



John Brian Wagner

March 21, 1959 - October 21, 2021

GREENFIELD – John Brian Wagner, age 62, of Greenfield, passed away on Thursday, October 21, 2021 after a valiant battle with Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma. He was born in Wausau, Wisconsin on March 21, 1959 to Gordon Lambert and Loretta Grace (Steffen) Wagner. John met his wife Elizabeth “Liz” (Valentour) while attending Lisle Senior High School in Lisle, graduating in 1977. He and Liz were married August 1, 1980 in Naperville, Illinois. Working his way through school, John received his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois - Chicago in 1981.

John began his career as an engineer with Chicago Rawhide (CR Industries), Elgin, Illinois. He later transitioned to Freudenberg-NOK in Morristown, Indiana where he spent more than 30 years as a Project Engineer. During his time at Freudenberg-NOK he developed several patents. He enjoyed solving product design challenges at work and finding the key to solving a customer’s dilemma. John always said, “If you love what you do, you never work a day in your life.”

John’s passion and commitment were evident in all areas of his life. He loved helping others. As a member of Brookville Road Community Church John was involved in the jail ministries for youth, and a regular “barista” making coffee for church services. He loved coaching and cheering on his children and grandchildren in their many sporting activities. He too was an avid sportsman, running, swimming and biking. He also spent many years on the sidelines at New Palestine High School football field as a Chain Gang member. John also enjoyed gardening, woodworking, and of course designing and making things for the house and family. You could always count on John’s optimism and indomitable spirit.

John is survived by his father Gordon Wagner of Greenfield, loving wife of 41 years Liz Wagner of Greenfield; children Heather Meyer of New Palestine, Angela (Brian) Wagner-Gilbert of Greenfield, Jordan Wagner of Beech Grove, and Brian (Keelie Baker) Wagner of New Palestine; grandchildren, Amadeus, Ezra, Madison, June, Archer and Chloe; siblings Jim (Jeri) Wagner of Kingwood Texas, Joni (Joel) Stackman of Greenfield, Tom (Dawn)

Wagner of New Palestine; and many nieces and nephews scattered around the U.S. He was preceded by his mother, Loretta Wagner, father and mother-in-law, Jack and June Valentour.

Visitation will be held on Monday, October 25, 2021, from 4:00pm until 8:00pm at Erlewein Mortuary and Crematory, 1484 W US Hwy 40 Greenfield, IN 46140. The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at the mortuary. Pastor Andy Flink will be officiating. Burial will follow at New Palestine Cemetery in New Palestine.

The family would like to thank the Heart to Heart Hospice, Community North Cancer Center, and St. Francis BMT Center for all the loving care provided to John.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made by mail to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, PO Box 98018, Washington DC 20090 or envelopes will be available at the mortuary. Friends may share a memory or condolence at www.erleweinmortuary.com.

Events

OCT 25 **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield
1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

OCT 26 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield
1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

Comments



“ Just learned of this news yesterday with saddened heart that he has been taken too soon to God's heaven. I have many fond memories of working with John while we both were at Chicago Rawhide and again during our years here at Freudenberg-NOK. Both on similar life journeys. U of I graduates in BSME working first as design engineers and finally into Sales Engineering roles at the same two companies in the sealing industry. He will be greatly missed. Though his smile will be a lasting memory. My condolences and prayers go out to his family, friends, and all those he touched. May he rest in peace.

