



Emil Dansker

April 29, 1930 - December 5, 2020

EMIL DANSKER

Emil Dansker, 90, of Cedar Village Retirement Community in Mason, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Dec. 5, 2020 after a lifetime devoted to his family, friends, students, and the communities in which he served as a professor and journalist. Emil was born to the late Harry and Fannie Dansker on April 29, 1930 in St. Louis, Missouri, and moved to Vincennes, Indiana at age six. He graduated from Lincoln High School (1948) and from Northwestern University with a bachelor's degree (1952) and a master's degree (1953), both in journalism. He proudly served as a U.S. Marine sergeant at Camp Lejeune on active duty from 1953 to 1955, followed by six years in the reserves. At Camp Lejeune he served at the base newspaper as a combat correspondent and photographer, or as a chairborne commando and paragraph trooper, as he liked to say. He was set to receive a Congressional Gold Medal for his civil air patrol service during World War II. He will receive it posthumously in the near future. Emil was married to the late Charlene (Applebaum Kaplan) in July, 1956 until her death in 1987. Together they raised three children, Helen Dansker of Bella Vista, Arkansas, Alice "Ali" (Michael) Doyle of Vanceburg, Kentucky and Eric (Kathy) Dansker of Rockville, Maryland. Emil married the late Donna (Weber Marmer) in 1990, who passed away in October, 2020. Dr. Dansker is also survived by three grandchildren, Jennifer (Matt) Mrkobrad, Jeff (Allison) Holman and Ashleigh Dansker, five great-grandchildren, Sawyer and Georgia Holman, and Augie, Orla and Maeve Mrkobrad, three step-

children, Amy (Tom) Nice, Julie (Jerry) Kalwat and Ken (Alison) Marmer, their children, and scores of cousins, nieces, nephews, former students, colleagues and friends. Our family also wants to honor our wonderful selfless angel, Ewann Clay, whom we love dearly. Dr. Dansker's legacy remains strong in his professional life as a journalist for various newspapers – including, but not limited to, the Decatur Herald & Review, the Cincinnati Enquirer, the Dayton Daily News, the Toledo Blade, and as co-owner, editor and publisher of the Pemberville Leader. Dansker was advisor to the BG News at Bowling Green (Ohio) State University (BGSU) for several years, and his deepest impact on his craft came from teaching an untold number of students at The University of Cincinnati, Xavier University and BGSU – where he earned a Ph.D. in 1979, and at Central State University. He gave insights into the profession through first-hand accounts of his stories and those of his colleagues, creation of a political convention and Olympics internship program and helping students network for internship and job opportunities. He enjoyed flying, photography, history, and so many other subjects, all of which he approached with zest and unmatched passion for learning and exploration. He was active in several organizations and was co-founder of the Greater Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists who honored him with a memorable luncheon in December, 2016. Until recent years, Dr. Dansker was active with the Wise Temple. He was a lay rabbi at the former Longview State Hospital in the 1960s and oversaw the only bar mitzvah of a Longview Patient. His tremendous humor and sensational storytelling, his unmatched memory for facts, his love for his family, students and colleagues set an inspirational example for us all, and with love, he will never be forgotten. The family is anticipating a Celebration of Life gathering in Spring, 2021, and we will post arrangements on Facebook. Dr. Dansker will be interred in the columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Special thank you to the staff at Cedar Village and Dr. Scott Kotzin for the wonderful, loving care provided to our father. We appreciate you more than we can express. Memorial gifts can be made to the Greater Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists, c/o

Ginny McCabe, 281 West Crest Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215. Writers' note: to avoid the famous red pen, we researched the contents of this obituary, and apologize profusely in Dr. Dansker's memory if anything is incorrect. We all know how he preached "Accuracy, Accuracy, Accuracy." And that's how we do it!

Tribute Wall

GR

“ Quick thing...I went on a trip with Dr. Dansker in 1993. At one point he was impressed at some problem solving skills I used to get us to the Yankee game in New York when nobody else knew how to get there. He told me that Mozart never asked how to play music, he just played...and that I was like Mozart. It was the nicest compliment I've ever gotten.

Greg - June 01, 2025 at 10:03 PM

ER

“ Dear Dansker Family, I saw the news of your father's passing on the BG News Alumni FB group, which I just joined. My condolences to all of you on the loss of a singular man. As you know, he touched innumerable lives with his lessons and stories. Mine was one of them.

I graduated from BG in 1984 and was one of his journalism "kids." I first got to know him when I worked as an office assistant in the J-school. A short time later, I joined the BG News staff as reporter, then managing editor and later editor, so I had many classes and interactions with your dad. I also went to the 1984 Democratic national convention in San Francisco.

My most memorable experience, though, came during the independent truckers' strike. Things had turned violent as the strike wore on. I pitched a story idea of talking to truckers. Given that there had been gun violence, your dad offered to accompany me. We went at night to rest stops along the interstate and interviewed tired and angry

truckers. Afterward, at 1a.m. or so, he swung me by the Toledo Blade so we could meet some of the folks there.

He helped me launch my journalism career and we stayed in periodic touch, and I treasure a letter he sent me a couple of years ago with a BG News story of mine attached with the note: "good lede." I can still picture his very messy desk and office -- but he knew where to find what he needed -- and can hear his distinctive voice picking up the phone, "Dansker here."

A good day in his class was getting a Tootsie roll tossed in your direction.

I was lucky to be one his J-kids, so I can just imagine how wonderful it was to his actual children and grandchildren. Thinking of you now...and remembering a professor who went above and beyond for his students each and every day.

Take care,

Erin Esmont Rabinowitz

Erin Esmont Rabinowitz - April 25, 2021 at 01:38 AM

MD

“ I am so sorry to hear of Prof Dansker's passing. I was his journalism student at Central State University in the 90's. He was **HANDS DOWN** the best teacher, advocate, supporter, and had a heart of gold! He **IS** the reason for launching my journalism career. Rest on, Dr. D.
Monese DeRamus

Monese DeRamus - January 19, 2021 at 02:12 AM

NR

“ Good friend, brother Marine, fellow CAMPer -- we'll miss him but always remember him. We published a couple of his articles -- his "Civil Air Patrol in World War II" was a cover story for our Journal of America's Military Past. The illustration we chose for the cover was a (very probably apocryphal) painting of an unarmed CAP plane diving on a German U-Boat. Semper Fidelis! Nick Reynolds, Former Editor

Nick Reynolds - January 04, 2021 at 11:11 AM

BA

“ The Member's of the BGSU Retirees Association were just notified of you father's passing and wish to extend our deepest sympathy to you!

BGSU Retirees Association - December 17, 2020 at 02:40 PM

JM

“ I am still grateful Dr. Dansker encouraged me to go to national political conventions and work for the AP transporting film. I also remember his saying there would be times I wouldn't have time to eat or sleep. I managed to find a way but really appreciated his generosity, professionalism and experience along with his focus on history. Great person! May his spirit and legacy live on in his family and students.

Jill Trudeau Marquard - December 10, 2020 at 10:54 AM

CP

“ Emil will be forever remembered as Co-Founder of the Cincinnati Aviation Heritage Society with me. He taught me as he has all of you that might read this. We would be honored to have Emil's friends or colleagues as future members.

I'll miss his stories as well as his mentoring and support. I scanned a lot of his work for him and I've shared just one page with you from 1962.



Charlie Pyles - December 09, 2020 at 12:46 PM

AD

“ Our dad was the best dad. Even with everything he did in his life, I do not remember one single time that he wasn't there for his family. We love him so much and will miss him forever.

Ali Dansker Doyle - December 08, 2020 at 09:37 PM