

Today's *Star Press* [had this to say about the late John W. Fisher:](#)

Mr. Fisher -- as he was known by most -- quickly became an integral part of Muncie, something many transplanted residents never achieve in what can be a clannish community. It was not entirely because he was a member of the Ball family, but rather due to his commanding presence, active intellect and remarkable business acumen that laid the groundwork for Ball Corp. to move into the 21st century.

His roles at Ball Corp. and as the longtime chairman of the Ball Memorial Hospital Board of Directors are well known, but he was much more: author, cherry grower, fish farmer and entrepreneur. Even well into what should have been his retirement years, he never passed up a business opportunity. He was involved in the fledgling Cardinal Ethanol in Randolph County and he and two partners bought Sherry Labs from Ontario Corp. three years ago. He said he got into fish farming after he noticed the price of some fish was higher than the price of beef one day while having lunch in Boston.

While Mr. Fisher was an imposing presence, those who knew him said he was vitally interested in what others thought. He was often combative, but was also eminently fair. He had a curious mind and was constantly reading and seeking information, not just about the business world but about public affairs and many other fields of inquiry...

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While Ball Corp. is long gone from Muncie, Mr. Fisher's continuing commitment to his adopted hometown has been a stabilizing force in recent troubled times. His was a voice of reason and civility -- something that seems to be missing from much social discourse today.

He was among the last of the giants of industry and of the community, whose likes probably won't be seen again in these changing and more informal times. He will be greatly missed.

The *Star Press* [also reported on Congressman Pence's reaction](#) to the sad news:

John W. Fisher, Remembered

Tuesday, 30 June 2009 12:00

The news of Fisher's death caught U.S. Rep Mike Pence off guard. Pence learned of Fisher's death only after being contacted by The Star Press on Monday morning. Fisher, 93, contributed to Pence's campaign, but more importantly he was a confidante.

Often going against his own party -- and getting grief for it -- Pence would talk to Fisher. Every time, Pence says, Fisher encouraged him to do "what was right."

"John Fisher contributed to my life," Pence said. "I first met him when I first ran for public office in 1988, and our relationship over the last 20 years has been a continuing source of wisdom and guidance. John Fisher was a man who personified everything that's good about America. He was a strong leader, a generous philanthropist, but he was also a man who was always willing to take a stand for what he believed in and support men and women who were willing to enter the public arena and support those same ideals."

Congressman Pence's statement is available [HERE](#) .