



## Albert Randolph Ihnat

January 17, 1940 - December 29, 2019

Albert Randolph Ihnat, 79, of Anderson, passed away after an extended illness on December 29, 2019. He was born on January 17, 1940 in Gary, Indiana and resided most of his life in Anderson.

Al graduated from Gary Emerson High School in 1958. While in high school, he set a record in 1957 for the mile run (4:36) and tied a record in cross country that was set by Dr. Ed Burns in 1940.

He served his country in the U.S. Navy Seabees and obtained the rank of Builders 2nd Class (E-5). Al attended Class A builders school and graduated 2nd in his class. He served in Okinawa, Guam, and also on the Brig Force and Shore Patrol at Fort Hueneme in California. Al was honorably discharged from the Navy in July of 1964.

He graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor's and master's degree. He began his teaching career in 1967 at Southside Middle School where he coached football, cross country, track, and wrestling. He then taught at Anderson High School and coached women's volleyball and softball, and boy's track. He began his head wrestling coach career at Anderson. Al coached wrestling for 45 years in this community and was inducted in the Indiana Wrestling Coach Hall of Fame in 2014. He refereed wrestling for many years, and drove a school bus with ACS for many extracurricular activities. Al

bowled in the Teacher's League for many years, was a member of the Retired Teachers of Madison County, member and treasurer of the Navy Seabees Veteran of America (X-4; New Castle, IN), and was a member of Christ Lutheran Church where he served on the education committee and sung in the choir.

Al is survived by his loving wife, Tamra (Ewald) Ihnat; daughter, Lisa C. Banister of Anderson; grandchildren, Ty (Shelby) Banister, Haylei Banister, Austin Randolph Banister, Taylor (Tanner Smith Banister; and great-granddaughter, Alice Patricia Banister. Also surviving are his step-sons, Robert (Kathryn) Knuckles and Christopher (Amie) Knuckles, step-grandchildren, Ryan (Meghan) Knuckles, Rachel Knuckles, Megan Knuckles, Zander Knuckles, and Zack Knuckles, and Al's siblings, Milo Ihnat and Jeri Gonzalez.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert Michael and Irene (Benko) Ihnat, and first wife, Patricia (Kietzman) Ihnat.

Visitation will be held Friday, January 3, 2020, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory, 200 W. 53rd St. Anderson, IN and also one hour prior to services at the church.

Services will be Saturday, January 4, 2020, 11:00 am at Christ Lutheran Church, 2751 N. Scatterfield Rd., Anderson, IN 46012 with Rev. John Jameson officiating.

Burial will take place in the Grovelawn Cemetery, Pendleton.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Lutheran Church or the Rock Steady Parkinson Program, C/O Community Hospital Anderson.

[www.loosecares.com](http://www.loosecares.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Grovelawn Cemetery

Pendleton, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Loose Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Albert Randolph Ihnat*



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**Loose Funeral Home** - January 02, 2020 at 01:38 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss Lusa and family. You and your parents mean a lot to me and I am praying God comforts you all at this time. One day you will see him again until then you all have wonderful memories*

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**Rita Harder** - January 06, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Albert Randolph Ihnat.*

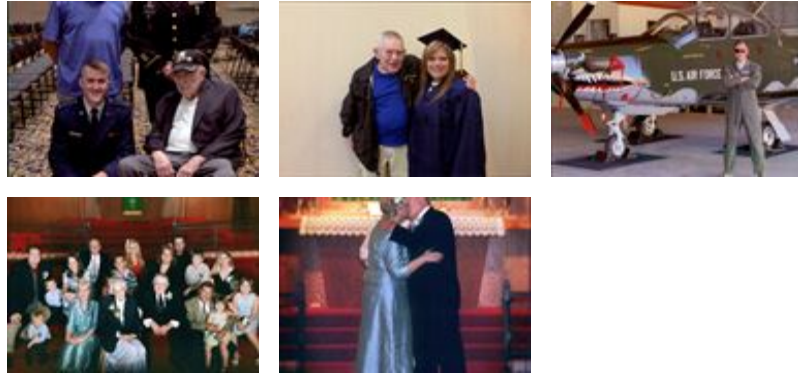


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January 02, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ 80 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Loose Funeral Home** - January 02, 2020 at 01:38 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Albert Randolph Ihnat*.



