



Dr. Norman Edward Showers

September 21, 1926 - April 9, 2022

Dateline: Alton

Norman Edward Showers, 95, of Alton, passed away peacefully at home on April 9, 2022. In his lifetime, he was a beloved son, husband, father, brother, grandfather, and great grandfather. Born September 21, 1926 in Carlinville, IL, he was the son of Warden S. and Ethel "Honey" (Elkinton) Showers. Dr. Showers was an emeritus Professor of Kinesiology at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, having taught at the school since its opening in 1957 until he retired in 1983. By then, he had taught students at every level from kindergarten through college. Dr. Showers volunteered and served in the U.S. Army during WWII and continued to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves until he retired with the rank of Captain in 1986. An unfailingly kind and compassionate man, he always had time for others, and he loved to tell jokes and stories to family and friends. Some of his favorite stories were from his time spent in the Army stationed in Alaska, as well as local history and how sports such as basketball and volleyball were invented.

Dr. Showers graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Shurtleff College in 1950. On December 24, 1950, he married Norma Ann Headley of Alton at The Garden Chapel in Long Beach, CA. They called each other "Norm," and they were married for 66 years. He received his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Southern California.

He was a long time member of Calvary Baptist Church in Alton. He

volunteered his time to the Alton Museum of History and Art, Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, Special Olympics, The William M. BeDell Achievement and Resource Center, Gideons International, and Illinois Retired Teacher Association (IRTA). He was also an avid bowler. He wrote the first instructional bowling textbook, and for decades he bowled in local leagues with his younger brother Bob.

He is survived by two sons, Robert A. (Elizabeth Bauer) Showers of Alton, and Mark E. (Jeanne) Showers of Alton; two daughters, Carole A. Showers of Alexandria, VA, and Rebecca S. (Richard) Luer of Florissant, MO; six grandchildren, Aimée (Shine) Lin of Chesterfield, MO, Shannon (Jamie) Davis of St. Louis, MO, Katie (Michael) Walsh of Ballwin, MO, Dr. Christopher A. Hesh (Dr. Hee Won Lee) of Atlanta, GA, Cade M. Bauer-Showers (Nona Gronert) of Madison, WI, and Laura G. Hesh of Atlanta, GA; four great grandchildren, Max and Elise Lin, June Suh Hesh-Lee, Michael Walsh Jr.; two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Joyce Showers of Orlando, FL, Mrs. Marilyn Headley of Titusville, FL; a brother-in-law, William "Bill" Meyer of Jacksonville, IL; and many nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Norma A. Showers; his son, Timothy Michael "Timmy" Showers; two brothers, Robert G. Showers and Maj. Jack R. Showers; a brother-in-law, Charles A. Headley, and two sisters-in-law, Mary Patricia "Pat" Meyer and Betty Showers.

A graveside service will be held at 11:45 a.m. Saturday, April 16, 2022 at Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey with full military honors. Reverend André Dobson of Calvary Baptist Church will officiate. Due to Covid precautions, no visitation will be held at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alton Museum of History and Art, 2809 College Ave, Alton, IL 62002. Online guest book and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Memorial Park

Godfrey, IL 62035

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 16. 11:45 AM (CT)

Valhalla Memorial Park
Godfrey, IL 62035

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Norman Edward Showers*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Dr. Norman Edward Showers*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to Carole and the entire family on the loss of your father. He was fortunate to have a long and rich life, with such a supportive and loving family. While I know you will greatly miss him, your memories of your father will live on forever to cherish. My thoughts are with you.*

Mike Rollin

Michael Rollin - April 25, 2022 at 11:55 AM



“ *Our condolences to Carole and her entire family on the loss of your father. You are in our thoughts and we hope you find happiness in your memories of your dad (and mom)!*

Sally and Norb Gannon

Sally Gannon - April 22, 2022 at 12:36 PM

PM

“ Living in Arizona, I just found out yesterday that Norman had passed away. My family lived down the street from the Showers family until they moved to California. Have many wonderful memories of those years. Especially the family picnics we had to celebrate Norman and my brothers birthdays, the same day. After I moved to Arizona and had my daughter Wendy, when we came to visit my family, we always went to diner at Fazoli's with them. Tim loved spaghetti and meat balls. Later on, we would see Norman at the Alton Museum for the programs. He always brought brownies. My mom, Millie Davis, Norman and I would go to the Sportsman's Club. Whenever I saw him, he had a smile, a joke and a story. Will miss seeing him when I visit .All my thoughts and prayers go out to his whole family. Pat Davis

Patricia McKune - April 21, 2022 at 11:58 AM

PH

“ Our deepest sympathies to the wonderful Showers family from Patty Hagen and the entire team at T-REX in St. Louis.

Patty Hagen - April 14, 2022 at 06:29 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. Norman Edward Showers.



April 14, 2022 at 01:07 PM

WA

“ *William M. BeDell Arc lit a candle in memory of Dr. Norman Edward Showers*



William M. BeDell arc - April 13, 2022 at 02:14 PM

WA

“ *It is with great sorrow that we have said goodbye to a wonderful man. The Board of Directors and staff at William M. BeDell Achievement and Resource Center will be dedicating a memorial brick in his memory. Our hearts go out to the family of Norm.*

William M. BeDell arc - April 13, 2022 at 02:13 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Norman Edward Showers.*



April 13, 2022 at 08:08 AM

LF

“ *Dear Showers Family, Thoughts are with you as you grieve your loss. I know from Carole what a wonderful man Dr. Showers was. God's peace as you celebrate a life well-lived and comfort as you mourn.*

Lisa Foss - April 12, 2022 at 09:54 PM

JR

“ We met Dr. Showers in 1958-1961 when we attended SIU at the Alton Residence Center as it was called back then. Bowling was one of his favorite subjects to teach and we were his students but he just shook his head at my left hook. In all those years since, whenever we saw him about town he always had a smile on his face and a story or joke to share. And, yes, he always remembered our names. He was a kind and gracious man and made the world a better place. We are blessed to have known him and we will meet again.

Larry and Jan Korilko Reid

Jan Reid - April 12, 2022 at 07:51 PM

GT

“ May his memory be a blessing.

Gary Taverman - April 12, 2022 at 03:20 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Norman Edward Showers.



April 12, 2022 at 08:12 AM

CJ

“ Charlene Johnson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Norman Edward Showers



Charlene Johnson - April 12, 2022 at 06:40 AM

DW

“ I will forever remember his jokes...they ran in the family. I loved our long chats over the phone and the great visits. I'm so thankful he took us on a trip and sightseeing tour of the Showers past homes and schools. It was so much fun. Thank you for sharing your dad with me. It helped fill the void of my dad. I am so very grateful. Love you all so much.

Debbie Showers Wissen - April 11, 2022 at 08:03 PM

GW

“ I will always remember Uncle Normans big hugs, his contagious smile and of course his stories. My love and prayers for the family. Genie Showers Williams, Montana.

Genie Williams - April 11, 2022 at 07:45 PM