



## George Henry Nienhueser Jr.

November 23, 1924 - March 22, 2017

George Henry Nienhueser Jr. was born Nov. 13, 1924, the only child of George H. Nienhueser and Roberta Parks Heady Nienhueser in St. Charles. The family lived in St. Charles and operated a grocery store that was lost in the Great Depression. Nienhueser's elementary school years were spent there.

After his parents divorced, Nienhueser moved in about 1936 with his mother to Springfield, Mo., where he attended junior high and high school. He was active in scouting, played football and attended YMCA camp. He graduated in 1942.

At age 18 Nienhueser joined the army and served from April 1943 to October 1945. He often told on himself that when asked to choose a branch, about all he knew was infantry where his father and uncles had served. He attained the rank of staff sergeant, serving in the 35th Infantry Division.

During the campaign in Europe where he saw action in France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Germany, he was wounded twice for which he received the Purple Heart. The four-inch-long "dimple" on his left side was actually a scar from a shrapnel wound in the face, jaw and throat. He was awarded the Silver Star for "gallantry in action in the Vire River sector, France on 1 August 1944."

Although Nienhueser rarely talked about his time at war, he admitted to "fighting the war every night (in his dreams)." Instead he resorted to a couple of standby humorous stories like the time a crane was hoisting him in a cot

onto a hospital ship. Reading "Nienhueser" on the dog tag, an orderly started to direct him to join the German prisoners. After Nienhueser let out a volley of expletives, the orderly said, "That don't sound like no German to me."

After the war Nienhueser attended the University of Missouri from February 1945 to August 1949 when he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture education.

August 1949 was also when Nienhueser married Anna Dorothea Rudolph in a double wedding ceremony with his good friend Kenneth Shafer and Kenneth's fiancé who was Anna's sister, Vera. The couples were married on the sisters' parents' 25th wedding anniversary in Troy Presbyterian Church.

After a honeymoon at Rockaway Beach near Branson, Nienhueser launched his career in education teaching an institutional-on-the-farm training class at Alton, Mo., from 1949 to 1950. He taught vocational agriculture from 1950 to 1952 in Wright City and then in Owensville from 1952 to 1955.

In 1950 he had begun graduate studies toward a master's degree in education. While starting his family, Nienhueser attended the University of Missouri during summer semesters and earned the master's in August 1954, the same month his third child was born.

He left teaching in 1955 to work as a field representative for Allied Chemical and Dye Corp., traveling Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas, but he resumed teaching—this time general science, biology and chemistry – in 1957 at Clopton School in Clarksville. In 1957 he returned to the University during the winter and summer semesters to earn graduate credits toward a master's in administration.

Nienhueser assumed his first job in administration as principal of Canton High School in 1958. After only a year there he accepted the job of high school principal in Bowling Green and worked until his retirement in 1985. In addition to daytime responsibilities, he spent many nights at school sporting events, concerts, dances and other activities.

In Bowling Green he joined First Presbyterian Church where he served as a deacon and elder and remained a member throughout his life. In early years

he had been a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge and a 32nd Degree Mason.

To help support his young and growing family, Nienhueser apprenticed himself twice to local carpenters, acquiring skills that served him on numerous do-it-yourself projects like the antique walnut bar he salvaged from a downtown St. Charles saloon and refurbished in his home basement.

He also accepted an appointment from the circuit court judge to deputy juvenile officer. His job was to take the late night calls. When the phone rang, he'd answer and promptly leave home without saying much and no questions asked.

With the help of his son, Nienhueser owned and operated Pike Spraying Service, an evergreen trimming and spraying business. In 1976 he traveled to Springfield, Mass., to attend gunsmithing school sponsored by local law enforcement and in return maintained the department's weapons. After he retired from teaching, he took on other jobs – rural and substitute mail carrier and bailiff.

A voracious reader, Nienhueser could converse on nearly any topic; stayed up to date on current events; and tackled numerous home projects from what he learned reading.

Nienhueser relished fishing trips with family, friends and colleagues. He was even featured in the January 1952 issue of American Woodsman magazine when he and his father-in-law hosted an outdoors writer to a Canadian fishing trip. However, when exaggeration superseded facts, the event lost its allure for Nienhueser.

Fishing itself never lost its allure. Nienhueser's enthusiasm prompted him to build a johnboat that also served his greatest passion, duck hunting.

Nienhueser and his son, George III, from the time he was nine years old, spent hours in duck blinds on the Mississippi River.

Although both were accomplished duck callers, son George told a favorite

story about his dad. He ran into a group of strangers who wondered where the calls originated because they were the sweetest calls they'd ever heard on the river.

Duck hunting and the rituals of making stacks of sandwiches the night before and filling thermoses with coffee to spend time in the duck blind with family, colleagues, in-laws and friends yielded years of memories and stories.

Envision the hunt where his son-in-law impulsively jumped out of the boat to find the water too deep for his hip waders.

Some of his early duck hunting partners had been students who became fast friends. The same was true of his dove hunting friends. Mr. N, as Nienhueser was fondly referred to by students, teachers and parents, enjoyed seeing students transition into lifelong friends. One friend described Mr. N as "bigger than life – strong, powerful and in control" at the beginning of their relationship. That evolved into regarding Nienhueser as "intelligent, fair and funny."

