



## Ernest D. "Ernie" Risner

September 11, 1935 - November 19, 2024

Ernest D. 'Ernie' Risner, 89, of Wapakoneta, died 9:35 p.m., Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at the St. Rita's Medical Center, Lima, Ohio. He was born September 11, 1935, in Jackson, Michigan, the son of Lonnie & Zelma (Gossard) Risner, who preceded him in death. On May 30, 1959, he married Celila M. Davis, who survives.

Other survivors include,

2 children, E. Scott (Amy) Risner, Wapakoneta,

Pamela (Phillip) Downing, Beavercreek, Ohio,

2 grandchildren, Phillip Chadwick 'Chad' Downing, Columbus,

William Ernest 'Bill' (Maggie) Downing, Grove City, Ohio,

great grandchild, Maeve Elizabeth Downing,

4 step-grandchildren, Justin Gabel,

Mike Gabel,

Nick Gabel, all of Coldwater,

Samantha Gabel, Wapakoneta,

4 step-great grandchildren,

Madison, Emma, Harper, & Amelia Gabel,

He was preceded in death by his grandfather and grandmother, Ernest (Ilo) Gossard; a brother, Weldon Risner; and a sister, Rita Estes.

Ernie was an entrepreneur, owning many hotels, restaurants, and taverns in New Jersey and Ohio. He was a member of Rotary Clubs, both in Glassboro, N.J. and Wapakoneta, where he proudly served as President numerous times;

Chamber of Commerce in Glassboro, N.J. and Wapakoneta; Wapakoneta V.F.W. Post #8445; Wapak First Church; and served as President of the N.J. State Liquor Association for numerous years. He was a proud member of the United State Air Force. Ernie was a generous man that enjoyed helping out those people that were down on their luck, be it with a hot meal or a room for the night.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m., Saturday, November 23, 2024, at the Eley Funeral Home & Crematory, St. Rt. 501, Wapakoneta, Pastor Josh Tissot officiating. Burial will follow in the Greenlawn Cemetery, Wapakoneta, where military rites will be conducted by the Wapakoneta V.F.W. Post #8445. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Saturday, at the funeral home. Memorials may be directed to the American Kidney Association or the Wapakoneta V.F.W. Post #8445. Condolences may be expressed at [www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com](http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Cemetery

Presar Road  
Wapakoneta, OH

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 23. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory  
1102 Lincoln Ave.  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com>

## Service

NOV 23. 1:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory  
1102 Lincoln Ave.  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com>

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ We just heard about Ernie and are totally shocked. So very sorry for you and the family. May he rest in peace

Darlene - November 27, 2024 at 12:41 PM

CL

“ Christina L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernest D. "Ernie" Risner.

Christina L. - November 22, 2024 at 08:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ernest D. "Ernie" Risner.

November 21, 2024 at 09:44 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ernest D. "Ernie" Risner.



November 21, 2024 at 09:44 PM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,  
  
May your memories of Ernest D. Risner, give you peace, comfort and strength...  
  
Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.  
My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....  
  
US Air Force Veteran, Ernest D. Risner, is “A True American Hero”  
God Bless†  
  
† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - November 21, 2024 at 07:55 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ernest D. "Ernie" Risner.*

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November 20, 2024 at 07:52 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Ernest D. "Ernie" Risner.*



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November 20, 2024 at 07:52 PM