



John Andrew "Big Guy" Lillig

May 23, 1949 - May 18, 2025

John Andrew "Big Guy" Lillig, 75, of Loves Park, passed away peacefully on May 18, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family. Born on May 23, 1949, in Oak Park, Illinois, he was the son of Andrew G. and LaVerne (Hanson) Lillig.

John graduated from Glenbard East High School, class of 1967 and went on to study at Northern Illinois University and the Milwaukee School of Engineering, where he majored in Electrical Engineering. He built a meaningful and accomplished career as an electrician, retiring from the Byron Nuclear Plant. He was a proud member of the IBEW Local 364, where he formed lasting friendships and took pride in his trade.

On August 12, 1978, John married the love of his life, Sally Happ. Together they shared 46 beautiful years filled with laughter, devotion, and countless cherished memories. Whether cruising to new destinations or simply enjoying a quiet evening at home, John and Sally found joy in life's simple moments—especially those spent with his family.

Family was truly the center of John's world. He worked hard to create a comfortable and loving home and gathered several times a week for food and time with family. He found deep fulfillment in the company of his children and grandchildren, and his presence brought warmth and steadiness to those he loved.

John was also a man who found peace and happiness in the great outdoors. He loved hunting, enjoyed time at the Beloit Rifle Club, and hit the golf course whenever he could. His passion for history, particularly war documentaries, reflected his deep curiosity about the past and his appreciation for the stories that shaped the world. A fan of classic Country Western music, John often had tunes playing in the background as he relaxed or spent time with family.

John is survived by his devoted wife, Sally; his children, Charles Lillig and Kristin Lillig; and grandchildren, Talyn, Trinity Lillig, Zachary, Jimmy and Alex Lillig. He is also survived by his brother, Jeffrey (Lindsey) Lillig; niece, Michelle Lillig (Joe) Kouba, nephew Andrew James "AJ" Lillig; great-niece, Brinley Kouba; special friends, Robert Spanier, and Chuck (Beverly) Demino.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his dear friend, Pam Spanier.

A Memorial Visitation will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by a Celebration of John's Life at 12:30 p.m. at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 4301 N. Main St., Rockford. Celebrant Jennifer Thompson will officiate. Live Stream can be viewed here: <https://my.gather.app/remember/john-andrew-big-guy-lillig> Cremation rites have been accorded.

John's legacy lives on in the love he gave, the stories he shared, and the family traditions he helped build. To share a memory or offer a condolence, please visit www.graceFH.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUN 7. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Celebration of Life

JUN 7. 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ I will always remember the times that I would visit the Lillig's during a Holiday, and John would always have really funny stories to tell. He was always so happy and friendly. He made you feel like part of the family. I will never forget that.
Anisa ~

Anisa Jackowski - May 23, 2025 at 05:34 PM