



# Daniel A. Hillenbrand

MAY 17, 1924 - MAY 17, 2010



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*WEIGEL Funeral Home*

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Daniel A. Hillenbrand**

MAY 17, 1924 - MAY 17, 2010

**D**aniel Anthony Hillenbrand, age 86 of Batesville, died Monday, May 17, 2010 at his residence. Born July 14, 1923 in Batesville, he is the son of Clara (Nee: Enneking) and John A. Hillenbrand. Beloved husband of Mary (Mim) Homan Hillenbrand, they were married May 14, 1948 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Hillenbrand enlisted in the Army Air Force July 7, 1943 and served in the Fourth Combat Cargo Unit in China Burma and India Burma during World War II. He was discharged December 28, 1945. In addition to the American Theatre Ribbon, Pacific Theatre Ribbon, the Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal, he also earned three Bronze Stars, two Air Medals and Distinguished Flying Cross. Returning home from World War II, Mr. Hillenbrand joined his brothers John W., William A. and George C. Hillenbrand in the management of the privately owned Hill-Rom Company and Batesville Casket Company. He began his career in the purchasing department learning all facets of the family business. In 1964 Mr. Hillenbrand assumed leadership of the Batesville Casket Company and was elected President in 1969, during which time the company experienced many years of sustained growth. In his first year he increased sales by 62%. One of his more notable accomplishments was the development of the Monogard line of caskets which proved to be a game changer in the casket industry. The Hill-Rom Company and Batesville Casket were merged together to become Hillenbrand Industries and in 1971 became publicly owned. At the requests of his brothers he assumed leadership of the company being named Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer in 1972 for Hillenbrand Industries. During his 31 years in charge, he developed the management team that took Hillenbrand Industries through uninterrupted growth and eventually becoming a Fortune 500 Company. During his tenure as CEO, sales increased 1063% from \$76 million to \$884 million. He was most proud of his management team and the years of success they created. He retired from the company in 2003 attaining a remarkable



## Obituary

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record of achievement few leaders in American history can match. Mr. Hillenbrand was a graduate of Champion High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin and attended Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He was a member of St. Louis Church, the Batesville V.F.W Post #271, Prell-Bland American Legion Post #271, Hillcrest Country Club in Batesville, as well as the Ocean Reef Club and Sea Island Club in Ocean Reef, Florida. Mr. Hillenbrand is survived by his loving wife Mary (Mim) Homan Hillenbrand; devoted father of daughters Diane Mary Hillenbrand of Cincinnati, Ohio, C. Lynne Vollmer and her husband Steve of Cincinnati, Ohio, Janet Claire Sherman and her husband Alan of Batesville; loving grandfather of Hilary Lynne Vollmer, Stephen G. Vollmer Jr., both of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mary Paige Vollmer King of Charleston, South Carolina, Daniel Hillenbrand Vollmer Sr. of Cincinnati, Ohio, Alexander Peter Vollmer, Meredith Clare Vollmer McLane, both of Chicago, Illinois and the loving great grandfather of Mary Claire Vollmer, Daniel Hillenbrand Vollmer Jr., Roxanne Doyle Vollmer, Virginia Frances Vollmer and Hannah Hillenbrand King. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by siblings John W. Hillenbrand, William A. Hillenbrand, George C. Hillenbrand, Mary Kelley, Helenrose Kohnen, Frank A. Hillenbrand and Clare John Deckebach. Visitation is Wednesday, May 19th, from 4-7 p.m. at the Batesville Casket Company Administration building located at 100 Batesville Boulevard in Batesville. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Thursday, May 20th, at St. Louis Church. Burial will be in the church cemetery with military graveside rites conducted by the Batesville V.F.W. and the Prell-Bland American Legion. The family requests memorials to the Southeastern Indiana YMCA. Weigel Funeral Home, Batesville, IN, is in charge of arrangements.



