



John A. Walstra

August 16, 1944 - June 5, 2026

John A. Walstra, 81, of DeMotte, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 5, 2026, at Franciscan Health Crown Point.

Born on August 16, 1944, in Rensselaer, Indiana, John was the son of Peter and Mary (Hamstra) Walstra. Following his graduation from high school, he proudly served his country as a member of the Army National Guard. He was also a dedicated member of the American Legion.

On July 26, 1968, John married Janis DeFries. Together they shared nearly 58 years of marriage, building a life centered on family, hard work, and lasting memories. John was the cornerstone of the DeMotte business community. His family's company, Peter J. Walstra, Inc.-a fertilizer and trucking business founded by his father, Peter-was proudly passed down and operated alongside his brother and cousins for over 50 years. To John, the business was more than a livelihood; it was an extension of his home. Every customer was treated like family, and generations of local residents walked through the doors, drawn not only by the services offered but by the genuine care they received.

Outside of work, he enjoyed spending time fishing and bowling. He was an avid racing enthusiast, especially when it came to NASCAR, and rarely missed the opportunity to follow his favorite drivers. John also enjoyed

following college basketball and especially liked cheering on Indiana teams.

Family was at the heart of John's life. He is survived by his wife, Janis; his children, Chris (Kristi) Walstra, Tricia (Adam) Jurs, and LeAnne (Jeff) Nee; six cherished grandchildren, Madison, Mackenzie, Max, Hudson, Isaac, and Elliot; and two great-grandchildren, Griffin and Nora. He is also survived by his sister, Marilyn Hamstra, and his brother, Larry Walstra.

Family and friends are invited to gather at Jackson Funeral Service of DeMotte on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the memorial service at 12:00 noon, with Pastor Bill Taylor officiating.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 13. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

JUN 13. 12:00 PM (CT)

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