



Lyle Rex Spires

NOV 6, 1936 - JUN 13, 2012



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Lyle Rex Spires, 75, a man of modest means who felt wealthy because he was surrounded by the love of his family and many friends, died at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 13, 2012. Proud of his long association with the Decatur Herald & Review, including more than 25 years as a sports writer, he died following a valiant fight against lymphoma and congestive heart failure.

Rex was born November 6, 1936, near Vandalia in Fayette County, but lived in Decatur since age 10. He was the youngest of the six children of Joseph Matthew and Ethel F. (Blankenship) Spires. He was raised along with his three special nephews, Malcolm, Charlie and Bryden Carnahan, who were like brothers to him.

Rex is a graduate of Decatur High School and Millikin University and was especially fond of sharing his experiences while playing baseball and basketball for DHS, the latter for legendary coach, Gay Kintner, winner of 3 state championships. He also played baseball for Millikin and his love for the university and their athletic programs translated into a job as Director of Public Information at MU from 1969-1973 and then a special fondness for covering Millikin athletics for the Herald & Review in his role as sports reporter. He served as a member and chairman of the Millikin Athletic Hall of Fame for more than 30 years and was honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2001 for his dedication to writing about Millikin athletics.

Rex enjoyed his job at the Herald & Review covering all area sports teams and was never happier than when he was able to cover a story about golf, which was his passion. He wrote extensively about golf in Decatur for the newspaper and also for the Limited Edition magazine. He made many friends at the Herald & Review, at all of the local high schools, at Millikin, and every golf course in the area as he worked and played at what he loved.

Rex was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Mont and Milton Spires, his



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sisters Ruby Hicks and Elizabeth Carnahan, and his beloved daughter Laura Dawn Spires. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 55 years, Jane Lord Spires of Decatur, his daughter Becky and her husband Bob Peer and his grandchildren Amy and Andrew Peer, all of Louisville, KY, his sister Joan McClure of Decatur and many wonderful cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family would like to pay tribute to Dr. Wade, Leann Rhinehart and the staff at the Cancer Care Center, as well as the DMH nursing staff in the Cardiac Care and Oncology units for the outstanding and loving care showed to Rex and his family during his illness.

A memorial service celebrating Rex's life will be held on Monday, June 18 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Decatur with visitation from 12:30 until the service and a reception after the service at the church. Memorial gifts may be designated to the Millikin University Athletic Department for the Hall of Fame in honor of Rex.

The family of L. Rex Spires is being served by the Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Ave. Decatur, IL. Please view the online obituary, send condolences, and share memories at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.



Tribute Wall

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LG

Lou Ann Gillervquerrey posted:

As I read the obituary of Rex, I wanted to send my sincere condolences, Jane, to you and your family. I was sorry to hear of his passing.

June 21 at 12:53 PM

RM

Roy Mosser posted:

An honor & privilege to have known Rex and to share many rounds of golf and rounds of adult beverages with...a gentle caring person we will all miss. Thank-you Arvid for the wonderful anecdotes honoring the spirit of Rex—a flood of long term memories were captured in the service for Rex. Say "hi" to Bobby Jones.

June 18 at 3:47 PM

SS

Sally Shields posted:

So sorry to hear about Rex. May God comfort you and your family at this time of sorrow. Don and Joyce Shields John Shields Scott Shields Sally Shields-Smith

June 18 at 9:55 AM

SC

Steve & Candy Carroll posted:

Dear Jane & Family, So very sorry for your loss. It was truly an honor to be acquainted with Rex. He always had a smile and story to share. May all the happy memories you shared as well as the thoughts & prayers of all of us help carry you through this time of sorrow. God Bless all, Steve, Candy, AJ & Stacy Carroll

June 18 at 9:07 AM

JG

Joe Gale posted:

There is no words to describe his passion for Millikin Athletics. He touched the lives of many coaches and athletes that participated at MU. He will be truly missed.

June 18 at 9:00 AM



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JT

Jan Touney posted:

Jane and family,I was so sorry to hear about Rex's passing. He was one of the nicest co-workers I can remember, a fine reporter and writer with an ever-present smile.My thoughts and prayers are with you.Jan Touney former Herald & Review staffer Bettendorf, Iowa

June 15 at 9:02 AM

SM

Steve Metsch posted:

I had the pleasure of working with Rex for nearly five years at the Herald & Review in Decatur. He was in sports, I was in features. We sat near each other and often talked about our mutual passion, golf, or life in general. I don't recall Rex ever not having a smile on his face. He was a real gentleman, too. We shared a lot of good laughs over the years, not to mention more than a few beverages at The Lincoln Lounge. Decatur has lost one of the good guys in "Sexy REXY," a nickname which, when I called him that, always resulted in his infectious smile.

June 15 at 8:59 AM

DD

Doug Dechert posted:

An advocate for countless Decatur golfers. A caring person who made a positive impact on my life. Job well done Rex.

June 15 at 8:22 AM

ST

Shawn Touney posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rex's family. Rex taught me an immeasurable amount of knowledge when I was a 17-year old kid in high school who loved writing, and loved sports, but didn't have experience writing about sports. I still recall working with him on my first "gamer" and having him take a pen to my work. What a true gentleman. It was a blessing to have met him.

June 15 at 8:06 AM



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TR

Tony Reid posted:

One of the sad truths about being around anywhere for any length of time is you get to watch friends fade away. Rex was one of those special friends who made life brigher and more enjoyable, and the world a more interesting place. Thank you, Rex, for your many kindnesses over the years. You were indeed a gentle man. There must be a golf course in heaven, and that gives me some comfort for the welfare of your beautiful soul. Miss you, Sir. Tony Reid.

June 14 at 3:01 PM

KS

Kathy Staton posted:

Although no words can really help to ease the loss you bear, just know that you are very close in every thought and prayer.

June 14 at 11:48 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Lyle by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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