



Carl Daniel Erskine

December 13, 1926 - April 16, 2024

Carl Daniel Erskine, born December 13, 1926, passed away on April 16, 2024, at the age of 97. What a life he lived! Born and raised in Anderson, IN, Carl lived a life full of faith and love - love for God, his "Best Bet," Betty Erskine, whom he was married to for 76 years, his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and countless others whose lives he touched.

Found in his bible was Carl's handwritten note with the words he lived by: "Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant with the weak and the wrong - because sometime in your life, you will have been all of these." George Washington Carver

A graduate of Anderson High School, Carl served in the United States Navy for two years before embarking on a fourteen-year professional baseball career with the Dodgers. He played two years in the minor leagues, ten years in Brooklyn, and two years in Los Angeles, even pitching the Dodgers' first game on the west coast in 1958 when the team moved to LA. With a lifetime record of 122 wins and 78 losses, Carl threw two no hitters - one against the Cubs in 1952 and a second against the Giants in 1956. He had two World Series wins against the Yankees (those damn Yankees) and held the World Series strikeout record of 14 when facing the Yankees in 1953, the year in which he had a 20-6 record. Carl was the Dodger Player Representative for

eight seasons, participated in five World Series and then retired from professional baseball in 1959.

Upon retirement from baseball, Carl began his insurance and banking careers in Anderson, eventually serving as the President of STAR Bank and the Chairman of the Indiana Banker's Association. He wasn't done with baseball yet, though. Carl went on to coach the Anderson College (now Anderson University) baseball team from 1960-1973, leading the team to four championships and earning him Coach of the Year honors in 1965.

A devoted member of First Baptist Church in Anderson for over 70 years, Carl served as a Deacon, Trustee, and Sunday School teacher. He was also a founding member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), and played an early role in the development and growth of Special Olympics at the national level, also volunteering locally for over 50 years. More recently, Carl and Betty were honored to be recognized in the naming of the Erskine Green Training Institute in Muncie.

Together, Carl and Betty, alongside other devoted parents, were founders of the Hopewell Center, serving individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. His legacy of service also included being a founding member of the Leadership Academy of Madison County, a Trustee of Anderson University, Trustee and Chairman of St. John's Hospital, and member of several other boards and committees both locally and nationally, including Major League Baseball's Baseball Assistance Team serving former major league players.

Carl was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash three times and former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels presented him with the Indiana Sachem Award in 2010. He is a member of both the Indiana and New York Baseball Hall of Fames; and just last year, he was awarded the highly coveted Buck

O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to society outside baseball from The National Baseball Hall of Fame. In March of this year, Carl was awarded the Richard G. Lugar Award for Distinguished Service by the IHSAA.

Faith, family, baseball and music. Wherever Carl was, there was music, a true love of his. Whether he was listening, singing or playing the guitar, banjo or harmonica, music brought him and those around him so much comfort and joy. From playing for his grandchildren to playing our National Anthem at ballgames to playing alongside his beloved local band, his smile, quick wit, and talent entertained us all. Never one to be idle, Carl also loved woodworking in his shop and his love and gift of storytelling and being grateful for each day even inspired him to author three books: Tales from the Dodger Dugout, What I Learned from Jackie Robinson, and The Parallel.

Carl, a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, led a life of faith with and for his family. He is survived by his wife, Betty (Palmer) whom he married on October 5, 1947; sons, Danny (Pam) of Anderson and Gary (Beth) of Pendleton; daughter, Susan (John) Short of Albany, GA; five grandchildren, Dannae (Mark) Witcher, Abby (Brad) Franklin, Amy (Jed) Daniel, Luke (Susie) Short, Megan Stephenson; and eleven great grandchildren, Julianna, Palmer, Seth, Brennen, Sydney, Eli, Carrel, Allen, Brooklyn, Charlotte and Sadie, all of whom adore him. He is also survived by sister-in-law, Cheryl Palmer, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Matt and Bertha Erskine, in-laws, Lowell and Lula Belle Palmer; brothers, Lloyd and Donald Erskine; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Robert and Jeanie Phillips, and beloved son, James Lee Erskine, who passed away November 25, 2023. What a beautiful reunion they have had in heaven.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the amazing outpouring of love and support they have received from friends near and far in the last few days. Special thanks to the Primrose family, Merry Melton, and the Legacy Home Care family. We love and appreciate you all.

