



Douglas E. Clanin

May 5, 1940 - May 15, 2026

Douglas E. Clanin, age 86, died May 15, 2026. He was born May 5, 1940, in Anderson, Indiana, to Howard P. and Sarah E. (Weatherford) Clanin and lived in the area most of his life.

Mr. Clanin was a 1958 graduate of Madison Heights High School in Anderson. He received his B.S. in social studies from Purdue University and an M.A. in history from Indiana University Bloomington. He also pursued a Ph.D. in history at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

During the Vietnam War, he served as an information specialist in the U.S. Air Force in Texas and Thailand.

From 1964 to 1965, he taught social studies at Whitewater-Fountain City High School in Wayne County, Indiana. From 1970 to 1980, he served as an assistant editor on two projects at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: The Documentary History of the First Federal Elections and The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution.

Mr. Clanin was an editor at the Indiana Historical Society from 1980 to 2005. While at the Society, he wrote several published essays and articles and was the principal editor of The William Henry Harrison Papers, 1800-1815 and The Papers of Lew and Susan Wallace.

Mr. Clanin made a significant contribution by interviewing and recording-on his own time-approximately 200 World War II veterans in Indiana. These recordings and transcripts are available to researchers and the general public through the Indiana Historical Society.

Mr. Clanin was a former member of First United Methodist Church in Anderson. He was also a former member of the American Legion, the Indiana and Madison County Historical Societies, the Service Club of Indianapolis, and the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. He also served on the board of directors of the Gruenewald Historic House in Anderson.

Survivors include two sons, Christopher L. Clanin of Olympia, Washington and D. Matthew (Krista M.) Clanin of Zionsville, Indiana; two granddaughters, Samaya Y. Clanin and Sophia E. Clanin; one brother, Gregory A. (Twylla J.) Clanin of Jackson, Tennessee; a niece; a nephew; and several great-nieces, great-nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Visitation will be held Saturday, May 23, 2026, from 10:00-11:00 a.m., with services immediately following, at Robert D. Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory (200 W 53rd St., Anderson, IN 46013). Burial will take place immediately following the service at Anderson Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the World War II Museum <https://support.nationalww2museum.org/site/Donation2?8056.donation=form1&df_id=8056> in New Orleans, LA.

www.LooseCares.com

Cemetery Details

Anderson Memorial Park

6805 Doctor M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.
Anderson, IN 46013

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory
200 W 53rd St
Anderson, IN 46013
(765) 649-5255
info@loosecares.com

Service

MAY 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ I am hunched over a Royal typewriter, pounding the keys, watching the tattered typewriter ribbon creep by, sweating to meet the deadline, and then this Purdue guy walks in.

An IU graduate, I was an enlisted man (U.S. Army) in Bangkok, Thailand, working in the Public Affairs Office (public relations) for the military assistance command and advisory group. The headquarters included Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy. USAF Sergeant Douglas Clanin was assigned to our office in the summer of 1968.

We quickly learned that we were both from Indiana. Each of us was devastated (not really) when we discovered where we went to college: Doug, Purdue; Mike, IU! Old Oaken Bucket! Our alma mater rivalry never interfered with our friendship. And, the rivalry never ended; we talked Purdue-IU smack for decades.

His pride in his family was exemplary. Parents, brother, sons, grandchildren, in-laws, cousins. His eyes shined when he spoke of them. I could tell, even over the phone.

*I have not known anyone as knowledgeable in so many areas as Doug; quality and quantity. I had areas of interest that, I thought, Doug probably did not know much about this. I would bring up the topic, to get a little edge. I was wrong; no edge for me. Doug usually knew a lot about it, and it wasn't unusual for him to correct me.
<blush>*

Doug's many contributions were significant. In all projects, he brought it. "It" included attention to detail, perfection, and endless hours of hard work.

He was generous mentoring me on a family history project. My family had a collection of my great-grandfather's poetry and essays. In the mid-1980s, I transcribed the writing. I have done a lot of editing in my career, but not this kind of editing. Doug guided me on

style decisions, how much to edit, and so on. I self-published the book and was proud of the result. The book's quality was due to Doug's input.

Our friendship lasted 58 years. (I rounded up.) We visited. We corresponded regularly -- paper mail and electronic mail. My Clanin email folder has more than a thousand notes. The last ten years, I telephoned him every month or so, particularly when he was in care facilities. We would catch up and reminisce, often about our time in Thailand ... officers, sergeants, colleagues, hilarious events. Stories were told and re-told. The conversations were always enjoyable. The conversations were also important; we wanted to re-live our shared past and reinforce our bond.

I pray, Doug, that you find Peace, Rest, and Love. I hope for "rest," but that is not your style. Something to do or someone to help? Here's Doug. I know that you will find "peace" and "love"; especially the latter. You loved unconditionally while you were in this world. You are loved unconditionally here and the world where you now reside.

Mike Boyd - May 28 at 11:20 PM

PB

“ For people wanting to view Doug's WW II interviews, I am attaching the link to the collection guide (I hope.) While all the interview have been digitized, they are not on the web site at this time, Contact Susan Sutton at IHS (ssutton@indianahistory.org) to receive a digital copy. I've given her a heads, so she knows. Susan was also a friend of Doug's whose father was a WW II vet

<chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://indianahistory.org/wp-cont>

Paul Brockman - May 24 at 04:14 PM

SD

“*Doug was the smartest person I've ever known, and a fun co-worker. Lots of memories of him. I get to hear his voice as I transcribe the WWII interviews he conducted.*”

Susan K Darnell - May 22 at 10:35 PM



“*88 files added to the album Life Tributes*”



Loose Funeral Home - May 21 at 09:56 AM

DG

“*When I was in high school I started writing letters to Doug while he was in Thailand. It was so fun for me to get letters from so far away. He even bought me a little necklace and sent it to me. He was a most interesting person to talk with and had so much historical knowledge. He will be missed. He also had the greatest laugh!*”

Denise Gaunt - May 20 at 11:35 AM

KH

“ Karen Wehnes Hiner purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Douglas E. Clanin.



Karen Wehnes Hiner - May 19 at 05:22 PM

KH

“ Karen Wehnes Hiner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas E. Clanin.

Karen Wehnes Hiner - May 19 at 05:22 PM

IH

“ My Mom was one of the WWII persons cousin Doug interviewed. I have a copy of that interview; a treasured memory of my Mom and Cousin Doug. So glad I got to see him last time I visited IN. Cousin Karen in CO

I aren Wehnes Hiner - May 19 at 05:17 PM

JM

“ I have contributed to the World War II Museum in Doug's name.

John W Miller - May 19 at 04:14 PM

SB

“ Such a kind, funny, generous man and colleague. Proud to call him my friend since 1989. Susan P. Brown

Susan Brown - May 19 at 04:12 PM

KC

“ I will never forget Doug visiting when Sophia was young. One time while we were listening to Led Zeplin, Doug got up and started playing air guitar while Sophia danced around him.

Krista Clanin - May 19 at 02:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Douglas E. Clanin.



May 19 at 01:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Douglas E. Clanin.

May 19 at 01:36 PM

SS

“ Doug was so kind to me when I was expecting my daughter in the late 1980s. He knew how much I enjoyed his "secret recipe" brownies and brought them to work while I was craving chocolate. To top off his kindness he presented me with a copy of the recipe.

Susan Sutton - May 19 at 09:54 AM