

Richard Henry Leitch

September 6, 1920 - January 17, 2017

Richard Henry Leitch Jr., 96, of New Castle, passed away on the morning of Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at Stonebrooke Rehabilitation Center.

He was born September 6, 1920 in Muncie, Indiana, a son of the late Richard Henry Leitch Sr., and Cecil Fern (Benbow) Leitch.

Dick was a 1938 graduate of Muncie Central High School. He joined the U.S. Navy along with his two brothers and served in the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean Theaters of World War II where he was a Signaller on the USS Hyman. Dick graduated from Ball State Teachers College on the GI Bill and received his Indiana Principal Certification at Indiana University in Bloomington. He met the love of his life, Mary Greenlee, as a fellow teacher at Weir Elementary in New Castle and they married on March 20, 1951.

In addition to teaching elementary, he served as a projectionist and stagehand in local theatre, audio/visual director at Chrysler High School, coached tennis and was the voice of Trojan High School Basketball during the 1960's. He served as principal at Sunnyside Elementary for 20 years retiring in 1988. Dick was proud of the fact that he was still coaching Tennis in his 80's.

Dick was a very active member of the New Castle community. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, Rotary International, City Council,

serving three terms at-large; the Henry County Park Board, New Castle Zoning Board, New Castle-Henry County Library Board, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame where he was 2016's volunteer of the year; and the American Legion Post #137 and V.F.W. Post 1282, where he faithfully served in the Flag Corp. of the Veteran's Honor Guard. He also served several terms on the New Castle Community School Board of Trustees and was a charter member of the Optimist Club.

He loved Trojan and Ball State Sports, Cincinnati Reds Baseball and never missed the Army/Navy football game. Dick greatly enjoyed golf, fishing, horse racing, and travel with his family, especially to New York to attend Broadway shows.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of nearly 66 years, Mary Leitch; two daughters, Cindy (husband: Lynn) Perdue of New Castle and Susan Bennett of Indianapolis; two grandchildren, Lyndsey (husband: Graig) Davis of New Castle and Tyler (wife: Jenna) Perdue of Noblesville; three great-grandchildren, Leah Davis, Lyndon Davis and Reid Perdue and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert Benbow Leitch (Cincinnati, OH) and Gene Thomas Leitch (Muncie, IN).

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am Saturday, January 21, 2017 at First United Methodist Church with Pastor Tom McGilliard and Dennis Kinser officiating. Burial will follow in South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition with Military Honors provided by contingents from the US Navy and the American Legion and VFW.

Friends may call from 4 - 8 pm Friday, January 20, 2017 at Sproles Family Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be offered to the Henry County Community Foundation or the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, P.O. Box 747 Lebanon, IN 46052.

The family would like to thank the staff of IU Medical Center, Henry Community Health and Stonebrooke Rehabilitation Center for the excellent care they provided.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Richard H. Leitch.

Cemetery Details

South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.
New Castle, IN 47362

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-2400
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

Service

JAN 21. 10:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
1324 Church Street
New Castle, IN

Tribute Wall

BR

“ *Brian W. Russell lit a candle in memory of Richard Henry Leitch*



Brian W. Russell - February 02, 2017 at 10:18 PM

PD

“ *Pattie Dowden sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard Henry Leitch*



Pattie Dowden - January 24, 2017 at 10:09 PM

NF

“ *I just learned of Mr. Leitch's death and want to extend my sympathies to the family.*

What a wonderful man! I honor his service in the Navy and I cherish the time I taught under him at Sunnyside School. He always put his staff first and I have so many fond memories of that time.

Nancy Fisher

Nancy Fisher - January 24, 2017 at 02:35 PM

DR

“ They just didn't come any better then Mr. Leitch. What a gentleman. My deepest sympathy to his entire family. I know you have lots of special memories of this man.



Donna Smithers Ragan - January 21, 2017 at 07:23 PM

BB

“ Bryan Burke lit a candle in memory of Richard Henry Leitch



Bryan Burke - January 21, 2017 at 03:23 PM

BB

Mr. Leitch was a great principal, and an even better man!

