



Jon M. Brown Sr.

November 4, 1942 - December 9, 2025

Jon M. Brown Sr., 83, of Bluffton, passed away at his home on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara A. (Collier) Brown of Bluffton, his daughter, Michelle Brown-Stohler (Mike) of Fort Wayne, his son, J. Michael Brown Jr. (Safia) of Chicago, and grandchildren Carson Stohler, Nyah Brown, and Kaden Brown.

Jon was born in Wabash, Indiana on November 4, 1942, to Charles and Mary (Montgomery) Brown both of whom are deceased. Jon graduated in 1964 with a B.S. degree from the Indiana University School of Business and in 1967 with a Juris Doctor from the Indiana University School of Law. After Law School, he was invited to join the Bluffton law firm of Edris, Edris, & Dale. He became a partner in January of 1970. From 1972-1973, Jon became the Bluffton City Court Judge and held the position until he moved with his family outside of the Bluffton city limits. The Brown name was added to the firm in 1977 as Edris, Dale, & Brown. Jon acted as Managing Partner for 30 years, was instrumental in building the firm's office building at 220-222 West Market Street and demonstrated commitment, leadership and loyalty for his clients, community and colleagues for over 52 years of practicing law at the firm.

Jon served in several leadership roles over his career enhancing the Bluffton and surrounding communities. He was the Wells County Attorney for 8 years and the Wells County Library Board attorney where he was instrumental in the building of the jail and library. Jon was active as a Member of the Bluffton Revitalization Campaign, leader in the development of the Wells County Community Center, Board Member on the Caylor-Nickel Hospital Board, Member of the Dr. Charles Caylor Founder Society, Board of Directors of Wells County Chamber of Commerce, Member and President of the Wells County Foundation, Board of Directors and President of Heritage Pointe, Board Member and President of the Bluffton Free Street Fair, Member and President of two Kiwanis Clubs, Member of the Elks Lodge, Member and President of the Wells County United Way, and Board of Trustees of Bluffton First United Methodist Church. Jon also enjoyed serving his community in roles as a little league baseball coach, Boy Scout den master and coach of the Norwell High School boys' tennis team (achieving Northern Indiana coach of the year

honors in 1987).

Upon his daughter joining the law firm in 1993, the two practiced law together for 26 years at Edris, Brown, Johnson, & Brown-Stohler before he retired in 2019. Following his retirement, Jon continued to serve on the Board of Directors and President of Heritage Pointe as well as a member of the Bluffton First United Methodist Church. Jon was a proud patriarch of his family and enjoyed having Michelle, Michael, Safia and Carson follow his footsteps in the practice of law. Jon cherished traveling and cheering on his grandchildren in golf and tennis as well as celebrating their academic achievements. His gifts of strength, leadership, work ethic and a sense of humor have been passed down to his children and grandchildren. Jon will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and former clients.

Visitation will be held from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. on Friday, (December 19, 2025) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton., and from 9 A.M. to 10 A.M. on Saturday, (December 20, 2025) prior to the service at the church.

An Elks Memorial Service will take place at the conclusion of calling hours on Friday.

Funeral Services will take place at 10 A.M. on Saturday, (December 20, 2025) at the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton with Rev. Ed Fisher and Rev. Cindy Osgood officiating. A graveside service will take place at 1 P.M. on Saturday at Covington Memorial Garden in Fort Wayne.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be made to the Wells County Foundation or the Bluffton First United Methodist Church.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Covington Memorial Gardens

8404 Covington Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 19. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Elk's Memorial Service

DEC 19. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

DEC 20. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

DEC 20. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Graveside Service

DEC **20**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Covington Memorial Gardens
8404 Covington Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jon M. Brown Sr.*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - December 19, 2025 at 06:15 PM

BN

“ *Brad N. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jon M. Brown Sr..*

Brad N. - January 12 at 05:17 PM

SR

“ *Barb and family, please accept our deepest sympathy and continued prayers on the passing of your husband, Jon.*

I have many fond memories of working with Jon through several client relationships and always appreciated his professionalism, his sensitivity to clients' needs, and his wonderful sense of humor. Jon was a blessing to me and to our community, and he will be greatly missed.

