



Mr. John W. VanWagner

December 8, 1930 - September 19, 2014

John W. VanWagner, 83 of Poneto passed away at 6:25 p.m. Friday, September 19, 2014 at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

John was born on December 8, 1930 in Fort Wayne to Glen M. & Willadean (Shumaker) VanWagner.

He graduated from South Side High School in Fort Wayne in 1968 and attended I.U.P.U. – Fort Wayne where he completed his Associates Degree.

He served in the United States Marine Corp. during the Korean Conflict and was part of the Frozen Chosin, and was discharged as a Corporal in 1952. He worked for G.T.E. as a Switch Service Technician for 43 years, retiring in 1995.

He was member of Fort Wayne West Main Nazarene Church, Portage First Church of the Nazarene, Fort Wayne Lake Avenue Nazarene Church, now Fort Wayne Grace Point Nazarene Church, and was currently a member of the Bluffton First Church of the Nazarene, where he served on several boards along with Work and Witness, and Men's for Mission. He traveled to 40+ countries through mission trips and received the NEI District Distinguished award through the NMI.

On August 30, 1952 in Fort Wayne he married F. Jolene (Adam) VanWagner.

She preceded him in death on March 1, 1998. On January 2, 1999 in Bluffton he married Alice Ann (Stone) Norris-VanWagner, she survives in Poneto, Indiana.

Survivors include children; Tamara Sue (Larry) Whyde of Brown County, Indiana, John W. JR. (Ann) VanWagner of Brown County, Indiana, Todd A. (Gail) VanWagner of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Ty Alan (Lori) VanWagner of Avon, Indiana along with Mary (Steve) Towne of Poneto, Indiana, Toni (Christopher) Davison of Lakeland, Florida, Betsy (James) Evans of Naples, Florida and Tonya (David) Norris-Wile of Tucson, Arizona. He is also survived by 23 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister, Phoebe Jane Fett of Fort Wayne.

Funeral services to celebrate John's life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday (September 24, 2014) at the Bluffton First Church of the Nazarene. Pastor Tim Miller will officiate. Calling hours will be held from 2 to 8 on Tuesday at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton and for one hour prior to the service at the church. A committal service will take place at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne with military honors. Memorials may be made to NEI Nazarene Missions International through the Bluffton First Church of the Nazarene. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

LINDENWOOD CEMETERY

2324 West Main Street
Bluffton, AK 46808

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 23. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Visitation

SEP 24. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Bluffton First Church of the Nazarene
1515 Clark Avenue
Bluffton, IN 46714

Service

SEP 24. 10:00 AM (ET)

Bluffton First Church of the Nazarene
1515 Clark Avenue
Bluffton, IN 46714

Graveside Service

SEP **24**. 2:00 PM (ET)

LINDENWOOD CEMETERY
2324 WEST MAIN STREET
FORT WAYNE, IN 46808

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. John W. VanWagner*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - September 23, 2014 at 04:06 PM



“ *Mr. John W. VanWagner*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *We are so very sorry to know that you've lost such a great man. There is no doubt he felt great pride when it came to his family. Our thoughts are with you.*

The Crowe family - September 24, 2014 at 10:20 AM



“ *Beverly Foreman lit a candle in memory of Mr. John W. VanWagner*



Beverly Foreman - September 23, 2014 at 07:08 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mr. John W. VanWagner.*



September 22, 2014 at 02:09 PM



“ *CLIFF & JANET LEASURE, RUDY & KAYLEE SLONT purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Mr. John W. VanWagner.*



CLIFF & JANET LEASURE, RUDY & KAYLEE SLONT -

September 22, 2014 at 01:54 PM



“ *Multicolor Bright Mixed Flower Standing Cross was purchased for the family of Mr. John W. VanWagner.*



September 22, 2014 at 11:25 AM



“ *Uncle John, you will be missed by all. Your in heaven with your "LOVED" ones & God is there with a " SMILE " , just like the one you always had. You helped me when I needed it & thanks. Your work here is done ,now you can start a new chapter in your journey..... Ricky Adam & family*

ricky adam - September 22, 2014 at 08:44 AM

SB

“ We will deeply miss our Dear Uncle John--Always wearing a smile and emanating a joyful warm attitude--deeply committed to family, church, work & friends. A life Well Lived & We Celebrate All that it was...and all were touched by the difference he made!
May the family be tenderly comforted, but also extremely proud of the Uncle John left!
Warmest Regards to All,
Steve & Jutta Bennett, (Mary & Family) & David); Lisa(Bennett) Marks & Family; And if I may-- Darley(and the Late Dan) Bennett & Family

Steve Bennett - September 21, 2014 at 09:07 PM

SE

“ Steven E. purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Mr. John W. VanWagner.



Steven E. - September 21, 2014 at 08:45 PM

RC

“ Rod And Brenda Clamme lit a candle in memory of Mr. John W. VanWagner



Rod and Brenda Clamme - September 21, 2014 at 12:17 PM