



## John D. Sytsma

July 10, 1945 - September 13, 2024

John David Sytsma, age 79, of DeMotte, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Friday, September 13, 2024. Born on July 10, 1945, in Hammond, Indiana, John was the beloved son of John Sr. and Jeannette (Ooms) Sytsma. He graduated from DeMotte High School in the Class of 1964 and went on to serve his country with pride in the Army National Guard.

On August 29, 1969, John married the love of his life, Karen Hanewich, with whom he shared 55 wonderful years of marriage. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. John was a dedicated bricklayer, working alongside unions Local 6 and Local 4, where his craftsmanship and hard work were highly respected.

A man of deep faith, John was a devoted member of the First Christian Reformed Church. An active member in the DeMotte American Legion Post #440. He had a passion for fishing, especially during his trips to Canada, and loved watching sports, with Purdue basketball holding a special place in his heart. Above all, John treasured time spent with family and friends, whether over a warm cup of coffee or a cold beer, where his good-natured conversation and sense of humor always made for unforgettable moments.

John is survived by his loving wife, Karen; their children, John (Lauren) Sytsma Jr., Staci (Chris) Zohlen, and Scott Allyn Sytsma; and seven

grandchildren, Ella, Aidric, Juliet, Cormac, Declan, Dylan, and Larkin. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Marcia Sytsma. John was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Donald and David Sytsma.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate John's life on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, from 2:00 to 7:00 PM at Jackson Funeral Service DeMotte. A funeral service will follow on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 10:00 AM at First Christian Reformed Church, officiated by Pastor Bill Sytsma, with interment at Holland Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made to DeMotte Christian School, a cause close to John's heart. John's legacy of kindness, humor, generosity, and love will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

# Cemetery Details

## Holland Cemetery

Holland Cemetery  
DeMotte, IN 46310

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 17. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Service of DeMotte  
200 3rd Street, SW  
P.O. Box 681  
DeMotte, IN 46310  
(219) 987-5300  
[info@jacksonfuneral.com](mailto:info@jacksonfuneral.com)  
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

## Funeral Service

SEP 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Christian Reformed Church  
1633 South Halleck Street  
DeMotte, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of John D. Sytsma*



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**Jackson Funeral Chapels** - September 16, 2024 at 03:06 PM

LR

“ *Sweet family. Great neighbors growing up. Prayer. Loretta (Talley)Reecer*

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**Loretta Talley Reecer** - September 17, 2024 at 07:51 PM

TM

“ *The Durr Families in TN and MN purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John D. Sytsma.*



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**The Durr Families in TN and MN** - September 17, 2024 at 04:26 PM

BF

“ *Bonnie N-C & Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of John D. Sytsma.*



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**Bonnie N-C & Family** - September 16, 2024 at 09:28 PM

LM

“ *Love Tony, Jennifer, Madison, and Morgan purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John D. Sytsma.*



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**Love Tony, Jennifer, Madison, and Morgan** - September 16, 2024 at 05:13 PM



“ *79 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Jackson Funeral Chapels** - September 16, 2024 at 02:35 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John D. Sytsma.*



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September 16, 2024 at 02:00 PM



“ The Parenti Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John D. Sytsma.

The Parenti Family - September 16, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John D. Sytsma.



September 16, 2024 at 01:13 PM



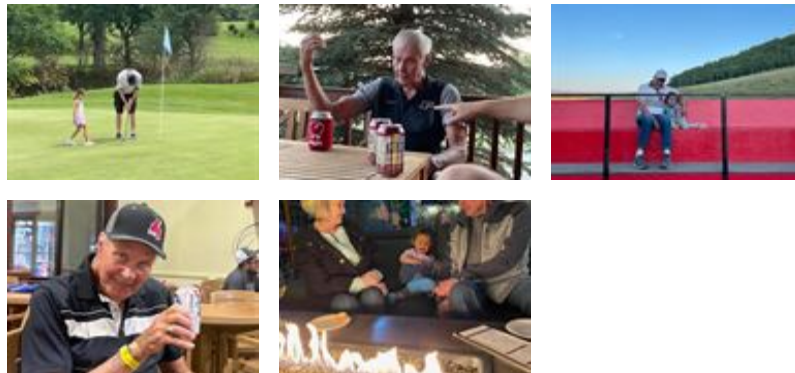
“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John D. Sytsma.



September 16, 2024 at 11:13 AM



“ 25 files added to the album Life Tributes



Jackson Funeral Chapels - September 16, 2024 at 11:02 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John D. Sytsma.



September 16, 2024 at 10:22 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of John D. Sytsma.



September 16, 2024 at 09:26 AM



“ From: Your AJ Atlanta Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John D. Sytsma.

Your AJ Atlanta Family - September 16, 2024 at 09:11 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John D. Sytsma.



September 16, 2024 at 09:11 AM

DW

“ *Our sincere sympathy to all of you. May the hand of God, friends and your wonderful memories be with you during this difficult time. Don and Gloria*



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**Don and Gloria Waymouth** - September 14, 2024 at 12:22 PM