In memory of Carl, contributions may be made to First Baptist Church of Anderson, 907 N. Raible Ave, Anderson, IN 46011; Anderson University, 1100 E. 5th St, Anderson, IN 46012; East Central Indiana North FCA, 1201 W McGalliard Rd, Muncie, IN 47303; or Special Olympics of Indiana, 6200 Technology Center Drive, Suite 105, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Visitation for Carl will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2024, from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Madison Park Church of God, 6607 Providence Dr., Anderson, IN 46013.

Services will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 1:00 pm at the church with Rev. Dennis Roberts officiating.

A private burial will take place in the Anderson Memorial Park., Anderson, IN.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Your legacy will live on and multiply in all those whose lives you have touched.

To share a tribute to Carl, please visit www.LooseCares.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **21**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Madison Park Church of God
6607 Providence Dr.
Anderson, IN 46013

Service

APR **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Madison Park Church of God
6607 Providence Dr.
Anderson, IN 46013

Tribute Wall



“ *Loose Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Carl Daniel Erskine*



Loose Funeral Home - April 20, 2024 at 03:33 PM

MP

Karen and I send our most heartfelt sympathies to Betty and the entire Erskine family. Carl was a towering figure in faith, in baseball, in Indiana banking and he was our friend. I will always be grateful for having known him and will always be inspired by his love for God, his family, our state and this nation. God bless Carl Erskine.

*Mike Pence
48th Vice President of the United States*

Mike Pence - April 20, 2024 at 04:59 PM

SJ

There are no words to adequately to express my sincere sympathy to Betty and your entire family on the loss of Carl. It has been a privilege to be welcomed into your home. Carl had a way of making everyone feel special, and I will always treasure his jokes and fascinating stories. I hope you take comfort in all your fond memories. He clearly loved all of you dearly!!

*Susan Johnson
Physical Therapist*

Susan D Johnson - April 20, 2024 at 06:40 PM

PR

“ This tribute is from a person who just read “ What I learned from Jackie Robinson” by Carl and wanted to send a note to Carl and found out he had passed recently. His thoughts and words will ring out to for generations.

My prayers are with Betty, the family and Carl.

A diehard Red Sox fan in Vermont.

Paul Regan

Paul Regan - August 04, 2024 at 11:33 AM

HM

“ As a boy, I was an avid Yankee fan, but when Carl Erskine was on the mound, I was pretty sure the Yanks would lose!

Hal McCarty - July 14, 2024 at 06:46 PM

BG

“ Carl came to Ft. Worth Tx to receive a tribute for having played minor league ball there. He knew me, saw me in the stands, And typical Carl said, "Bill, my family couldn't come, come stand with me on the field". There has to be a place in Heaven for Carl.

Bill Grogan, Dallas Tx

Bill Grogan - June 07, 2024 at 07:53 PM

EL

“ Carl Erskine had a tremendous impact on my life. I played Erskine little league for the red team for the challengers division. Went to daycare and had a job shadow through there. He signed many PRICELESS autographs for me, one he did and said because I played for his little league, he put his number down for me, and another one he signed to my wife and I as a wedding gift! I've watched him play his harmonica countless times. I've always tried to immortalize him. He's much more than a hometown hero, he's much more than a role model, the lives he's touched and the lives he's changed will forever leave an indelible mark on our lives and our community! R.I.P carl!! Live you more than you will ever know! Thank you!

Elijah - May 13, 2024 at 04:04 PM

JG

“ Please accept my heartfelt sympathy to all of you. My memories of Carl go back to 1952 and 1953 when Warren P. Miller President of American Playground Device Company brought Carl to our little town of Nahma, Michigan where there was a celebration at the Clubhouse and later in the day he visited the school speaking to the students of which several still remember. In 1953 he deer hunted with his Dad, my Dad, my Uncle Allen Mercier, Charlie Cummings and Al Spiers of which I have a photo and in later years Carl autographed. I and my sons treasure this photo. I'd run into Carl on occasion and at the mere mention of Nahma he always had the fondest memories and remembered so many of the people he met there. He truly was a wonderful person and I will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers. Joanie Sefcik Grimes

JOAN GRIMES - April 25, 2024 at 10:38 AM

RR

“ Carl, I’m sure you are with Uncle Walter right now and I know you are continuing to do great things! Loved the time we spent in Klamath Falls visiting with family, and had hoped to connect in August when I am in Mooresville for a family reunion, but our Lord had other plans.

