



Billy J Isaacs

December 28, 1928 - October 4, 2023

Billy J. Isaac, age 94 passed away Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at Faith Place in Danforth, IL. He was born December 28, 1928, in Wayne County, Indiana, the son of Calloway and Smara (Collins) Isaacs. Billy married Ruth Bunzel on December 28, 1957. She preceded him in death on July 16, 2023, after 65 years of marriage.

Billy graduated in 1947 from Maxwell Indiana High School. He was a graduate of Indiana Business College; a B.S. in history from Olivet Nazarene University; M.A. from the University of Illinois; and two additional years of graduate work at the University of Illinois. Billy was a history professor at Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais. He retired in 1993 after 32 years of teaching.

Billy was a member of the National Federation of the Blind and served on the Board of the NFB affiliate. He chaired the state affiliate's Scholarship Committee for three years and served on the national Scholarship Committee for three years. Billy was Editor of HARNES UP, a newsletter for guide dog owners. As a Gideon he was actively involved in prison ministry. He was the President of the Kankakee Heartland Chapter of the NFBI of IL for eleven years. Billy was a spokesman for blindness and guide dogs at many schools and organizations.

Billy was a member of the College Church of the Nazarene, Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society), Phi Delta Lambda (Nazarene Honor Society), The Gideons International, and a member of JOB Bible Study.

He loved flowers, gardening and reading.

Surviving are two sons, John Isaacs of Crown Point, IN and Frank Isaacs of Bradley; one daughter and son-in-law, Mary Isaacs-Rogers and (Troy) Rogers of Columbus, GA; two sisters and one brother-in-law, JoAn McClarnon, Marilyn (Delbert) Runyon; one brother and sister-in-law, Jack (Barbara) Isaacs; eight grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Billy is preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; his parents; one daughter, Simona Isaacs, one grandson, Rawson Rogers; three brothers and six sisters.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorial visitation will be from 2:00 p.m. until the 3:00 p.m. memorial service on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the College Church of the Nazarene, Bourbonnais. Tim Mercer will officiate the service. Private inurnment will be held at the Olivet Nazarene University Columbarium at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the National Federation of the Blind or The Gideons International.

Cemetery Details

Olivet Nazarene University Columbarium

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

OCT 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-7749

Memorial Service

OCT 14. 3:00 PM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-7749

Tribute Wall

TE

“ Prayers for family and friends I have been friends with Mary for many years and I had the privilege of meeting her parents and they were a blessing and will be missed by many and loved by everyone they met RIP 🙏🙏🙏



TeresaBruen - October 10, 2023 at 09:16 AM



“ Jennifer Phillips lit a candle in memory of Billy J Isaacs



Jennifer Phillips - October 10, 2023 at 09:08 AM

MR

“ I am blessed to call him "daddy" He always to time to stop and smell the roses



Mary L Rogers - October 10, 2023 at 08:07 AM

RS

“ We became acquainted with "Bill" just a few years ago but have had a wonderful friendship with him. We came to know him as a Godly man of integrity, strength, and kindness. He was always interested in learning more about so many things although he was already a very educated man. Even though he was blind he didn't let that get in the way of his ability to tackle life with a positive attitude. He has been an inspiration and a source of joy in our lives. We thank God for the opportunity to have known Bill. He is gone but will not be forgotten. Our love and sympathy are with the family.

Ryland and Carol Schriefer - October 09, 2023 at 11:25 PM

KD

“ I was a student in Professor Issacs history classes at ONU. He was an excellent teacher and a wonderfully kind man. I am blessed to have known him.

Kim DesLauriers - October 09, 2023 at 08:22 PM