



## Dennis Kirchmann

September 5, 1939 - December 31, 2017

Professor Dennis G. Kirchmann, 78, of Eminence, peacefully passed away at 9:00 a.m., on Sunday, December 31, 2017, in the comfort of his own home. He was born on September 5, 1939 in Fremont, Nebraska to Harry and Marjorie (Nelson) Kirchmann.

Dennis was raised in Dodge County and graduated from Fremont High School in 1957. An honorable veteran, he served in the United States Navy from 1957-1960. Dennis earned his B.A. degree from Hastings College, where he was named Outstanding Art Student for 1969; an M.A. from Fort Hays Kansas State College in 1970; and an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa in 1972. During the 1970s he was an Instructor in Art at the University of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Art Center.

While employed at Union Pacific Railroad, he was introduced to a fellow co-worker at a New Year's Eve Party in 1963 and was united in marriage with Connie Gregerson on August 28, 1965. Prior to moving to their current residence in Eminence, the Kirchmanns resided in Waverly for 18 years. They were blessed with a son, Daniel, in 1981.

A well-known Indiana ceramic artist, Dennis actively participated in solo and group exhibitions throughout the Midwest and remains in the permanent collections of the Hewitt Association, the University of Iowa, Evansville

Museum of Arts and Science, and the Art Association of Richmond, among many others. A craftsman of genuine artistry, Dennis approached his work from both sculptural and functional standpoints. With production as his primary focus, Dennis ensured a use to each decorative piece that he constructed. A reputable mentor, he kept in touch with former students. A social, determined, problem solver, Dennis was gifted with self-confidence and strength. He took great pride in doing things on his own. Excelling in various remodeling projects around his beautifully crafted A-frame home, he enjoyed turning his dreams to reality and specialized in building model railroads, pottery, woodworking, printmaking, and photography.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harry J. Kirchmann.

Survivors include his loving wife, Connie Kirchmann of Eminence; son, Daniel Kirchmann (wife, Emily) of Indianapolis; mother, Marjorie Kirchmann of Omaha, Nebraska; sister, Jennifer Kirchmann of Omaha and brother, Frederic Kirchmann (wife, Connie) of Raleigh, North Carolina; two nephews, Eric and Scott; five great nieces and nephews; and adored grandson, Isaac Christopher Kirchmann.

Cremation arrangements were entrusted to Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel in Monrovia. A memorial gathering and reception to celebrate the life of Dennis Kirchmann will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to WFYI, 1630 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202 or online at <https://www.wfyi.org/memorial-and-tribute-gifts> . To share a favorite story, send the family an online condolence, or light a candle in his memory visit [www.lightmemorial.com](http://www.lightmemorial.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Cremation

585 E. MAIN STREET  
Monrovia, IN 46157  
<http://www.lightmemorial.com>

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ I didn't know Mr Kirchmann. I “ran into” him yesterday in the form of acquiring one of his wonderful works of art. I've always loved hand crafted pottery and this large pedestal accent light is a tour de force. I notice how he intricately pressed what look to be live botanicals (possibly wild flowers) into the strong architectural rectangular walls. It's just a beautiful juxtaposition. I will treasure this piece. Condolences to all who knew and loved this very talented and accomplished gentleman.



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**Bill Guthrie** - December 22, 2024 at 06:33 AM

JS

“ I just wanted the family to know that our class was the luckiest class ever! We all knew our classmates, and had good years in high school. It sounds like Denny was very involved with life after school. He was a good kid! My sympathy to the family.

*Jan (Hansen) Sasse class of 57*

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**Jan Hansen Sasse** - January 13, 2018 at 11:32 PM

SP

“*Connie, I am so sorry to hear this news. So many great memories of Daniel and Janell playing together with the Strickland's. So much laughter and the patience you two had with the kids. Prayers for you and Daniel and Emily. This is a journey that is hard but with God's help it is bearable. Love you dear friend.*

*Sondra. Poe*

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**Sondra Poe** - January 08, 2018 at 09:21 PM

LS

“*Dear Connie, Daniel, Emily, our thoughts and prayers are with you on this journey. We have so many memories living across the street--kids playing and growing up; swimming; a magnificent train track; good snacks--ordinary people together. Here comes a giant hug to bless you; may you know the Lord walks with you each step. we found out Dennis is no longer with us somewhat by accident--please know we care about you. We hope to share the memorial time with you.*

*May memories bring comfort and joy*

*Linda and Bill Strickland*

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**Linda and Bill Strickland** - January 08, 2018 at 06:03 PM