Randolph Rawding - April 24, 2024 at 06:59 PM

“ Sorry about Carl Erskine. I was assistant Anderson College/University baseball coach for three years, 1960-62, the last two of those years as Erskine’s first assistant when he became the head coach. It was a pleasure to ride across Indiana with Erskine to play baseball at various colleges, and to hear Dodgers stories told by Erskine himself. For instance, Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese would constantly urge Carl with, “Arch your back, Arch your back,” so that he would throw his curveball effectively. When I told Carl about the night in 1950 when my mother and I went to a game at old Braves field in Boston, a game in which Vern Bickford of the Braves no-hit the Dodgers, he replied simply, “I started that game.” But most movingly was his account of leaving the dressing room at the old Polo grounds following Bobby Thomson’s famous 1951 playoff homerun off Ralph Branca that defeated the Dodgers for the Giants. Carl said that Branca was left alone, sitting on a bench, with his head lowered and held between his hands. He realized that this was one of the greatest moments in the history of baseball. When my son turned twelve, I took him to Anderson, and Carl showed him how to throw a curveball. It worked and helped my son get a baseball scholarship to the University of Virginia where he played four years, then also played independent minor league baseball. When my son was inducted into the Southern Lehigh (Pennsylvania) Athletic Hall of Fame, Carl sent him one of his books with a nice note of congratulations inside. Carl was a Christian gentleman, as Tommy Lasorda once acknowledged to me and others at a sports banquet, and one of the original members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Carl even said to me on one occasion that he didn’t know why some people thought they had to impress him by cursing around him. I played football, basketball and baseball in Lexington MA with Don Nottebart who pitched Houston’s first no-hitter. In junior high, when I pitched, Nottebart was my catcher. When I coached at Anderson College, sometimes Carl would pitch in practice, and I would catch. Thus, I was the battery mate of two major league pitchers who pitched no-hitters. Carl was someone special.

*Streeter S. Stuart
Millersville, PA
B.S. in Econ., University of Pennsylvania
Ph.D., Vanderbilt University*

Streeter S. Stuart - April 22, 2024 at 10:11 PM

JK

“ *Thanks for giving presentation and program speech to Logansport Kiwanis and Woodlawn Center years ago. Well done good and faithful servant.* ”

Jim Bauer, Logansport Kiwanis - April 21, 2024 at 01:30 PM

JS

“ *I have never met anyone who was more committed to and selflessly guided by their personal set of values. It was a great privilege to play for him and to get to know him. He talked about his teammates every day, and I never heard the same story twice. He loved being part of a team even if it was just us.
Joe Snowden, Anderson Ravens, 1966--1969 .* ”

Joe Snowden - April 21, 2024 at 11:43 AM



“ *A great husband, father and a wonderful Dodger. Rest in peace!* ”



Richard Mchugh - April 20, 2024 at 04:56 PM

BB

“ *Bob and Mary Jane Baumann planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carl Daniel Erskine.*

Bob and Mary Jane Baumann - April 20, 2024 at 04:27 PM

BB

“ *Bob and Mary Jane Baumann purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Carl Daniel Erskine.*



Bob and Mary Jane Baumann - April 20, 2024 at 04:27 PM

YR

“ *Your friends at Carl D Erskine Rehab purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Carl Daniel Erskine.*



Your friends at Carl D Erskine Rehab - April 20, 2024 at 03:05 PM

RB

“ *Russ Breeden purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Carl Daniel Erskine.*



Russ Breeden - April 20, 2024 at 01:59 PM

RB

“ Russ Breeden planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carl Daniel Erskine.

