



John A. Lesmeister

August 20, 1944 - December 20, 2021

John A. Lesmeister 77, of Bonfield, passed away December 20th, 2021, at Citadel of Kankakee.

He was born August 20th, 1944, in Hammond, IN., the son of John O. and Rose (Dietrich) Lesmeister.

John was an operating engineer and a lifetime member of IUOE Local 150. He enjoyed model railroading, metal working, unplugged wood working, resin casting, and tinkering with anything mechanical. He scratch built a model of the "Minnie Lilly" steamboat which is displayed in the Kankakee County Historical Society. He enjoyed writing local interest books, one of which was published, titled "Stages".

He is survived by his wife Karen (nee Kuipers), his daughters; Nicole & Chijioke Ilochonwu of Lansing, IL and Carolyn & Joshua Burkholder of Indianapolis, 2 sisters; Marilyn Thompson of Dyer, IN and Lois Lessner of Calumet City, IL, his grandchildren; Ijeoma, Emeka, Obi, Ikem, and Xavier, and several nieces and nephews.

John is preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be held Wednesday December 29, 2021, from 10am until the funeral service at noon at Jensen Funeral Home in Kankakee. Pastor Joseph Johnson will officiate. Burial will be at Bonfield Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to: Vitas Hospice, Illinois Railway Museum, Union, IL.; Historical Construction Equipment Association, Bowling Green, Ohio; or Calumet City IL. Historical Society.

Cemetery Details

Bonfield Cemetery

West Street
Bonfield, IL 60913

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 29. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 E IL-17
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-4001
<https://www.jensenmemorialchapel.com>

Service

DEC 29. 12:15 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 E IL-17
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-4001
<https://www.jensenmemorialchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *John A. Lesmeister*

October 08, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *My Dad and I always enjoyed talking with John at Speech competitions. His daughter Carolyn was a good friend. Best wishes to Carolyn and the rest of the family. John was a great man! I'm so sorry for your loss.*

Timothy Koerner - January 02, 2022 at 05:28 PM



“ *Sorry to hear about John's passing. My Dad always enjoyed his chats with John. My thoughts are with his family.*

Shelley Greve - December 29, 2021 at 01:52 PM



“ *John was our next door neighbor for as long as we have lived in Bonfield! I have good memories of John. Mostly I recall his work ethic... as a union heavy equipment operator, he was proudly able to provide well for his family!! I will also remember him mowing the ditch and keeping his place looking sharp. However, if I happened to be passing by as he worked, he would always shut off the mower and wanted to chat. John was always friendly to me!! He loved his two beautiful daughters and loved to keep me up to date on his girls! He adored his grandchildren! Plenty of bragging about them as well! He was a great neighbor and will be missed! Kathleen Webb*

Kathleen Webb - December 29, 2021 at 10:18 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *John A. Lesmeister*.



December 28, 2021 at 06:42 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of *John A. Lesmeister*.



December 27, 2021 at 04:25 PM