Bryan Burke - January 21, 2017 at 03:24 PM

PM

“ so sorry for your loss. Dick was such a great guy Phil marsh

phil marsh - January 21, 2017 at 11:44 AM

SB

“ I was saddened to read about the passing of Dick Leitch. During my forty years of teaching seventh graders in New Castle, I had many encounters with Mr. Leitch, all of which were marked by his warmth, wit, and wisdom. He was truly one of the nicest individuals I have ever known.

Steve Brooks - January 21, 2017 at 09:30 AM

BP

“ I also remember Mr. Leitch from high school. He was a good man. Rest in peace, Sir.

Bill Powell

bill Powell - January 20, 2017 at 08:17 PM

RP

“ I remember "Mr. Leitch" from my CHS years back in the early '60's. He was kind and friendly, and always had that smile we all remember. I had the honor to serve alongside Mr. Leitch with the New Castle American Legion-VFW Honor Guard at many funeral services for our fellow Veterans. He assisted with this tribute to his comrades as long as he was physically able, well into mid-2016. At my last visit with him in late November/early December, he was the same Mr. Leitch I always knew: sharp as a tack, very upbeat, dressed impeccably, talking of his life, fellow Veterans, friends, etc. We will certainly miss, but never forget, him. He always was, and always will be, MR. LEITCH.

Ron Padgett

Ron Padgett - January 20, 2017 at 09:56 AM

VM

“ We remember a man faithful to his church, community, teams and his family. So many stories full of fun and laughter that we shared together. We were blessed to call him a friend. Our sincere sympathy to each of the family for your loss. Vance and Lynn Meier

vance meier - January 20, 2017 at 08:52 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Henry Leitch.*



January 20, 2017 at 07:35 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the Leitch family. He was a favorite teacher that I had in 6th grade at Hernly in '54-55. He was the first, and one of the only, teachers that treated us like young adults. I have nothing but the fondest memories of his class. Seeing the pictures of his life warmed my heart and brought tears at the same time...*

Dave Laird

David Laird - January 19, 2017 at 11:11 PM

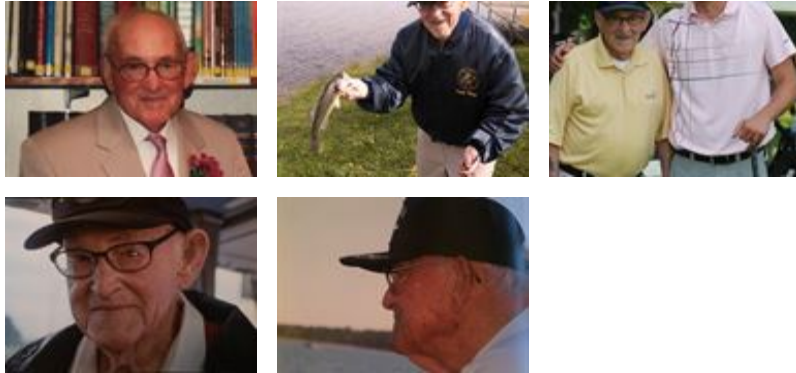


“ *Abraham Lincoln said, “Reputation is the shadow. Character is the tree.” Dick Leitch was one of the largest – if not the largest – trees in New Castle, whose branches reached in many directions, casting a shadow that touched so many of us. Thinking of you, Cindy and Susan, and your families. Matt Morris*

Matt Morris - January 19, 2017 at 07:12 PM



“ 98 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Sproles Family Funeral Home - January 19, 2017 at 05:50 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Richard Henry Leitch*.



January 19, 2017 at 01:38 PM



“ *Just a great guy, our sons freshman tennis coach at BRV and the kids loved him. Also very much enjoyed working with Dick as a volunteer at the Basketball Hall of Fame. Will miss seeing him.*

gerald freyer - January 19, 2017 at 11:06 AM

WP

“ Wayne & Robin Perdue purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Richard Henry Leitch.



Wayne & Robin Perdue - January 19, 2017 at 10:16 AM

JR

“ James A Robbins lit a candle in memory of Richard Henry Leitch



James A Robbins - January 19, 2017 at 10:04 AM

JR

“ "Death ends a life but it does not end a relationship." Blessings and prayers to family and friends. Dick was a friend to all he met and was a shining star in our community.

Jim Robbins

James A Robbins - January 19, 2017 at 10:01 AM

SD

“ Steve and Paula Davis and Mark Davis purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard Henry Leitch.