Russ Breeden - April 20, 2024 at 01:59 PM

JH

“ When I read Carl Erskine’ obituary I remember when he rode his bicycle in front of our home to Ebbets field to practice high school baseball. It was at the old wigwam at a semi-state basketball game I watched Carl play.I would follow latter to read in the Sporting News his progress in the triple leagues. His wife Betty,and my mother worked together at Howe Fire Apparatus .I remember vividly listening to his record breaking strike performance on the radio. It was interesting to watch all his accomplishments as the years went by. I will never forget being a fan of Carl Erskine.

John R. Hughel - April 20, 2024 at 01:22 PM

ML

“ He was my boyhood idol and my lifelong friend. Carl came to my home and met my father, before my dad lost his eyesight to glaucoma. My dad was so impressed with Carl that he became an avid, lifelong Dodger fan. Carl’s visit with dad led to my father’s approval of my brief pursuit of a professional baseball career... a period of nearly two-and-one-half years. When I was released by the Philadelphia Athletics, Carl arranged for me to pitch batting practice to the Brooklyn Dodgers at Wrigley Field in Chicago and room with him and Duke Snider for two evenings. It was a time I cherished and shall never forget! Carl Erskine was the kindest, most thoughtful man I have ever known. His wife, Betty, and their children have been cherished friends for my entire life! Sadly, I will miss that time on December 13th of each year when I would call him and say... “happy birthday, Carl.” 😞. Marvin W. Lowe

Marvin W. Lowe - April 19, 2024 at 08:20 PM



“ *Mr. Erskine was our neighbor.*

He and his family, Mrs. Erskine, Danny, Gary, Suzy and Jimmy, came into our lives on West Tenth Street in Anderson, Indiana in the late '60s/early '70s. Our parents told us he was a great baseball player, but he was so much more than one of the “Boys of Summer”.

He was an extraordinary man and role model who lived his life with dedication, devotion, determination, optimism, and infallible integrity, and touched many people in such a positive and enduring way, us included.

As kids, we accepted this as normal, but it was overtime and with the perspective of life that we really understood how exceptional he was. He is a standard to which we try to hold ourselves and other people today.

Thank you for being a part of our lives, Mr. Erskine, and for setting the bar so high! Your spirit endures!

Our thoughts and prayers are with you Mrs. Erskine, Danny, Gary and Suzy!

*With much love,
The Ketner Kids (Joe (posthumous), Karen, Lisa, Jay and Kristin (Kiki))*

Kristin Ketner Pak - April 19, 2024 at 04:32 PM

PF

“ President John Pistole & AU Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carl Daniel Erskine.

President John Pistole & AU Family - April 19, 2024 at 04:16 PM

PF

“ President John Pistole & AU Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Carl Daniel Erskine.



President John Pistole & AU Family - April 19, 2024 at 04:16 PM

MS

“ As young boys growing up in the 50's my brother and I were huge Dodger fans! Carl Erskine was our favorite pitcher! Of course, back in those days we listened to the ball games on the radio. We didn't have a TV. I have been able to keep up with Carl's life somewhat over the years. My brother is gone now too, but I believe that he will finally get to meet Carl in person!

Marshall Singleton - April 19, 2024 at 02:24 PM

FS

“ From the Carl D. Erskine Rehab Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carl Daniel Erskine.

From the Carl D. Erskine Rehab Staff - April 19, 2024 at 12:43 PM

FS

“ From the Carl D. Erskine Rehab Staff purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Carl Daniel Erskine.



From the Carl D. Erskine Rehab Staff - April 19, 2024 at 12:43 PM

SC

“ To Betty and the family,
Be assured of my prayerful support and condolences. Carl's memory will be a blessing just as he was a blessing for all those who were touched by his life.
Our hospital community is most grateful for the support that Carl and Betty have so generously given to St. John's Hospital (Ascension St. Vincent Anderson). We are most grateful for Carl's leadership gifts that he so generously shared in his service to the hospital. We will remember his gift of music on the harmonica that he shared with us at our hospital celebrations.
Our Anderson community is better because of Carl. May his life of leadership and service inspire us and future generations to do our part in making our world a better place.
Well done, good and faithful servant! You will be remembered with gratitude. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
Sister Sarah Schmitt, CSC

Sister Sarah Schmitt, CSC - April 19, 2024 at 11:57 AM

AL

“ To the Erskine family our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Carl always had time to give advice and mentor our son, who spent 10 yrs in MLB and is now a hitting instructor for the Phillies. Carl’s influence will continue to live on. Sincerely, Al, Kathy, and Adam Lind family

Al Lind - April 19, 2024 at 11:35 AM

SW

“ RIP and thanks. Yankee fam but I do appreciate a great man,

Stan Wilson - April 19, 2024 at 11:10 AM

TF

“ The Carnes Family. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Carl Daniel Erskine.