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January 01, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Albert Randolph Ihnat*.



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January 01, 2020 at 12:13 PM

ML

“ Coach "I": was a great part of my younger years, from Northside middle school up through Anderson High School. Our wrestling team had a lot of great times in the 6 years I spent around him. Lots of great memories. Rest easy Coach.



Mike Lane - December 31, 2019 at 05:22 PM

DC

I have a picture in my mind of Al and Eric Kriebel sitting mat side together. Al wearing "the jacket, of course."

Dave Cloud - January 01, 2020 at 12:09 PM

MT

“ Coach Ihnat was one of the best people I have known. He definitely made a positive impact on my life as a student athlete. My condolences to his family, and thank you for allowing us to share.

Michael Tappler - December 31, 2019 at 03:58 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Albert Randolph Ihnat.



December 31, 2019 at 02:51 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Albert Randolph Ihnat.*

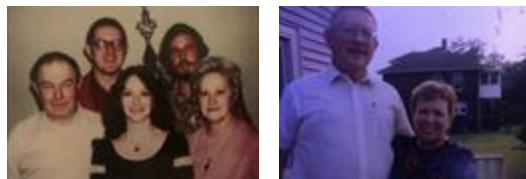


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December 31, 2019 at 10:44 AM



“ *Many of the treasured memories I have of my Uncle Al are of his great love for Our Lord Jesus Christ, and his family: his parents Al & Irene, his sister and brother: Jeri & Milo, his sweetheart: Aunt Pat, his wonderful daughter Lisa and his great grandchildren: Ty & Shelby, Alice Patricia, Haylei, Austin, Taylor and Tanner. When I was young Uncle Al read me stories, helped me say my prayers, gave me horseback rides through the house, introduced me to the music of Elvis, took care of me when I stepped on a bee and let my sister and I practice gymnastics on the high school's wrestling mats. He exemplifies the pure love of Jesus Christ through his caring thoughts, words and deeds. Uncle Al is a big man with a big heart, a hug and a encouraging word for everyone. Love you always!*  
*Kelli*



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**Kelli A. Dyerly** - December 31, 2019 at 04:16 AM

MG

“ Coach, you left a legacy that touched many lives. I am proud to have known you and call you friend. You served your country well and we thank you for it 🇺🇸  
Till we meet again, sir. I salute you!

*ps. I hear the library in heaven is incredible!*

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**Martha Green** - December 30, 2019 at 10:51 PM

MC

“ Al had a servant’s heart. He was a tremendous role model to countless young people in our community. I am glad that both of my sons were blessed to have had the opportunity to have been mentored by Coach “I.” He was a radiant example of allowing God to use you where you are. Well done Coach...

*- Mitch Carroll*

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**Mitch Carroll** - December 30, 2019 at 09:06 PM

RC

“ Such a great man. Had him for a shop teacher, wrestling coach, and saw him many times at Frisch over the years. You will be missed.

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**Rex Craig** - December 30, 2019 at 08:45 PM

LO

“ We will miss Al, who was always kind, warm and fun. We are thinking of Tammy and the Ihnat and Knuckles families, and praying for you all.

*With much love,*

*Laura, Steve, Marian and Heather Ours*

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**Laura Ours** - December 30, 2019 at 07:50 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Albert Randolph Ihnat.*



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December 30, 2019 at 07:47 PM



“ *Coach Ihnat coaches our volleyball team at AHS. He was a truly loving and honorable man who cared about us all. Lisa, you were the light of his life. He talked about you often. I was class of '79 so you were a little girl then.*

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**Julie Dodson Russell** - December 30, 2019 at 07:24 PM



“ *Coach Ihant was a great man, had him for homeroom all the years at AHS. Sorry for the loss, prayers for the family.*

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**Shannon Darr-wise** - December 30, 2019 at 06:47 PM



“ *Coach "I" was instrumental in the lives of so many young people. My only coach at SouthSide, we coached together and remained friends for 50 years. I'm glad I was able to see hom a couple times in the last few weeks. The world is a little more empty with his loss. R I P COACH.*

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**Randy Tappan** - December 30, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ *He was a great teacher, coach, and man. I remember him to this day and talked about how he would coach the wrestling team (I was there at SS in 1974) but also give life lessons on winning and losing.*

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**Danny Hornbeck** - December 30, 2019 at 05:36 PM