Steve and Paula Davis and Mark Davis - January 19, 2017 at 09:03 AM

JH

“ *Joyce HARRIS lit a candle in memory of Richard Henry Leitch*



Joyce HARRIS - January 19, 2017 at 05:27 AM

VR

“ *Susan and family, thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Your dad was principal at Sunnyside Elementary where both my sons attended. He made each and every student feel special, encouraging them every step of the way. May God give you comfort and strength during this difficult time.*



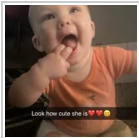
Valerie Ryan - January 18, 2017 at 09:31 PM

FM

“ *Fred Marion lit a candle in memory of Richard Henry Leitch*



Fred Marion - January 18, 2017 at 08:11 PM



“ *Anna Davis lit a candle in memory of Richard Henry Leitch*



Anna Davis - January 18, 2017 at 06:40 PM

Kelly
Dennis

“ *Loved this man. He was my principal at Sunnyside, and he gave me my first subbing job when I was in college. With fond memories, Kelly (Cunningham) Dennis*



Kelly Dennis - January 18, 2017 at 04:28 PM

JA

“ *Jack & Julie Agard purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Richard Henry Leitch.*



Jack & Julie Agard - January 18, 2017 at 03:13 PM

Teresa
King

“ *Teresa King lit a candle in memory of Richard Henry Leitch*



Teresa King - January 18, 2017 at 02:02 PM

Teresa
King

YOU WILL BE MISSED, I'M LIGHTING A GREEN CANDLE IN YOUR NAME FOR THE NEW CASTLE TROJANS

Teresa King - January 18, 2017 at 02:03 PM

BM

“ It is hard to imagine our community without Mr. Leitch. He was an exemplary role model of what a good citizen is. I knew him as a teacher at New Castle High School, my children's elementary school principal, my city councilman, school board member, a Rotarian, veteran who shared his story with me of experiencing "Two Christmases" when he crossed the International Date Line in World War II. Mr. Leitch was a faithful donor to the Henry County Community Foundation, he was in at least once a month or more leaving a memorial donation for someone, and his generosity and philanthropy will never be forgotten. Mr. Leitch will always be my role model of what a good Democrat is - standing up for others and working with all to make this world and community a better place. Thanks for showing us all how to be better. Peace and Love to his dear family. I hope we all follow him in how he lived his life and how to get to heaven. ~ Beverly Matthews



Beverly Matthews - January 18, 2017 at 10:32 AM

JW

“ Dick was an excellent member and servant to his community and to his country as well as his church and he had a surprisingly, enjoyable sense of humor which caught me off-guard on many occasions.

Rev. Joe Wyatt

Joe Wyatt - January 18, 2017 at 10:02 AM

MW

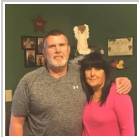
“ Susan & Family, I am so sorry for your loss! May God Give You Strength during this difficult time! Dick was a wonderful man and will always be remembered.

Marilyn Ward-Humbles - January 18, 2017 at 09:16 AM

HB

“ There are good memories of my very good friend Dick Leitch. We became friends in the early 70's when we were both working in the NCCSS. We were fishing buddies for 30 years traveling to Lake Wabana near Grand Rapids, MN staying at Birch Bay Resort and Murphy's Landing. For those same 30 years we had breakfast together on Thursday morning along with Jack Renner and Francis Frazier. Dick and I played a lot of euchre together over the years and usually won. Two funny stories to share about Dick. One had to do with his nap time which was always from 3-4 and nothing, I mean nothing was to make him miss his nap. I learned the hard way once but only once. The second story is about an almost accident on Lake Wabana one evening when we were coming in from fishing and I almost turned the boat over by trying to change my position in the boat without slowing down. Dick was almost like a brother. My brother was a WW II veteran like Dick serving on an LST in Europe. Dick loved kids, he loved teaching, he loved people and he gave a great deal to others without expecting anything in return. He will be missed. God Bless Mary, Susan, Cindy and the rest of the family. H & J

Herb & Judy Bunch - January 18, 2017 at 08:54 AM



“ Tracy Johnson lit a candle in memory of Richard Henry Leitch



Tracy Johnson - January 18, 2017 at 02:57 AM