We pray you will experience God's comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Steve Ringger, CPA

Steve Ringger - December 22, 2025 at 12:43 PM

JJ

“ *To the Brown Family, I was so shocked to read of the passing of Jon. My heart goes out to each and everyone of you in this time of reembrace of a special man. My parents and I were on alot of committees w/Jon at United Methodist Church and the Wells County foundation. Please remember that God is holding each and everyone of you in palm of his hands keeping you saf. Love to all from, Jennifer Jesse and Dane*

Jennifer Jesse - December 22, 2025 at 11:52 AM

DB

“ Sending my love and prayers of comfort to family and friends of this wonderful man. I had the privilege of meeting Jon once, and the impression he left with his kindness, warmth, and sense of humor were indelibly etched. His life and his story can be told in words and stories that bring laughter, awe and/or tears of tenderness. But the most important part of his life and story is written in the hearts of those he touched and impacted -- family, friends, colleagues, and more. He fulfilled a life well lived that will continue through his children, grandchildren and beyond. May his memory be a blessing.

Derrick Brent (law school classmate and friend of Safia and Michael)

Derrick Brent - December 18, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ 143 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - December 15, 2025 at 12:35 PM

JW

“ To Jon's Family: It is sad to see one of our "1960 Class" pass. Jon was one of the key members of the "Sectional Champs" in 1960. Happy to read of his very successful family and law career. My deepest sympathies in Jon's passing. Jerry Wolfe Sarasota FL

Jerry Wolfe - December 15, 2025 at 10:52 AM

UH

“ *The United Methodist Memorial Home (Heritage Pointe Communities) sends its sincere condolences to Mr. Brown’s family. He was an inspiration to many people over the years and a faithful servant. He served on the United Methodist Memorial Home Board of Trustees a total of 15 years with 10 of those as President. He also served on the UMMH Foundation Board, Finance Committee and Dogwood Glen Golf Course Governing Committee. Much progress was made under his leadership. Mr. Brown always based his decisions on what he felt were in the best interests of our residents, employees and the organization. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara and family during this time.*

United Methodist Memorial Home - December 15, 2025 at 10:04 AM

SK

“ *To Michelle and the rest of Jon's family. So sorry for your loss. He always had a smile and seemed to be in great health. He was truly one of the good guys. I want to thank him and you for your knowledge and help throughout the many years. His passing is going to leave a big hole in your lives and the community.*

Steve Kunkel - December 13, 2025 at 09:04 AM

SS

“ *Sending our condolences to Jon’s family. What a great friend he was to my parents.*

Sharolyn Stoppenhagen - December 13, 2025 at 08:05 AM

KS

My Parents too, Sharolyn

Kendra Shady - December 14, 2025 at 08:49 PM

DG

“ *Sorry to learn of Jon’s passing. We became acquainted when Jon served as the City Judge and I was on the Bluffton Police Dept. We were both starting our careers. We would have casual talks when we would see each other over the years. He would always have the certain smile. Jon will be truly missed by all who knew him. The Brown family will be in our prayers. Dan Gerdom*



Dan Gerdom - December 12, 2025 at 06:16 PM

TM

“ Teresa Moser lit a candle in memory of Jon Brown



Teresa Moser - December 12, 2025 at 04:16 PM

JJ

“ So many good memories from times shared with Barbara and Jon for more than 50 years. He and Lloyd spent hours on the golf course along with Carson and the many fishing trips to Canada were as much fun planning as the trips were for them. Jon will be missed by many and I will miss a good friend!

JACKIE JOHNSON - December 12, 2025 at 09:34 AM

NB

“ Barb and family

Phyllis and I want to extend our sympathies to you at this time of loss. Sorry we've lost touch over the past few years but we have many fond memories of times spent with you and Jon during the insulation days. Trust that the Lord will give you comfort and hope during this time and in the future.

Nile & Phyllis Bucher

Nile Bucher - December 12, 2025 at 08:55 AM