



Mr. John C. Wrestler Sr.

January 17, 1922 - February 4, 2016

John C. Wrestler Sr. 94, of rural Montpelier, IN, passed away at 1:40PM on Thursday February 4, 2016 at Heritage Pointe in Warren with his family by his side. He was born in Blackford County on January 17th 1922 to John A. and Mabel (Wentz) Wrestler. John graduated from the Jackson Twp. High School in 1942, one of 16 in his class. John served in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a submariner on the USS Hawkbill (SS-366). John married Kathryn Risinger on November 11, 1950 at the First Baptist Church in Montpelier. Kathryn passed away August 27, 2012. John farmed on the family farm and milked cows for many years. He had also worked at 3M for 18 months and then worked in the tool crib at GripCo. for 20 years, retiring in 1991. He was a member of the Submarine Club in Indianapolis. John and Kathryn were members of the First Baptist Church in Montpelier. John enjoyed being on the farm and spending time with his family. John is survived by his son: J. Charles (Jan) Wrestler Jr. of rural Montpelier, daughter Anne (Gary) Boone of Hartford City, daughter, Linda Jane Wrestler (Ron Wielage) of Indianapolis, grandchildren, David (Bonnie) Boone of Paradise, CA, Keith Boone of Fiat, Carol (John) Felger of Keystone, Jennifer (Matt) Roush of Marion and Jeremiah Wrestler of San Francisco, CA, 8 great grandchildren and 3 gr. gr. grandchildren. John was preceded in death by his infant daughter Nancy Rose Wrestler, wife, Kathryn, brothers, Frank and Edgar and sisters, Thelma Royal and Mary Mansfield. A visitation will be held at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home 308 W. Washington St. Bluffton on Monday February 8, 2016 from 4:00PM to 8:00PM.

A Funeral service will be held at the First Baptist Church 113 East Huntington St. Montpelier on Tuesday February 9, 2016 at 11:00AM with Pastor Jeremy Cowin and Rev. Gerald Moreland officiating. Calling will also take place one hour prior to the service at the Church. Interment will follow in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery Montpelier. Memorials may be made in John's memory to the Wisconsin Maritime Museum or First Baptist Church. The family would like to thank the staff of Heritage Pointe and Family Life Care (Hospice) for the loving care and support John received. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home. Friends may share condolences at www.thomarich.com

Cemetery Details

I.O.O.F. Cemetery

Montpelier, IN 47359

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

FEB 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
113 East Huntington St.
Montpelier, IN 47359

Service

FEB 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
113 East Huntington St.
Montpelier, IN 47359

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. John C. Wrestler Sr.*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 08, 2016 at 03:28 PM



“ *Mr. John C. Wrestler Sr.*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Dear Jan, Charles and family,
Just wanted to share our sincere sympathies on the passing of John. You were so kind and caring towards him. I am sure that was a great comfort to him. May the good memories of the times you had with him bring you comfort during this time.*

*Sincerely,
Ted and Tammy Showalter*

Ted and Tammy Showalter - February 10, 2016 at 11:55 AM

“ My Papa's ship departed Midgard yesterday; he spent 94 years in this world, and now he feasts with Grandmother in the halls of our ancestors.

He and my grandmother helped raise me much of the time I was growing up, and he was the strongest and best male role model I had. From him I got my work ethic and tenacity, my seriousness and stubbornness, my tendency to not give up easily, and many other qualities.

When I was small he taught me the names of the stars and constellations, and how ancient sailors used the stars to navigate their ships. He loved history and ancient civilizations and old machinery and the strange rocks that he unearthed on his farm with the plow. He showed me how to tie different knots and explained which ones were the strongest. He taught me how to water-witch with a dowsing rod, and he used to take me over to a nearby artesian well where the water came up clear from the ground, fed by an underground river. He taught me about plants and trees and how to read the grain of wood and growing seasons and how the earth heals itself if left alone for awhile. From the magic that he inspired in me growing up, I became obsessed with understanding how things work, and why. Digging to the roots of things.