## Tribute Wall

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PH

**Patrick Andrews Of Harrison, Ar** posted:

Mr. Hillenbrand was respected as a true leader in the funeral industry. I graduated from Dallas in 1968 and bought our first Batesville casket for our family firm at the Las Vegas convention in 1974 (?). It started a friendship within the leadership of the company that has lasted over 4 decades. As I enter my 44th year in funeral service today I know that much of my success is due to the relationship with the Hillenbrand family and their company. I was happy to make several trips to the company thru the years including one with my dad prior to his death in 1977 which created fond memories. I was treated to the use of the farm during 1981 Indy race and had several wonderful golf outings with employees and management during the years. All these memories and success were the results of Mr. Hillenbrand's management style and team he created. We are forever grateful for the relationships formed with this family and this company for these many years. The family name has been one to be proud of and Daniel Hillenbrand and those before him will be missed.

May 31 at 8:00 PM

DM

**Daniel T. Mahn, Sr. Of Desoto, Missouri** posted:

My deepest sympathy to the Hillenbrand Family during this time of great loss; may God comfort and strengthen your family. He is only gone physically but his memories will last a lifetime.

May 23 at 8:00 PM

FC

**Frank Wright Of Cincinnati, Oh** posted:

I would like to express my condolences on your loss. I respected and admired Dan. It was a privilege to serve him at the airport.

May 22 at 8:00 PM

JC

**Jean-Marc Frenette Of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada** posted:

To the Hillenbrand family ...my sincere sympathies to you all...I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hillenbrand at the farm while visiting your most impressive enterprise, for sure, he was a man with a grand vision and grand class !! God bless you all.

May 20 at 8:00 PM



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CB

**Chuck Thomas Of Myrtle Beach, Sc** posted:

Many of us in North and South Carolina will always remember that Dan made a tremendous impact on funeral service and his friendships in the south. Customers always commented on meeting him at state conventions and his support for our profession. His leadership will be missed. His leadership style will be missed. My deepest regards to the Hillenbrand family and it was a great pleasure to have known Dan.

May 20 at 8:00 PM

JB

**Jeffrey H. O'keefe Of Biloxi, Ms** posted:

To the Hillenbrand Family: You are in our prayers during this most difficult time of personal loss. Mr. Dan was and will continue to be such an icon within the Funeral Services Industry, Hospital Care Industry and beyond. A true leader among men. May God continue to Bless all the he has done. Sincerely, Jeffrey H. O'Keefe

May 20 at 8:00 PM

BW

**Bob Baculik Of Madison, Wisconsin** posted:

Susan and I would like to extend our sincere condolences to Mim and Claire and the rest of the Hillenbrand family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

May 20 at 8:00 PM

BW

**Brown's Funeral Services, Inc. Of Warrenton, Nc** posted:

We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dan Hillenbrand. Ours will always be a "Batesville-only" establishment, a tradition begun many years ago by my dad, Thurston T. Brown, who died last April. May God comfort Dan's family and friends, and keep them in His care.

May 20 at 8:00 PM

TD

**Tom Weigel Of Mandan, North Dakota** posted:

My condolences to the Hillenbrand Family. In 1964 the Mortuary Science senior class from the University of Minnesota was invited to BCC. We each met Mr. Hillenbrand and I was impressed by his sincere dedication and interest in all aspects of funeral service. Truly a man of class and substance. In my years in funeral service I have followed his example and will always remember the gentleman he was. Tom Weigel

May 20 at 8:00 PM



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NG

**Nfd&Ma, Inc. Of Decatur, Georgia** posted:

On behalf of President Ernest C. Adams, Jr., CFSP, the Executive Committee and the distinguished members of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, Inc., we extend our deepest sympathies in the loss of this great man. Throughout the years, Batesville has become a household name in and around many of our firms. It was because of the service and expertise of Daniel that made it possible. We continue to have a longlasting working relationship with Batesville because of him. He will be missed. Our prayers are with the entire Hillenbrand family. Peace and Blessings to you all. Sincerely, Chantelle D. Jones National Office NFD&MA, Inc.

May 20 at 8:00 PM

DU

**Dennis Chidester Of Salt Lake City, Utah** posted:

A great loss to his family, his friends and all of us involved in the funeral industry.

