

## Find A Grave



### Actions

[Begin New Search](#)  
[Refine Last Search](#)  
[Cemetery Lookup](#)  
[Add Burial Records](#)  
[Help with Find A Grave](#)

### Find all Knapkes in:

- [Saint Augustines Cemetery](#)
- [Minster](#)
- [Auglaize County](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [Find A Grave](#)

### Top Contributors

[Success Stories](#)  
[Discussion Forums](#)  
[Find A Grave Store](#)  
[Support Find A Grave](#)

### Log In

**Sponsor This Memorial!**  
Click Here

Advertisement

## Luke Bernard Knapke

[Memorial](#) [Photos](#) [Flowers](#)

[Edit](#)

[Learn about sponsoring this memorial...](#)

Birth: Mar. 29, 1919  
 Minster  
 Auglaize County  
 Ohio, USA  
 Death: Mar. 16, 2010  
 Saint Marys  
 Auglaize County  
 Ohio, USA



Added by: [Joan Shoffner](#)

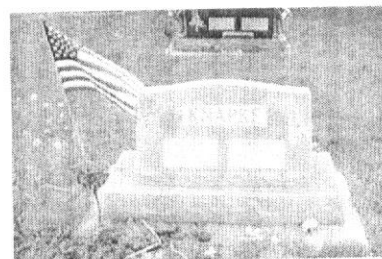
Luke, 90, Minster, died in [Joint Township District Memorial Hospital](#).

He was a son to Anthony and Anna (Hemmelgarn) Knapke. On Aug 18, 1949, in Minster, he married May H. Cull, who survives in Minster.

Also surviving are five sons, Tony (Deb), John (Janet) and Paul (JoAnn), all Columbus, Gene (Norma), New Bremen, and Ted (Tish), Mason; four daughters, Ann (Wendell) Fletcher, Pittsboro, NC, Melanie (Doug) Taylor, New Bremen, Kathy (Jim) Keiser, Minster, and Susan (Dan) Paulus, Bowling Green; a brother, Tom (Dorothy), Glandorf; three sisters, Beata Muhlenkamp, St. Henry, Betty Goetz, Pasadena, CA, and Ann (Lell) Hickey, Dayton; twenty-four grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Deceased are a son-in-law, Steven Kemper; two brothers, Fr. Paul and Anthony; four sisters, Prisca Liskowiak, Joan Knapke, Marie Smith and Lorena Knapke; and a grandchild.

He was a member of the St. Augustine Church. He attended local grade school, skipping second grade and attended four years of high school at Brunnerdale Seminary. He had one year of college at St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, IN, and one year and summer at Ohio Northern University and received his teaching certificate. He started teaching at 19-years-old in 1938 at Chickasaw Elementary and was also an organist in the local church. After three years he accepted a job at St. Henry both teaching and organist. The army intervened; Knapke was drafted, July 1941 for one year, ended up serving 4.5 years through World War II. He achieved rank of Captain in Armored Force and Psychological Warfare. He spent 2.5 years in North Africa and Italy. Upon mustering out, he was hired as an organist at St. Augustine Church, Minster, in December 1945. He was still attending the University of Dayton and received a bachelor of science in education in 1946. In the fall of 1946, he started teaching vocal and instrumental music at Minster High



Added by: [Joan Shoffner](#)

Add a photo for this person



Request A Photo



Photos may be scaled.  
 Click on image for full size.



- [Joan Shoffner](#)

Added: Mar. 18, 2010

Leave flowers and a note

School. In the fall 1948, he returned back to the University of Dayton to take additional music courses and received a bachelor of music in 1951. He and his wife moved to Port Clinton where he taught vocal music in the high school there for one year. He returned to Minster in fall 1950 to teach vocal music and English at Minster High School. He served as organist and choir director at St. Augustine Church. He transferred to teaching junior high school in fall 1955; he taught seventh and eighth-grade science until retirement in July 1974. He spent 26 years in Minster and 34.5 years in the teaching profession. He continued as church organist and choir director until retirement in 1981. He was also musically active with the Barbershop Quartet, the Quadranters for 20 years starting in 1948. He was an elected trustee of the Minster Historical Society at its first election in 1976 and remained active in that capacity. He had undertaken the task of translating early issues of the Minster Post, which are printed in Gothic style print. This is to find newsworthy and historical items that might otherwise be lost. Having translated articles written in low German by an area immigrant woman, resulting after five years in the publication of a book by the Minster Historical Society in 1987 — approximately 5,600 copies sold to date. Knapke was also involved with his wife Mary in obtaining, organizing and maintaining the unique funeral card collection of the Minster Historical Society. The collection originally numbered 4, 200 entries in 1978, now more than 18,500 entries. He was named citizen of the year in 1985 by the Minster Civic Association and was Oktoberfest Grand Marshal in 1989. He enjoyed history, woodworking and reading. He was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Holy Name Society and Ohio Retired Teachers Association.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Augustine Catholic Church, with Rev. Rick Nieberding officiating.

Family links:

Parents:

Anthony H Knapke (1883 - 1943)  
Anna Elizabeth *Hemmelgarn* Knapke (1885 - 1970)

Burial:

Saint Augustines Cemetery  
Minster  
Auglaize County  
Ohio, USA

Created by: Mike Dearbaugh  
Record added: Mar 17, 2010  
Find A Grave Memorial# 49867392

[Accuracy and Copyright Disclaimer](#)