*He saved *everything*, because that's how they survived in the Great Depression. If there was some bolt, screw, gear, tool, or mechanism that you needed, chances were likely that he had it in one of his thousand little containers stashed around the place. He taught me "reduce, re-use, recycle" and how to have a Green consciousness of life long before it became well-known. "Use what you have, or go without", "DIY", and "waste not want not" came straight from him, and for that I am forever grateful.*

He served his country in the Navy in WW2, on the submarine USS-366 Hawkbill, on South Pacific patrol. He loved talking about his ship and how it worked, and recalling his experiences in the war.

Hearing him talk about it, I always felt like I was right there with him.

I knew my Papa as a man of deep thinking and deep feeling, whose observations and uncanny perception of life's 'little things' ran far deeper than he let on. I always knew his wisdom was true and hard-earned, even though I didn't always agree with his beliefs. He was a good Christian man, and I now understand that he was a good Heathen man as well, a man of the odal land and the soil and a true son of the Earth. I think Hel would've frozen over before he would sit anywhere other than the very back row at church. As it should be, LOL... We used to joke that he would live long past the rest of us just from his sheer stubborn will, and in his fortune he lived to see five generations grow from his root.

When he was taking a break from working in the wintertime he loved sitting in the basement in front of the woodstove, playing Solitaire and listening to Bible talk radio, and when I was younger I loved going down and hanging out with him. My memories of him were that he was always telling me about something, and that there was always something important to be learned from him. He could be very stern and you always knew he meant business, but I appreciated this quality; you knew where he stood, and you knew he couldn't be budged. He was made out of integrity, as far as I knew. His humor was subtle and self-aware, and his loving and gracious side was as warm as his severity was cold. His eyes were blue and bright as the open ocean, and always sparkled with depth. Though it was rare, he was the only man I ever saw cry or express strong emotion while I was growing up, and from that I always knew that it was ok to do so.

Your spirit is alive and your memory is eternal; I raise my horn in your honor tonight, Papa. Skol!!

-Grandson David Boone

David Boone - February 08, 2016 at 10:04 PM

SW

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I didn't know Uncle John well, in fact I think I only saw him a couple of times when I was a kid. I only remember him as a quiet man. He looks so much like my dad (his younger brother Edgar) and their collective dad (John); my grandpa. I'm sure he was a good man. He's definitely a "Wrestler". May he rest in peace. God Bless.

Sandra Jo Wrestler - February 08, 2016 at 07:08 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red was purchased for the family of Mr. John C. Wrestler Sr..



February 07, 2016 at 10:32 PM

BD

“ On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI), I offer our sincere condolences on John’s passing. You and your loved ones are in our thoughts and prayers. We are forever grateful for John’s service to our country in the U.S. Submarine Service. To our Brother of the Phin we say, “Sailor, rest your oar. We have the watch. May you rest in peace and may God bless your loved ones who remain. Thank you for your service to our country.”
“Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way.” - 2 Thess 3:16.

John Charles Wrestler Sr SN(SS) DBF, US Navy, Now on Eternal Patrol.

Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmate

His record is now posted online in the Eternal Patrol file on the USSVI website.

Bill Dixon, National Chaplain United States Submarine Veterans, USSVI.

Bill Dixon - February 07, 2016 at 04:05 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - February 07, 2016 at 02:45 PM



“ 126 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 06, 2016 at 07:27 PM

KB

“ A poem that he liked
Mighty submarine

*The battleships are mighty
They're the backbone of the fleet*

*Cruisers and destroyers
They all look plenty neat*

*The armored cruiser squadron
Is famed on land and sea*

*But any doggoned submarine
Is home, sweet home to me*

*When the last war call has sounded.
And the fleet will sail no more.*

*When a last peace is founded
And no enemy threatens our shore.*

*When at last they write the story,
And the reason for victory is seen.*

*You will rise in honored glory,
You mighty submarine.*

Keith Boone - February 05, 2016 at 04:41 PM

NB

“ I will never forget baling hay with your dad. He had it all under control with his whistle signals! I am so sorry for your loss. He was a very strong man and has a beautiful family.

Nancy

Nancy D Beaver - February 05, 2016 at 06:51 AM

DB

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



David Boone - February 04, 2016 at 10:06 PM