The Carnes Family. - April 19, 2024 at 10:50 AM

EG

“ Ed Martin Automotive Group planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carl Daniel Erskine.

Ed Martin Automotive Group - April 19, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Carl Daniel Erskine.*



April 19, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ *Leisa Richardson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carl Daniel Erskine.*



Leisa Richardson - April 19, 2024 at 09:19 AM



“ *I met Carl and Betty when I worked at Countryside Manor. He played for the residents and went to see him when he played with his band at the Paramount theater. He was a special man. R.I.P. Carl Erskine you will be missed
Susan Mitchell*

Susan Mitchell - April 19, 2024 at 12:29 AM

DT

“ Carl has received his Heavenly reward for the life he lived serving his Lord and Savior. I am so pleased to say that one of my boyhood heroes became a long-time friend and helped me in my Christian walk. He introduced me to Baseball Chapel and through that I have made many Christian friends. I will always cherish those days of fishing at the FCA camp near Turkey Run SP with Carl and Jimmy. Every time Jimmy came with Carl, he always wanted to go fishing. When Carl would be busy, I spent time with Jimmy baiting hooks and taking fish off them. Carl's influence upon young athletes is tremendous and his legacy will be carried on by all who knew this great man's example. Our prayers are with Betty and the family.

Don Thompson - April 18, 2024 at 06:32 PM

AC

“ I am thankful for Carl and Betty for all they have done for special Olympics and those with special needs. My son Wesley has DS and played baseball, bowling, and golf with Jimmy. Rest in peace Carl you have completed Gods plan for you here on earth. Prayers for Betty and the entire family.

Anna Clevenger - April 18, 2024 at 06:03 PM

RG

“ A part of Anderson's soul has gone. Rest well in heaven, Mr. Erskine. May your legacy of kindness live on forever. God Bless you, your family, and all who were blessed to have known him.

Robert L. Graham - April 18, 2024 at 05:17 PM

RP

Carl was a special man, fully committed to the Lord, and someone who was an important supporter of Special Olympics. What he and Betty did for Jimmy was exemplary and a magnificent testament to their goodness as parents. Ross and Lin Porter

Ross Porter - April 19, 2024 at 04:20 PM

MK

A life well lived, met him at Victory Field several years ago and the tales he told us were right out baseball history, Carl really got what life was all about!

Michael Kane - April 20, 2024 at 08:43 AM

RG

Growing up in Bay Ridge Brooklyn in the 50's, my friends and I were playing stickball one summer afternoon at the 83rd Street park, when Carl Erskine introduced himself to us and took the time to show us how to hold the baseball to throw a curve, screwball, 2 and 4 seam fastball. He along with Duke and Pee Wee lived in the neighborhood during the baseball season and played with their kids. I never forgot his kindness to a bunch of us Dodger fans.

Rich Gazaleh

Rich Gazaleh - April 21, 2024 at 10:34 AM

RG

Additionally during the pandemic I wrote Carl a letter recounting his visit to the playground to teach us how to throw a curveball, etc. He was gracious enough to send me a hand written response. I will treasure it always.

Rich Gazaleh

Rich Gazaleh - April 21, 2024 at 04:28 PM

LS

*I did not know Carl but from what I know of him he was one of the greatest human beings who ever lived
He died on my 83rd birthday. I have read about the boys of summer and seem documentaries and interviews where Carl was present and could sense his goodness. Linda Sigaty*

Linda Sigaty - April 21, 2024 at 04:36 PM

JM

I had the privilege to meet Carl and Betty at Dodgers Baseball Camp in Vero Beach. They were caring and loving people as witnessed by their care for their son Jimmy. And yes, he was a great pitcher

Jim Mattera - December 23, 2025 at 09:02 AM