his passions and teach anyone who would listen. He will always stand out in my mind...rest easy Mr Gray ... find a corner up there and decorate it with your style! Condolences to the family.

Nina D - August 30, 2014 at 06:43 PM



*The definition of a fulfilled human being. One always enjoyed being around him; just to experience the unexpected. Douglas Lower 1969*

---

**Douglas Lower** - September 01, 2014 at 11:36 AM