

Taylor University

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1-1-2013

### The Fort Wayne Falcon Alumni E-Newsletter: January 2013 Special Edition

Taylor University Fort Wayne

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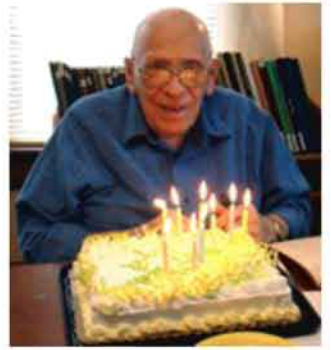
Saturday morning, I received a call from **Larry Eicher g61** with the news that his father and our friend, **Cyril Eicher g32**, 100, had passed away on Friday, January 18 around 10:30 p.m. in Mooreville, Ind., where he had been living for the past four to five months with Larry and Marge.



The former professor and administrator had spent the past six years serving as a volunteer on the campus and later at the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center identifying pictures, documents and events. Students used to love interacting with him, as he would come to campus multiple times a week. One day he did not come at the normal time, so library staff and students were concerned. Upon calling to check on him, they learned he had just got a Wii, and he lost track of time playing bowling to the laughs and surprise of those who learned of the reason for his tardiness.

Even after he turned 100, Cyril or "Dean Eicher" as several of you would call him, came to the Resource Center generally on Tuesdays and Fridays to volunteer. Since we began tracking his hours, he gave at least 2,000 hours in the archives assisting us in celebrating and documenting our heritage. Frankly, without his initial efforts and his passion, I am not sure we would have the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center. Obviously, I believe we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his life of service. For some of you, he gave you permission to marry your spouse. For others, he called you for Phonathon every year. This year, at Taylor, \$40,000 from the Fort Wayne campus Alumni & Employee Scholarship Fund, has been given to eight students connected to either Fort Wayne alumni or former employees in part because of the work Cyril did every year calling. You can read more about this in the upcoming issue of the *FW Vine* that has already gone to press and will be in your homes next week.

After "call waiting" came into existence, I am told Cyril called one person, who recognized the caller, and before Cyril could even say anything, the alumnus said, "twenty-five dollars." Cyril loved the campus and the students. He loved to see his gifts matched. Last year in honor of his 100th birthday, where we hosted a party for him in the Eicher Student Commons, he and his family requested no gifts for himself. He only wanted the gifts to go to the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center, for which he would give \$2,000. In the end, more than \$5,000 was given. In our last conversation on his last day at the Resource Center, he told me he wanted to give another \$1,000 in the new year – he loved the Resource Center, and I believe it gave him reason to live at times along with his incredible family, church and IU basketball.



Saturday, we published this news on our [Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center Facebook page](#) and [our website](#). We also have Cyril listed as one of our [Distinguished Campus Servants](#), where you can read a short biography and see a rotation of pictures over the years. You may also leave a tribute for this special man, who touched many lives. We celebrate his life of faithfulness, loyalty and commitment.

Thank you Cyril for your service and love. You are already deeply missed.

**Viewing:**

Tuesday, January 22 - 5 to 8 p.m. at [D.O. McComb Funeral Home](#), 6301 Fairfield Ave, Ft Wayne

Wednesday, January 23 – 9:30 to 11 a.m. at [First Missionary Church](#), 701 W Rudisill Blvd

**Funeral:**

Wednesday, January 23 – 11 a.m. at [First Missionary Church](#)

**Memorials:**

[Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center](#), 915 Rudisill Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46807  
[First Missionary Church](#), 701 W Rudisill Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46807

The Resource Center, 915 W Rudisill Blvd, will be open following the funeral on Wednesday for alumni and friends to sit and visit or to tour. Refreshments will be provided.

Celebrating a life well lived,



Michael D. Mortensen g91  
Director of FW Alumni & Friend Relations