

Verhagen Family Fund

Family man Roger Verhagen was born in Chicago in May of 1925. Growing up, Roger had many aspirations and dreams. He served in the Army Air Corps in WWII and then went on to graduate from the Northern Illinois College of Optometry. Conquering his dreams, Dr. Verhagen practiced Optometry in Knox and North Judson. Dr. Verhagen enjoyed every second of his full life; either by singing, golfing, enjoying long car rides, and most of all spending his time with his beloved family.

Roger is survived by his three children: Chris, Kirt, and Amy. All three were born in Knox but raised in and graduated from North Judson. After high school, each sibling moved away and conquered their own dreams. Roger instilled such strong family values into the three so that no matter what, all continued to keep in touch.

Chris began his college career at Purdue University, but then graduated undergrad from Indiana University. After working for his dad for a few years, he then went back to Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. Chris now resides in Noblesville with his wife, Anne, and their two sons, Steven and Andrew.

Kirt decided on Franklin College for his undergrad, and then attended Indiana University for a Master of Public Administration. Kirt now lives in Zionsville with his wife, Elizabeth, and their two beautiful children, Olivia, and Garrett.

Amy attended and graduate from Purdue University with a BA in Management. She returned to North Judson for a year and then moved back to Lafayette. There, she married her husband, Mike, and they had their first child, Adam. Mike and Amy then made the move back to North Judson where they raised Adam and his little sister, Ashlyn.

Roger showed so much love and happiness to his three children. His children say they will forever remember him by his sense of humor, involvement, and work ethic. Amy shared, "he found humor in most every situation." Kirt said, "our talks for years and years together is just something that really impacted me in my life." Chris shared his memories of his father and said, "it's amazing that he not only worked so hard, but he always had time for family."

Roger also loved to walk the trails in Starke County "until he couldn't do it anymore." His children have already started making a mark in Starke County in honor of their father. They have granted dollars to the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum and the Trail Travelers. The grant will enable the Verhagen's to "adopt-a-spot" on the trail. Their spot will be at the head of the trail on Main Street in North Judson and named *The Verhagen Station*.

The three also wanted created The Verhagen Family Fund to show their appreciation to their father. They are hoping to help all people of the community, as their father once did. The share he "met so many people and touched so many lives in the community of Starke County." Together, Chris, Kirt, and Amy strive to continue the legacy of their father forever.