Michael Frankel - March 30 at 08:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael Frankel - March 30 at 05:42 PM



“ Dear Liz and Family,
Our hearts go out to all of you. We will keep you all in our prayers. John was such a wonderful person. When I was the new kid on the block, he welcomed me with open arms. We did not keep in touch as we should have done, but when we did see each other it was like old times.
Our deepest condolences.
Joe and Kathy Newcomb

Joe Newcomb - October 26, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ Liz & family,
Please know that we are with you in spirit today for John’s funeral. If we could have safely attended, we would be there. John will forever be in my heart. His smile, positive attitude & kind heart are attributes that most of us can only strive to attain. Hugs and Love to you Liz. I will see you soon!
Tammy & Rich

Tammy Curtis - October 26, 2021 at 11:58 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lori Oberhoffer - October 26, 2021 at 10:32 AM



“ Dear Liz & Family,
Our prayers and deepest sympathy are with you at this time. John's huge heart and infectious smile will always warm our hearts. He always beamed with positivity, kindness and a sense of humor that will never be forgotten. John will be dearly missed by his friends.
Love,
Jeff & Lori Oberhoffer

Lori Oberhoffer - October 26, 2021 at 10:29 AM



“ Liz and family,
So sorry for your loss. It was a real pleasure to cross paths and work together with John at Freudenberg-NOK for part of my career. He was always positive about whatever needed to be done to deliver value to our customers. It also became a subsequent pleasure to meet you and the entire family, especially for the period of time we shared a church family. I am sure John has gone home to be heaven. May God richly bless you and your entire family.
All the best, Steve (and Wanda) Matteson

Steven Matteson - October 26, 2021 at 10:18 AM



“ Liz and family,
So sorry to hear of Johns passing.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. He will be missed by all that knew him.
Most sincerely, John and Della Suits and family

Della Suits - October 26, 2021 at 09:19 AM



“ Dear Liz,

The Technology & Innovation Team are deeply sadden by your loss and would like to express our condolences to you and your family. Many us worked with John on his many projects and enjoyed his enthusiasm and energy he brought to the teams. I personally worked with John throughout his career at FNST and will miss the opportunity to continue having discussions like we had in past years.

John was always a pleasure to be with and we'll all miss him. His spirit will remain us.

Sincerely,
Dave Sakata
VP Product Warranty and Lean Product Engineering

Dave Sakata - October 25, 2021 at 04:48 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dick Bird - October 25, 2021 at 09:27 AM



“ Dear Lord, I pray You will be with all of John’s friends and family who will miss his smiling face, his strength, his love, passion, and commitment, and his kind spirit. I pray for strength, care, and support for all who loved him. May their happy memories of times with John and the knowledge that he is welcomed in our Father’s loving arms in heaven, provide comfort at this sad time. Amen.

Our thoughts are with you all!

As requested, we have sent a memorial contribution to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

With Love, the Every family - Renee, Todd, Valerie, and Gabrielle

Renee Every - October 25, 2021 at 07:25 AM



“ Sending my deep and sincere condolences to Liz and the whole Wagner family at this very sad time.

I only had a very brief time to know and work with John.

John was always ready to help and support me and others and share his passion and knowledge and will be greatly missed.

Dick Bird (Freudenberg UK)

Dick Bird - October 25, 2021 at 04:27 AM



“ The best thing I remember about John is his wonderful spirit and kind temperament. He is my brother in Christ and we will miss him so much, but Bill and I know we will see him again. Heaven is a richer place.

Linda & Bill Gallagher

Linda Gallagher - October 24, 2021 at 05:50 PM



“ There are sooo many great memories, since I pretty much spent every weekend of my youth at the Wagner residence...also most summers. John and Liz both have such a big heart and didn't mind how long I stayed. They also made me feel just like another one of their children. I never saw John upset, he always had that big ol' John smile. My favorite memory with John would have to be all the times we played the "Heros" games on the computer. So many times of laughter were shared over that game. Any time with John was a great time. He will always be loved and never forgotten. I hope that I can become as great as a father figure as him as he was for me. I love you Wagner family and I am sorry for your loss.

James Mitchell - October 24, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ My Condolences, Liz; watch over and comfort with Your Eternal

Wallace Bass - October 23, 2021 at 09:16 PM



“ My condolences to Liz and all of John's family, so very sorry for your loss

Jeff Koldoff - October 23, 2021 at 04:27 PM



“ The most optimistic guy I know!!!

Joni stackman - October 23, 2021 at 03:56 PM