



## John Olav Oien

August 15, 1939 - June 25, 2020

John Olav Oien, passed away June 25, 2020. He was born August 15, 1939 at Boardman Valley Hospital in Traverse City to Peter and Eleanor Oien. He lived his first six years on North Manitou Island, moving to Traverse City in 1945.

John went to Boardman Grade School, and graduated from Traverse City Central High School in 1957. He did odd jobs until enlisting in the United States Army, June of 1959, serving three years until June of 1962. He was a heavy equipment operator in Korea with the combat engineers, and upon returning to the U.S. in December of 1960 he worked as a specialist in personnel administration and Army finance at Ft. Leonardwood, MO., earning rank of Specialist 5th Class, E-5.

He received several letters of appreciation and commendation at Ft. Leonardwood. He was also an expert with the carbine rifle.

In June of 1964 John met Judy Gibbons in Leland at the "Bluebird" while she was vacationing at the family summer home. In June of 1965 they married in Greileckville at the Justice of the Peace's residence, Clyde Hazzard.

In April of 1963 John began work at DeWeese Hardware in T.C. until August of 1966. He then began working at Burwood Products Co. He stayed with that company for 27 years working as an engineering draftsman, and cost estimator in the product planning and development Dept., retiring in 1992.

In retirement John worked several part time jobs such as a bank courier, airbourne express delivery, skilled machine operator. Eventually he retired permanently from the Suttons Bay Post Office in January of 2000. Other than three years in the Army and living 15 years in Leland, John spent the rest of his years living in Traverse City.

Retirement at Waterview Ridge Condo Association brought interests in walking, U.S. and Canada travel, a 2014 Mustang convertible, 2002 Ford Thunderbird and a 1959 Ford Thunderbird, and his best buddy, a cat named Georgie. John was also an avid bowler from 1963-1990, bowling in many Traverse City leagues.

John is survived by his wife Judy and brother Marcus; 4 nieces; 5 nephews; numerous cousins, and best buddy Georgie the cat.

Please leave a condolence or visit John's tribute page at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com)

# Comments

---



“ Dick and I were so sorry to hear of John's passing. We send caring thoughts to you and your family. John's cars must have provided many fun drives for the two of you. Hope those excursions provide some special memories for you among all your others.

Peg/Dick Townsend

**Peggy Townsend** - July 07 at 06:59 PM

---



“ Carolyn Hanson lit a candle in memory of John Olav Oien



**Carolyn Hanson** - July 02 at 12:14 PM

---



“ Carolyn Hanson lit a candle in memory of John Olav Oien



**Carolyn Hanson** - July 02 at 12:13 PM

---



“ I knew John about 10 years, but John was a very good friend who could have been a historian for the tri-county area. Having lived all his life in the area, John would tell about the logging industry and life on the Manitou Islands. He was very good at knowing business locations and how they changed with time. My best personal remembrance of John was our times riding together to the Omelette Shoppe for the weekly breakfast and enjoying his close fellowship during those special times. I am looking forward to being with John in heaven, because of his personal relationship with Jesus. I will certainly miss John and his conversations.

May the grace of God be with Judy and all the extended family during this time.

Thank you, dear brother for your memories.....

Wayne

A neighbor in Waterview Ridge

**wayne nash** - July 01 at 04:53 AM

---



“ I will miss Uncle John's bright and cheerful smile. Thinking of you during this difficult time, Aunt Judy.

**Heather Silny** - June 28 at 09:51 AM

---



“ Judy, so sorry to hear about John. Sending hugs.

Cindy Hitesman

**Cindy** - June 27 at 10:40 AM

---



“ Chris A Oien lit a candle in memory of John Olav Oien



**Chris A Oien** - June 27 at 08:25 AM

---



“ Lauren K Oien lit a candle in memory of John Olav Oien



**Lauren K Oien** - June 27 at 08:25 AM