



John E. "Trucker John" Butkowski

March 10, 2019

Butkowski, John E. "Trucker John"

Of Iola, WI. Born to Eternal Life March 10, 2019 at the age of 88 years. Preceded in death by his parents Michael and Mary, and his wife Joan (nee Berghoefer). Loving father of Donald (Patti), Robert, Nancy (Jesse) Reyes, Susan (Craig Colondro) and Peggy (David) Anderson. Loving Gramps of Frank (Jessica), Jeff (Jen), John (Tammy), Lisa, Jody (Jesse), Stacy (Mike), Ryan (Teresa), Katie (Steve), Jason, Stephanie (Paul) and Dani (John). Proud great-grandfather of 19. Loving Brother of Dorothy (Tony) Kolinski, Robert (Priscilla) and Michael. Further survived by other relatives and friends.

Born and raised on a farm in the Milwaukee area, John helped manage the farm during the Great Depression. In November 1950, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. John proudly served in the Korean War, where he was wounded twice, and awarded two Purple Hearts. Upon his return, he received an honorable discharge as a Sergeant. In his words, "Marines never die, they just fade away. Semper Fi."

John began a family with his wife, Joan and had five loving children. For over 36 years, he drove truck for the Teamsters Local 200, where he developed lifelong friends.

An avid outdoorsman, John enjoyed deer hunting on his farm in Iola and bass fishing in both Wisconsin and Arizona. Later in life, his hobby was growing

and selling locally grown produce at nearby farmer's markets. Throughout his life, John actively participated in the lives of his children and grandchildren and will be remembered as a loving Father, grandfather, and great grandfather. One of his last greatest adventures was flying on an Honor Flight in a World War II by-plane over Waupaca, courtesy of the Angel Aviation, Dreams Foundation.

Thank You to the loving and caring staff at Bethany Skilled Nursing home, Waupaca, WI.

“You kids were good to me!”

Visitation Friday, March 15 at ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CHURCH (3100 W. Parnell Ave, Milwaukee WI 53221) from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon followed by the celebration of Mass of Christian Burial at 12:00 Noon. Interment St. Adalbert Cemetery with full military honors.

Cemetery Details

St. Adalbert Cemetery

3801 S. 6th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Charles Borromeo Church
3100 W. Parnell Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 15. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Charles Borromeo Church
3100 W. Parnell Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Interment

MAR 15. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Adalbert Cemetery
3801 S. 6th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Tribute Wall



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John E. "Trucker John" Butkowski.*



March 14, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ *I am one of the five Chaplains who serve the residents at Bethany Home in Waupaca. My condolences to the children and grandchildren of "Trucker John". Because we change chaplain each week, my last visits with John were in early February. Our office was right next to area where he was living and I often had chance to chat with him as he was sharing his mealtime with the ladies at his table. We had a very warm and caring relationship and I will certainly be missing those little chats. Your dad and granddad had a good sense of humor, but missed being able to return home. When I came on duty this past Monday morning, I found his tablemate, Hildegard, eating her breakfast. She had a long sad look on her face and when I asked if I could help; she reported how she was losing her friends as both John and another lady had entered eternity. I share that to assure you that John was loved and appreciated by fellow residents and staff alike. May our Lord, Jesus, who is the Resurrection and Life be you source of joy, peace and Hope as you grieve the loss of a wonderful father and grandfather.*

Chaplain John Schmidt

Chaplain John Schmidt - March 13, 2019 at 08:59 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of John E. "Trucker John" Butkowski.



March 12, 2019 at 04:04 PM



“ My Uncle Johnny was a force! Having grown up 800 miles apart, visits included big holidays like Thanksgiving and summers when my mom would enjoy visits with her mom. As soon as practicable after our arrival in Milwaukee, my Uncle Johnny would arrive at grandmas, parking his 18-wheeler in the alley, stand in the kitchen (always chomping on a once-lit cigar) and regale us with tales of his recent adventures. My fondest memories include: Cadillac Cars (seems like my Uncle Johnny had every cool model to come out of Detroit), an overstuffed refrigerator (his refrigerator was always amply full of everything a kid would want to eat), and the most beautiful garden I ever saw (I loved finding treasures in that garden and eating them right then and there. I had to fight with the local rabbits for all of that bounty). We had many fond visits over these many years. I have many good memories to smile about today and, in the days ahead. My deepest sympathy to all of those who have suffered this loss. We have all lost, but we have all gained so much by knowing him. Rest in peace Uncle Johnny! - Tori Kolinski

Tori Kolinski - March 12, 2019 at 03:41 PM