

The Palmer Fund

Eldon D. Palmer was born on October 31, 1928 in Starke County as one of Francis W. & Vada Terry Palmer's 5 children. Young Eldon attended a one room schoolhouse near Bass Lake, then Knox High School, and finally, Butler University. After graduating, he married Elaine Zaring in 1950 and they settled in Indianapolis. Together they had four children.

Palmer's career was an interesting yet very successful one. For he began as a teacher. However, after just one year of teaching, he decided to open a used car lot. Eldon founded Palmer Dodge in 1958, Kenworth Truck Center in 1965, and in 1975 purchased a bare bones Pebble Brook Golf Course in Noblesville. Today, Palmer Trucks employs nearly 500 people in various locations, and Pebble Brook is a beautiful 36-hole golf course. He loved the front lines of building businesses and sales, growing capable employees, developing strong relationships with customers and associates, and creating beautiful spaces for people to work and play.

Eldon Palmer had a keen eye for potential in people and in business. On both fronts, once his laser focus zeroed in on a project or a person in need, there was no turning back or stalling around. He was willing to move mountains to resolve a problem. Goals and strategies were essential, but nothing compared to his personal involvement and action. Success and age never stopped him from giving his family, friends, and projects his direct attention and effort. Eldon cherished friends of all ages from all walks of life: believing in each person's goodness and potential, pushing for excellence, never giving up over time and adversity.

Eldon served many organizations including Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis and Faith Presbyterian in Cape Coral, Florida. As well as the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motor Cycle Drill Team and the neighborhood mission Community Caring and Sharing.

Eldon Palmer passed away on June 30, 2016 due to a sudden illness at the age of 87. He and Elaine were married for over 65 years and he adored the time he had with his 13 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren and wonderful extended family.

His family and friends will remember his timeless zest for life, his kind and generous heart, and how truly and dearly he loved them. His legacy will carry on through this fund.