



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.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Jasper County Trail Club (<https://www.jctrails.club/#donate-2>)

Previous 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)

Jackson Funeral Service of DeMotte
200 3rd Street, SW
P.O. Box 681
DeMotte, IN 46310
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Tribute Wall



“ *Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of John A. Walstra*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - June 12 at 01:12 PM

BF

“ *Brian DeFries and Jennifer Fredericks purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John A. Walstra.*



Brian DeFries and Jennifer Fredericks - June 12 at 01:09 PM



“ *69 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - June 12 at 12:55 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of John A. Walstra.*



June 11 at 06:27 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of John A. Walstra.*



June 11 at 09:39 AM



“ *I remember jumping off the motor grader to grab a stone ticket that John delivered to the jobsite. John said to me. “I use to jump off the equipment too when I was your age. If you want to walk when you’re my age you might want to stop jumping off that grader”. I have held to his words for over 30 years.*

Rest in Peace John.

Rodney Urbano - June 11 at 09:18 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John A. Walstra.*



June 10 at 09:12 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John A. Walstra.

June 10 at 09:12 PM



“ Love Jim & Michelle Sullivan purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of John A. Walstra.



Love Jim & Michelle Sullivan - June 10 at 11:00 AM



“ Mallon's, Franke's & Bridenstine's purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John A. Walstra.



Mallon's, Franke's & Bridenstine's - June 09 at 10:01 PM



“ Mallon's, Franke's & Bridenstine's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John A. Walstra.

Mallon's, Franke's & Bridenstine's - June 09 at 10:01 PM



“ *With Distinction* was purchased for the family of John A. Walstra.



June 09 at 06:27 PM



“ *Don DeFries and family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet* for the family of John A. Walstra.



Don DeFries and family - June 09 at 03:26 PM



“ *John will be missed by many , He was great to work with when the middle school was being built, may he rest in peace.*

Engin Tilev - June 08 at 11:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John A. Walstra.



June 08 at 10:03 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John A. Walstra.*

June 08 at 10:03 PM

TF

“ *The Kwiatkowski Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of John A. Walstra.*



The Kwiatkowski Family - June 08 at 07:46 PM