



## John F. Biersdorfer

May 4, 1942 - October 11, 2017

NEW PALESTINE – John F. Biersdorfer, age 75, of New Palestine, passed away on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. He was born on May 4, 1942 in Buffalo, NY, as the son of Harry B. and Lillian R. (Ford) Biersdorfer. He graduated from Broad Ripple High School in 1960. He received his bachelor's degree in Radio and Television Arts from Indiana University in 1964 and later obtained his Master of Business Administration from the University of North Dakota. He married Barbara A. (Elliott) on June 19, 1965, in New Palestine. John served a tour in Vietnam in 1967-68 with the United States Air Force and left the service with the rank of captain, after being stationed in California, Maryland and North Dakota.

After his military service, he worked for Xerox in Indianapolis and retired in 2007. He was a member and past master of New Palestine Masonic Lodge No. 404, where he was its current secretary. He also belonged to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and was a 33-degree Mason. He was a member of the American Legion. During his college days, he was in the drum corps of the IU Marching Hundred and participated in the alumni band for years. He was very active with New Palestine Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), where he was a Sunday School teacher, chairman of the board and an elder. John was an avid IU fan. He was also a longtime volunteer crew member for the New Palestine High School football team.

John is survived by his wife, Barbara A. Biersdorfer of New Palestine; daughters, Mary E. (Bobby) Armstrong of Minneapolis, MN and Judith D. (Betsy Book) Biersdorfer of New York, NY; son, Thomas J. (Linda Przygodski) Biersdorfer of New York, NY; sister, Judy (Jim) Hinshaw of Indianapolis; and one granddaughter, Caitrin Armstrong. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Lillian Biersdorfer.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory, 1484 W. US Hwy. 40, Greenfield, IN 46140. A Masonic Service will take place at 3:00 p.m. with the funeral service immediately following. The Reverend Travis Hacker will officiate. Burial will follow at New Palestine Cemetery with

military rites presented by the active duty.

Memorial contributions may be made to the New Palestine Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 4053 S. 650 W., New Palestine, IN 46163 or the donor's favorite charity.

Envelopes will be available at the mortuary. Friends may share a memory or a condolence at [www.erleweinmortuary.com](http://www.erleweinmortuary.com).

# Cemetery

---

# Events

---

## New Palestine Cemetery

5052 S 500 W

New Palestine, IN, 46163

**OCT**

**15**

**Visitation**

01:00PM - 03:00PM

---

Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield

1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

**OCT**

**15**

**Funeral Service**

03:00PM

---

Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield

1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

**OCT**

**15**

**Masonic Service**

03:00PM

---

Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield

1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

# Comments

---



“ Barbara and Family,

I am saddened by John's passing, saw him last at the Paul Ruster Dog park last fall before your trip out to MN. Always enjoyed chatting with John and seeing him relaxing with other while Annie, your dog he would say, played. John was a lodge brother as well and as a secretary for as long as I was have been in the lodge, so he will be missed yet I know he will see us all yet again. May you have all the support and comfort during your time of grieving that your savior and those that knew John can provide.

David Grigsby - November 06, 2017 at 02:31 PM

---



“ I am so sorry for your loss! What a lovely man! Lucius and I wish you ..our condolences. John's spirit will always be in the dog park!

marianna mccarty - October 14, 2017 at 05:05 PM

---



“ John and I typically made it to the dog park around the same time every day. We'd talk sports a little, but mostly we talked about our animals and his family. He dearly loved his family. He'd tell me about his trips to Minnesota to see his granddaughter and how delighted he was to see everyone together this year. He bragged about his sons visit this year too and beamed with pride as he told me about his sons yearly charity golf tournament. He sure loved you all from his beloved wife all the way to the stray cat that had babies in his garage.

John was a good man. I will truly miss him. Love and prayers to the family.

ron - October 14, 2017 at 03:33 PM

---



“ I am so very sorry to hear of John's passing. Like many others, I met him at Paul Ruster Dog Park and was always welcomed with a big smile and friendly hello from both him and Winnie. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Rest in Peace, John,  
Kathy Sutterfield and Bailey dog

Kathy Sutterfield - October 14, 2017 at 02:09 PM

---



“ Sandy and I (Karen Pflum) will miss you and Winnie at the dog park.

