



## John Forrest Murray

April 3, 1945 - July 2, 2024

John Forrest Murray, 79, of Cherry Valley, went to be with his Lord and Savior on July 2, 2024. Born April 3, 1945, in Batavia, NY; son of Arthur Franklin and Agnes Ann (Hoffmaster) Murray. Served in the United States Marine Corps during Vietnam War. John retired from Sundstrand/Suntec where he was employed from 1968 to the closing of the company in 2003. In his retirement, he worked at Bob's Golf Carts in Chana. United in marriage to his friend and soulmate, Lula L. Jones (Pack) on April 21, 1991, in Loves Park. John accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior in his adult years and attended Stonebridge Church. He had an amazing sense of humor and brought joy and laughter to any space he occupied. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. John loved tending to his garden with his wife, Lou. He was mechanically inclined and could fix anything. John had a warm, giving heart and would help anyone who needed assistance. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing and watching Hallmark "chick flicks." Survived by his wife, Lou; children, Rosanne (Jason) Bonlander, Missie (Eric) Pierson; daughter-in-law, Melissa Jones; son-in-law, Trevor Shirk; grandchildren, Christopher (Jenn) Pierson, Rachel (Corey) LeGros, Andrea Pierson, Amber (Sean) Pekarsky, Shaleena Skarka, Kayla McKinney, Codie Jones, Zack (Rachel) Jones, Channie (Korbin) Johnson, Emma Kamholz, Bobby Peddycord, Brianna Peddycord, Claudia (Jersey) Norris, Billy Peddycord, Liam Lange, Landon Lange; numerous great-grandchildren; siblings, Arthur (Naomi) Murray, Peter (Mary) Murray, Althea "Pat" (Myron) Brady, James "Jim" Murray; brother-in-law, Jerry Cartwright; sister-in-law, Connie Murray; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. Preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Judy E. Shirk; son, Hershel Jones; father-in-law, Harry Pack; mother-in-law, Myrtle Pack, and her significant other, Robert "Kibby" McKibben; siblings, Cecelia Schaffer, Genevieve Cartwright, Paul Murray. John's family extends a heartfelt thanks and is grateful to the caring and compassionate staff at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center, Van Matre, and various home care providers; they are angels on earth and took such loving care of John during his many hospital stays. His family appreciates the many prayers and support received. Visitation is Monday, July 15, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 4301 N. Main St., Rockford. Additional visitation on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, from 10:00 am to 10:45 am at Grace, followed by the

funeral service at 11:00 a.m. Live stream of the funeral can be viewed here: <https://my.gather.app/remember/john-forrest-murray>. Pastor Scott Nesse will officiate. Interment at Sunset Memorial Gardens following the service. Share a memory or condolence at [www.gatherFH.com](http://www.gatherFH.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

JUL **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

JUL **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

## Graveside Service

JUL **16**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Sunset Memorial Gardens  
8800 N. Alpine Rd.  
Machensney Park, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of John Forrest Murray



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - July 15, 2024 at 03:00 PM



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of John Forrest Murray



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - July 15, 2024 at 02:46 PM

LW

“ Lou, I have missed you and John you were always two of my favorite people to see walk in the door! I am praying for God to comfort you. I can just picture John's smile and him teasing Myrtle right now! What a glorious reunion we will have some day!

Lisa Widergren - July 27, 2024 at 06:21 AM

SF

“ Sharon F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Forrest Murray.

Sharon F. - July 15, 2024 at 03:05 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of John Forrest Murray.



July 14, 2024 at 09:12 PM

PM

“ Pat and Myron Brady and Family & James M planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Forrest Murray.

Pat and Myron Brady and Family & James M - July 14, 2024 at 09:12 PM

LH

“ Love, Jill Harvey purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of John Forrest Murray.



Love, Jill Harvey - July 14, 2024 at 08:23 PM

VF

“ Vincent Medina & Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Forrest Murray.



Vincent Medina & Family - July 13, 2024 at 03:05 PM

NB

“ Nancy Belt and George Belt. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John Forrest Murray.



Nancy Belt and George Belt. - July 12, 2024 at 04:16 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Forrest Murray.



July 12, 2024 at 12:22 PM

BF

“ Benny Falzone Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of John Forrest Murray.



Benny Falzone Family - July 10, 2024 at 08:16 PM

FJ

“ From Peggy and Frank Jones purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of John Forrest Murray.



From Peggy and Frank Jones - July 07, 2024 at 01:09 PM

MP

“ I will miss his sass and smirk and sparkle. I'll miss seeing how much he loves my mom. It's not a forever goodbye; I'll see you again. I love you, Dad.

Missie Pierson - July 07, 2024 at 08:12 AM

TM

“ Such a kind man ❤️ I'm going to miss all the joking comments you would always say to me 😊 you're a beautiful angel now ❤️

Theresa Murphy - July 06, 2024 at 10:40 PM

LH

“ John was a wonderful person. He worked very hard for the veterans. He also had a great sense of humor and love to tease you. I will miss the times our group would meet for breakfast. Then it got smaller and smaller. He put his heart and soul into the Cherry Valley VFW. GOD BLESS HIM. MAY HE REST IN PEACE. LOVE YOU JOHN. LOIS HANSEN

Lois Hansen - July 06, 2024 at 07:14 PM

HW

“ SO MANY GOOD TIMES WE HAD ITS HARD FOR ME TO EVEN THINK YOU ARE GONE BUT YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN SEMPER FI MY BROUTHER

harold f warren - July 06, 2024 at 05:18 PM