May 19 at 8:00 PM

KM

**Kevin Liederbach Of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan** posted:

To Aunt Mim, Lynn, Dianne and Janet Clare, We wanted to share that our family has Uncle Dan and all of you and your families in our thoughts and prayers through the coming days and weeks.  
Love Kevin, Karen, Blaise, Andrew and Kelley Liederbach

May 19 at 8:00 PM



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MO

**Michelle Hue Arling Of Cincinnati, Ohio** posted:

Dear Diane, I was so sorry to read about your father, and I'm very sad for your loss. Even though we haven't seen each other for many years, I'll always remember our years and friendship at Villa Madonna Academy. I'll never forget my weekend at your home in Batesville when we celebrated your 14th birthday. Your parents were so warm and gracious to me and to all the Villa girls lucky enough to be invited. Your Dad showed his great sense of humor as he played lifeguard at the pool and as we zipped around the lake on the paddle boats. The ride in his plane was one of the highlights of my childhood! How fortunate you are to have such a wonderful father. I am grateful for his service to America. My heartfelt condolences to you, your lovely mother (she complimented me on my outfit and hat when she took us to Mass..I was thrilled, to me, it was like getting Jackie Kennedy's approval), and to the rest of your family. Sincerely, Michelle Hue Arling. VMA Class of 1967

May 19 at 8:00 PM

BR

**Ben Richardson** April 21 at 2:05 PM

Is this the same Dan Hillenbrand who piloted C-46 cargo planes over The Hump during the 2nd War? I have a story of one of those flights told by his navigator Elvin (Red) Crusier of Westport. My email is: ilbeingu@yahoo.com. Ben Richardson

DG

**David Riemann Of Gulfport, Ms** posted:

Mr. Dan was a great visionary for our industry - our sympathies are with his family, The Riemann Family and staff of Riemann Family Funeral Homes, Gulfport, MS

May 19 at 8:00 PM

DS

**Deborah Bland Sherman Of Seattle, Wa** posted:

I was so sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Hillenbrand. I knew of him through my father and many others. I worked briefly at HillRom during the summers of my college years and was impressed by what I knew of him. I trust and pray you will treasure your memories of his life.

May 18 at 8:00 PM

TI

**Tom And Betsy (Kelley) Ertel Of Batesville, Indiana** posted:

God bless you Uncle Dan. May you rest in peace. You will be greatly missed by our entire family. Love and prayers.

May 18 at 8:00 PM



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JK

**Jim Bauschke Of Kalamazoo, Mi** posted:

Dan Hillenbrand's determination and drive is forever etched into my psyche. He was a driving force not to be denied. I am especially fortunate to have been part of the Batesville sales team at the time he led Hillenbrand Industries. It was the era of some other great names, too. Names of men that Dan Hillenbrand inspired one way or another to be the absolute best they could be. Some of those names are Dick Day, Tom Hellmich, John Galvin, Bob Milligan, Jack Boyles, Bob Raver, Paul Buck, George Molinsky, Marlin Foist, Dave Hirt, Ken Camp, and there are many others. Dan Hillenbrand made every day of every week of every month of every year a major challenge—but I wouldn't trade one minute of it. They were fantastic times full of energy, passion, and commitment. I will always be proud to have known Dan Hillenbrand and to have been part of the incredible growth of Batesville Casket Company.

May 17 at 8:00 PM

Jl

**Jim And Sally (Michel)Widener Of Batesville, Indiana Usa** posted:

Rest In Peace Dan. Everyone in Batesville and Surrounding areas Will miss you.Our Sincere Sympathy to the Family. You are in our Prayers.

May 16 at 8:00 PM

EI

**Eugene And Elene Gunter Of Batesville, Indiana** posted:

Our deepest sympathy to the families for your loss. I had the pleasure of working for the Casket Co. for 33 years until I recently lost my position. I am very proud to have been a part of such a great company. Violet was wanting to come to the visitation, but she is recuperating from open heart surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

May 16 at 8:00 PM

CP

**Charlie Ray Of Lake Park, Ga** posted:

My deepest sympathy's to to all the Hillenbrand Family, May God be with all those over the years and especially the immediate family, You all are in my prayers and thoughts, Charlie Ray

May 16 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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