

## **Hoagland Days 2018 – Grand Marshall, Daniel & Eileen (Doctor) Spieth, Sr.**

Both Dan & Eileen grew up and lived most of their lives just outside the Hoagland area. Dan graduated from Hoagland High School in 1944 and Eileen in 1947. They have attended almost every Alumni Banquet since it began in 1951. Dan's representation at the banquet this year was the oldest member of HHS present. Hoagland became a community of relatives, church members and many great friends. Over the years, they relished Friday night fish at Three Kings, going to watch the Hoagland Wildcats play basketball, and attending weddings, anniversaries and parties at the Hoagland Hayloft.

Dan joined the Navy and spent time in the Pacific during World War II. After returning home from the service, Dan married the love of his life, Eileen. Over the years, they lived in several locations just outside the Hoagland area – most notably, at the corner of Tillman & Minnich Roads and then on Wayne Trace just outside the 469 overpass. Dan and Eileen now reside at Lutheran Life Village Apartments in Fort Wayne.

Dan and Eileen were married May 29, 1948 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church – Soest, and are celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. They were blessed with seven children: Cheryl, Cindy, Linda, Dan, Judy, Janine and Heidi. They have 16 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

They are active members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church where Dan was involved with church council, service groups, and loved going to Carpenters Helpers. Eileen was baptized at Emmanuel and has been involved with the alter guild, ladies aid and funeral dinners. In 1994 they purchased the parsonage from the church which was going to be torn down to make way for the construction of the Christian Growth Center. It was a great move for all, as it saved a piece of the church's history, and also kept the old two story brick structure from destruction.

Dan retired from ITT in 1985 with 36 years of service and Eileen retired from International Harvester in 1984 when the plant closed. Dan and Eileen enjoyed going to auctions and refinishing furniture and started "Wishing Well Antiques" in the barn on Minnich Road. They outgrew the barn and moved their antiques to Yvonne Marie's Antique Mall in Decatur. They loved meeting and talking to customers – about this, that or anything in general – that's Eileen. And, don't forget her homemade lemonade, boy is it good!

In 2015 Dan was recognized for his time in the service and was able to go on the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. with other war veterans.

They both have a strong faith in God and love helping and supporting others. They would like to thank the Hoagland Day's Committee and the Hoagland community for all their support in the honor of being Grand Marshall – Thank you!

