



Richard L Earnest

November 2, 1946 - June 16, 2025

Richard L. Earnest, 78, of Hamlet, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 16, 2025, at Lutheran Hospital. He was born on November 2, 1946, in Knox, Indiana, to the late Robert and Loretta (Dickson) Earnest.

Richard was a proud veteran of the United States Army, where he served honorably as a Military Police Officer. His lifelong commitment to public service continued long after his military career. Richard served his community faithfully as a former Hamlet Police Officer and a dedicated member of the Hamlet Volunteer Fire Department. Civic service was not just a duty for Richard—it was a calling. He gave selflessly of his time and talents to make his town a better place, and he took special pride in mentoring youth as a longtime coach and umpire for the Hamlet Baseball League.

On May 9, 1998, he married the love of his life, Dianna (Houk) Earnest. As a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Richard was a man of quiet faith and steadfast values. He was a skilled woodworker who loved creating with his hands, and he approached every task—whether large or small—with diligence and care. Known for his warm heart, strong work ethic, and a smile that could light up a room, Richard left a lasting impression on everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

He is survived by his wife, Dianna Earnest; two children, Pam (Kevin) Thompson and Brian (Kassandra) Earnest; two stepchildren, Valarie Altman and Jamie (Julia) Hancock; nine beloved grandchildren, Kyle and Paige Thompson, Alexis and Kinley Earnest, Isaiah Earnest, Kaiya and J.J.

Andrews, Connor Hanconk, and Cat Sergi; one sister, Nancy Osburn; and several nieces, nephews, and a host of treasured friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Robert Earnest. Visitation will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at Rannells Funeral Home, Hamlet Chapel. Funeral services will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 26, at the funeral home, with additional visitation one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family.

Richard's legacy of service, kindness, and integrity will not be forgotten.

Cemetery Details

Fletcher Cemetery

700 E
Hamlet, IN 46532

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 25. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Rannells Funeral Home - Hamlet Chapel
102 W. Davis Street
Hamlet, IN 46532
(574) 867-3321
rannellsfh@mchsi.com
<https://www.rannellsfuneralhome.com>

Visitation

JUN 26. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Rannells Funeral Home - Hamlet Chapel
102 W. Davis Street
Hamlet, IN 46532
(574) 867-3321
rannellsfh@mchsi.com
<https://www.rannellsfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

Rannells Funeral Home - Hamlet Chapel
102 W. Davis Street
Hamlet, IN 46532
(574) 867-3321
rannellsfh@mchsi.com
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Burial

JUN 26 (CT)

Fletcher Cemetery
700 E
Hamlet, IN 46532

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard L Earnest.

June 24, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard L Earnest.



June 24, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard L Earnest.



June 23, 2025 at 04:18 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Richard L Earnest.



June 23, 2025 at 04:12 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Richard L Earnest.



June 20, 2025 at 12:01 PM



“ Dick was a very special man. His sense of volunteering his time with community affairs was terrific. My family spent a great deal of time with him and his family down at the baseball fields. He would show up and help out whenever he could. Never complained and just was there to improve the whole baseball program. Those were fun days together. My family is saddened to hear about his passing! God has a special place for people like him!

Neal Blair - June 19, 2025 at 04:32 PM



Dick was a kind gentle man. Loved his laugh. He will be missed.
Mike and Jean Seese

Jean Seese - June 25, 2025 at 12:18 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to Dianne and the children RIP my friend

Barb Abel - June 19, 2025 at 11:19 AM