



John Howard Rusk

June 17, 1923 - February 15, 2017

John Howard Rusk was born June 17, 1923, in Barkley Township, Jasper County, Indiana. He was the son of John H. and Bessie (Saltwell) Rusk. John passed away at the age of 93 on February 15, 2017, at Franciscan Health Rensselaer AlternaCare in Rensselaer, Indiana.

He was educated at the South Barkley School and was a 1941 graduate of Rensselaer High School. After graduation John began farming, which he did until 1946. He then went to work for R. P. Carton at his auto dealership for fourteen years. In 1960 John purchased the auto dealership and ran it as Johnny Rusk Company for twenty-five years.

On November 26, 1948, John married Evelyn Jonas. Evelyn passed away on February 12, 1998.

John was a member of St. Luke Lutheran Evangelical Church in Rensselaer where he served two terms as Deacon. He was involved in the Boy Scouts and served as health and safety chairman for the Boy Scouts of America. John was an active member of the Lion's Club where he was a 60-year member and held every office of the club. He was a member of the Jasper County Historical Society and worked on various committees for Northwest Salvage. John was a ten-year member of the Jasper County Community Services where he served as both treasurer and president. He was elected to the Rensselaer City Council and served four years under then Mayor Robert Wilcox. John was the Republican Precinct Committeeman of ward three in Rensselaer.

John enjoyed life and being active in his community. The fact that he never met a stranger was evident to all who came to know him.

John is survived by his loving family, son's Eric Paul "Rick" Rusk of Buffalo, Indiana and Kim Francis "Hank" (wife Lori) Rusk of Rensselaer; a grandson Randy Rusk and great grandson Ollie. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Evelyn, a son James John Rusk, grandson Seth Rusk, a sister Ruth Rusk Moore and a brother Harold H. Rusk.

Friends may call at the Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Funeral services for John will be held at 12 p.m. Saturday at the Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer with Pastor Benjamin Hertel officiating. Burial will follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery, Rensselaer, Indiana. Memorials may be made to the Rensselaer Lion's Club.

Cemetery Details

Memory Gardens of Rensselaer

Memory Gardens
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5125
info@jacksonfuneral.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Service

FEB 18. 12:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Linda Hughes lit a candle in memory of John Howard Rusk*



Linda Hughes - March 24, 2017 at 12:19 AM

GF

“ *Please accept my family’s heartfelt condolences on the loss of your dear loved one. May you find comfort in fond memories of them, and The Almighty God’s promise to restore those asleep in death to perfect life on a paradise Earth , written in The Bible for our comfort.*

Greene Family - February 26, 2017 at 11:16 AM

ED

“ *My condolences to the Rusk family. He was a good man my parents always spoke highly of. A man who will be missed and made a difference.*

Ed Davisson - February 20, 2017 at 11:50 PM

TB

“ *I don’t think anyone that ever met Johnny would forget him or even want to for that matter. Such a kind & jovial man. My father wouldn’t buy anything but a Dodge/Chrysler product back then & wouldn’t buy from anyone but Johnny! Great memories!*

Tammy (Hesson) Bottoms - February 19, 2017 at 03:43 PM

PF

“ I remember going with my grandmother to purchase a car from Johnny, he was always kind to her and to everyone. He will be missed.

Pamela Beeching Fitzgerald - February 19, 2017 at 01:06 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of John Howard Rusk.



February 17, 2017 at 02:21 PM

DT

“ Johnny, A man that was second father to me. From all the overnights and lake house stays when a child. Till now and forevermore. I will miss him terribly and I am better person by having the privilege of knowing him.
When the boys and I would act up (which happened often). Johnny would always say "Boys will be Boys" and that is how I will always remember this great man.

Dave Thompson

Dave Thompson - February 17, 2017 at 11:11 AM

DT

“ Dave and Petra Thompson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Howard Rusk.



Dave and Petra Thompson - February 17, 2017 at 10:54 AM

PT

“ Thinking of you all. We are sorry that we can't be there at this sad time. Have been hearing lots of stories that include Johnny and the boys the last couple of days. Many happy childhood memories for Dave. Thoughts and prayers.

Petra Thompson - February 17, 2017 at 10:06 AM

ML

“ Martha Langley lit a candle in memory of John Howard Rusk



Martha Langley - February 17, 2017 at 08:47 AM

FR

“ Hank and family,

My condolences to all of you upon your father's passing. Johnny was a good friend of me and my parents. My dad bought what became my first car from Johnny in 1967. Mother lived next to him until he moved to the south side of town. blessings to you all.

Frank Shirer

Fr - February 17, 2017 at 08:45 AM

MC

“ Melanie A Cole lit a candle in memory of John Howard Rusk



Melanie A Cole - February 16, 2017 at 09:15 PM

RH

“ *Rich & Dale Huhn lit a candle in memory of John Howard Rusk*



Rich & Dale Huhn - February 16, 2017 at 08:54 PM

MO

“ *I bought my first car from John in 1967. A Chtysler for \$3100. Great memories of a true gentleman!*
Mitch Ockermann

Mitch Ockermann - February 16, 2017 at 07:51 PM

MB

“ *My family bought cars from Johnny for years. He will be missed.*



Myles Beeching - February 16, 2017 at 04:35 PM

JH

“ *Janice Hopkins-Malchow lit a candle in memory of John Howard Rusk*



Janice Hopkins-Malchow - February 16, 2017 at 03:04 PM

GS

“ Gary Sheffer lit a candle in memory of John Howard Rusk



Gary Sheffer - February 16, 2017 at 02:30 PM