Another called him "a giant of a man in so many aspects," recalling guidance offered during his teens. He commented that Nienhueser helped him see his potential beyond his current circumstances.

Another former student explained how Nienhueser gave encouragement to students who needed it. He did it in such a subtle way that it was hard to recognize, but it sealed his reputation as a caring teacher in her estimation. Recurring themes trickle through notes from generations of former students, teachers and administrators: mutual respect, high expectations, valued mentorship, fairness, discipline, friendship, instilling confidence, role model, caring, "mentor, friend, advocate, teacher, example who walked his talk," and an inspiration.

This stern disciplinarian with a compassionate heart who believed everybody deserved a second chance would have been stunned at the appreciation expressed for his role in the community, a family member said.

A life member of the National Rifle Association, Nienhueser occupied much of his retirement and fostered many friendships through shooting sports. He was

proud of his role helping to introduce life sports, including shooting sports, into the high school curriculum. Friends he made through shooting honored him and his military service when they named the Silver Star range in Barry, III. Whether an avid gardener out of enjoyment or necessity, Nienhueser planned carefully and ordered seeds early to plant acres of vegetables in some years. He also dabbled with growing pines for Christmas trees and strawberries for sale by the roadside of his home. But his family ate so many strawberries, he never made much money at it.

Nienhueser is survived by his wife of 67 years, Anna; and daughters and their families, Nancy Southworth; Kay Nienhueser and Charles Hanney; and Anne Nienhueser and son, Andrew Deppe. He was preceded in death by his son, George III.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, BGHS Alumni Association scholarship fund and Greater St. Louis American Parkinson Disease Association, 1415 Elbridge Payne, Suite 150, Chesterfield, MO 63017; [www.stlapda.org](http://www.stlapda.org); 636-778-3377.

Visitation will be 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday April 20 at Bibb Veach Funeral Home in Bowling Green and 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday April 21 at First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green. A memorial service will be 11 a.m. April 21 at the church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **20**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's & Crematory LLC - Bowling Green

606 West Main Street

Bowling Green, MO 63334

(573) 324-2211

[office@bibbveach.com](mailto:office@bibbveach.com)

<https://www.bibbveach.com/>

## Memorial Service

APR **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church

Bowling Green, MO 63334

# Tribute Wall

EC

“ Dear Mrs. Nienheuser, Nancy, Kay, Anna: I just heard of Mr. George Nienheuser passing away. Please, accept my condolences and sympathy. Mr Nienheuser was a great Principal at Bowling Green H. S. He always helped and encouraged me, not only at school but also the many times I stayed in your home.  
Mr George N. : THANK YOU!!! Rest in peace in the glory of our Lord!

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**Elena Candia-Gallegos** - May 25, 2017 at 07:31 AM

JR

“ Jack And Jane Reid lit a candle in memory of George Henry Nienhueser Jr.



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**Jack and Jane Reid** - April 19, 2017 at 10:17 PM

JR

*Ann and family you have our sympathy! God Bless!*

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**Jack and Jane Reid** - April 19, 2017 at 10:18 PM



“ 123 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's, LLC.** - April 19, 2017 at 11:00 AM



“ *LORI KOTTWITZ lit a candle in memory of George Henry Nienhueser Jr.*



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**LORI KOTTWITZ** - April 19, 2017 at 08:11 AM



*Many prayer for your family in this emotional time. So many memories of Mr N and his wisdom (he tried at least lol), I am sure he is a father and husband to be proud of, as I know I am proud to have had him a part of my life as well.. Hugs to all from Lori Kottwitz, Carley and Everett Lovell. May Peace be with you all*

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**LORI KOTTWITZ** - April 19, 2017 at 08:15 AM

SP

“ *Sonia Pederson lit a candle in memory of George Henry Nienhueser Jr.*



Sonia Pederson - April 18, 2017 at 10:33 PM

JP

“ *My sincere prayers go out to the family and to Mrs. N. Mr. N was a driving force in my going to college. Thank you both for being firm but fair. John and Cathy Parcell*

John Parcell - April 18, 2017 at 06:44 PM

RL

“ *Ruth Finley Raithel And Linda Finley Lom lit a candle in memory of George Henry Nienhueser Jr.*



Ruth Finley Raithel and Linda Finley Lom - April 18, 2017 at 06:51 AM

CT

“ *Candy Reading Thornton lit a candle in memory of George Henry Nienhueser Jr.*



Candy Reading Thornton - April 18, 2017 at 06:24 AM

CT

*Mr. N. you were awesome, and will always be.*

Candy Reading Thornton - April 18, 2017 at 06:25 AM

DE

“ *Mr. N was a wonderful person he always treated me with kindness he will be missed by many people God bless his family family*

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**Deanie ebers** - April 17, 2017 at 02:10 PM

TW

“ *Anne my thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Your father was a leader and a great man. Always firm but always fair as well. God Bless!*

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**Tim Welch** - April 17, 2017 at 01:10 PM

KN

“ *I loved working as an office aid during my senior year for Mr. Nienhueser. He was firm but fair, and I had the utmost respect for him and the job he had. I think I became a teacher because of the fine example he provided. God speed, Mr. N!*

*Kimberly Niffen*

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**Kimberly Niffen** - April 17, 2017 at 11:59 AM