**Karen Pflum** - October 14, 2017 at 10:50 AM

---



“ John was always the gentleman. He was my dog park friend. John and Barbara were the first to welcome me to the dog park. Along with Winnie and her Winnie wash. The park will not be the same without him.  
Praying for the family.

**Janet Dunn** - October 14, 2017 at 10:38 AM

---



“ I knew John and Winnie from the Paul Ruster dog park. Our dogs played together and John was always friendly and kind. He introduced me to the throwing power of a Chuckit. He will be missed. Through reading John's obituary I learned that we are both Disciples of Christ. I will ask my church, Downey Avenue Christian Church, to include John and his family in our prayers.

**Susan Collins** - October 14, 2017 at 10:13 AM

---



“ Biersdorfer family,  
I met John when I started coaching football at Doe Creek in the late 80's and as the NPHS assistant A.D. I have enjoyed talking with him the past few years in the press box during Dragons football games. You could not find a more dependable, reliable, committed man to the community that John. I value his dedication to the football program for the past 30 years but I've valued his friendship even more. He will be missed by all of us who were lucky enough to get to know John. Your family is in my prayers.

Jeff Wright

**Jeff Wright** - October 13, 2017 at 04:41 PM

---



“ Barbara  
So so sorry for Your loss.  
John was my buddy.  
He always liked picking on me.  
But I picked back. Lol  
He was one of the smartest man when it came to the bible.  
I've learned a lot.

His shoes will be hard to fill.  
Will miss his cocky remarks to me.  
With a comment.  
Oh! I was just teasing! Lol  
Linda Popp

**Linda Popp** - October 12, 2017 at 10:29 PM

---



“ We send our sympathy to Barbara & family. John will be missed by me & our church family. He knew so much history of the bible in our Sunday school class. Dale & Patty Chambers

**Patricia Chambers** - October 12, 2017 at 09:57 PM

---



“ John was more than a church friend. He was my Elder mentor , Bible study leader, adult Sunday school teacher and trusted friend. Knowing he is in the presence of the Lord is comforting but I miss him already. My love and prayers to Barbara.



**Rhonda Jeske** - October 12, 2017 at 06:41 PM



“ I join family and friends in prayers of gratitude that I have been blessed in knowing John. His commitment to our Lord Jesus was deep. I was privileged to share in ministry with him and many others at NPCC. May God be your comfort during this season of loss, grief and reflection.

**Rebecca Bunton** - October 14, 2017 at 03:04 PM

---



“ To Johns family, I am so very sorry for your loss. John was one of a kind, I learned so much from him about the Bible and how to study the Bible. I will treasure the time spent with him. He will be missed so much.

**Debbie Crawford** - October 12, 2017 at 06:02 PM

---



“ Sending our most sincere condolences from our entire family. My brother, Mike Baugh, really enjoyed all of the time spent with John while they volunteered for NPHS football over the past 30 years. He was one of Mike's true friends and we always appreciated the kindness that he showed to him . We hope that sweet memories bring you all much comfort ! Sincerely, Kristy (Baugh) Willhelm & family

**Kristy Baugh Willhelm** - October 12, 2017 at 04:24 PM

---



“ To the family of John, So very sorry for your loss. John will be missed by many, but none more than by his church family. Love, Richard & Brenda



**Brenda Jackson** - October 12, 2017 at 01:54 PM



“ Barb,

Dave and I are away on vacation but sorry to learn of John's passing. We will still look for him in the IU alumni band on band day. So sorry for your loss.

Dave and Jo

**Jo** - October 13, 2017 at 09:34 PM



“ John's (and Winnie's) affection for my dog, Harper, was one of the highlights of going to the dog park. I'm grateful to have known him, even briefly. Loving condolences to his family. -

Becky

**Becky** - October 14, 2017 at 03:54 PM