



## Jeffrey L. Hepner

July 30, 1949 - October 8, 2024

"Why do husbands die before their wives? Because they want to." - if you knew him, you've heard the joke. Jeffrey Lee Hepner, age 75, of Maumee, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at Hospice of Perrysburg Ohio. Born on July 30, 1949, in Toledo, Ohio, he was a beloved husband, father, grandfather "papa", uncle, friend, and brother. Jeff graduated from Bowsher High School in 1967 and the University of Toledo in 1971, majoring in business and actively involved with his Phi Kappa Psi brothers. Jeff was known for his business acumen, strategic thinking, passion for golf, and most importantly for not taking life too seriously. A titan in his industry and a valuable sounding board for many organizations, his ability to excel in all aspects of his professional and personal life was admired by his family and anyone who had the honor of working alongside him.

After graduation, he followed in his father's footsteps in the sales/distribution and manufacturing business and began his career working for his father's company W.A. Hepner and Associates where he learned the ropes of the industry and was quickly recruited to join Lake Erie Screw Corp in Lakewood, OH. Starting as a territory sales rep with boots on the ground, he continued to excel year after year, ultimately moving up to a VP position until it was time to make a change in 2002 when he accepted a position as President of Telefast Industries in Berea, OH. When he was not traveling in his territory or Cleveland, the family spent weekends at their cottage on Coldwater Lake until 2000. Some of the best memories were made at the lake with friends and

family who would visit often.

In or around 1998, he invested in a start-up company Ottawa Products. He spent every Saturday morning advising and contributing to what was once a small garage space to a large manufacturing space, and a growing and thriving business today.

Jeff was extremely organized and obsessed with all things data-driven. He logged every golf score he earned starting in 1972, every book he read (alphabetically by title), and every mile he rode on his Airdyne exercise bike from 1990 until 2021. By that time, he had logged over one million miles.

If he wasn't on the golf course, enjoying time with his grandchildren, traveling, or having dinner with his CCHS Dinner Group, you could find him perched in his favorite spot watching the Cleveland Browns (despite how painful it could be), the Cleveland Guardians, The Ohio State University football, University of Toledo football, or listening to the CCHS Fighting Irish on the radio. He was an extremely loyal fan.

Left to cherish this legacy and share his jokes, are his wife of 50 years, Jeni, daughters Ashley Hepner of Cleveland, OH, Rachel Zawodny (Jim) of Maumee, OH, beloved grandchildren Stella and Harrison Zawodny, sister Barb Ossorio of Naples, FL, brother Terry Hepner (Carol) of Maumee, OH, sisters Pam Klein of Mesa, AZ, and MaryBeth Hepner of Mesa, AZ, nephew Anthony Ossorio (Allison) of Jacksonville, FL, niece Courtney McDonald (Sean) of Santa Monica, California, niece Jaimie Stoltzfus (Austin) of McLeod, MT, nephew John Sabbagh of Phoenix, AZ, niece Maya Sabbagh of Mesa, AZ, and great-nieces and great-nephews Kaycen and Elliot Stoltzfus, Caroline and Claire Ossorio, and Avery and Rowan McDonald. He was preceded in death by his parents Wilbert and Gertrude Hepner, in-laws Deane and Joan Hemsoth, and brother-in-law Graeme Ossorio.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 27th, at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. Toledo, from 2-6 pm with a prayer service at 6:00 pm. A Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, October 28th, at 11:00 am at St. John XXIII, 24250 Dixie Hwy. Perrysburg, Ohio, with a luncheon afterward at the

church. The interment will be private following the luncheon.

In place of flowers, treat a loved one to a beer, a sporting event, or a round of golf, life is too short not to enjoy those around you. The family requests donations be made to your local Parkinson's Foundation or Alzheimer's Association.

The family would like to thank his care team over the last few years for weathering all the challenges that came before him.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **27**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

## Scripture Service

OCT **27**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

## Funeral Mass

OCT **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John XXIII Church  
24250 Dixie Hwy.  
Perrysburg, OH 43551

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ *What a great guy! So sorry for your loss. Deepest sympathy to you, Jeni and all your family. RoseAnne Wernert*

RoseAnne Wernert - October 26, 2024 at 01:23 PM

PK

“ *My brother Jeff was not only a caring brother who was always there when needed, but also a good friend; no matter the conversation, sometimes light other times a bit more serious, he would always make me laugh at the end. He excelled and was gifted at many things, but being a loving and caring brother was his greatest gift to me. You are missed, but forever in my heart.*

*Pam*

Pam Hepner- Klein - October 25, 2024 at 11:51 PM

LF

“ *Leo (Skip) Hepner and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey L. Hepner.*

Leo (Skip) Hepner and Family - October 25, 2024 at 05:37 PM

LF

“ *Leo (Skip) Hepner and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jeffrey L. Hepner.*



Leo (Skip) Hepner and Family - October 25, 2024 at 05:37 PM



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

October 25, 2024 at 05:35 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Jeffrey L. Hepner.



October 25, 2024 at 05:35 PM



“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



**COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS** - October 25, 2024 at 02:18 PM



“ My deepest condolences  
I haven't talked with Jeff in a long time but my memories of our past times are amazing. We spent a long time supporting Phi Kappa Psi.  
So sorry to learn of his passing  
Mark Wittenberg

**Mark Wittenberg** - October 24, 2024 at 08:26 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Jeffrey L. Hepner.*



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October 24, 2024 at 04:32 PM



“ *So sorry hearing the passing of Jeff. Heaven gained another wonderful soul!  
Our condolences to you, Jeni and the rest of your family.*

*George & Barb Schetter*

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**Barbara Schetter** - October 23, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ *A great neighbor for over 20 years Jeff was a super guy. We fed our dogs treats in the driveway, managed the world's problems, talked business, sports and told jokes. Jeff was someone you wish you met earlier in your life. You always left Jeff a little happier than you were.*

*John H. Lauffer*

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**john lauffer** - October 22, 2024 at 10:21 PM



*Dear Jeni and all of Jeff's family; Barb, Pam, Terry, Mary Beth, my cousins all. We send our condolences and understand the many memories you have and will continue to have Jeff.  
Skip and Linda*

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**Lee Hepner** - November 19, 2024 at 03:13 PM

JB

“ To Jeni--my memories of W.A., Jeff and you are distant but very fond. I'm sorry for your loss and wish you the very richest of God's blessings. Jery Barton

Jery Barton - October 22, 2024 at 12:43 PM

LH

“ Liz Heinrichs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey L. Hepner.

Liz Heinrichs - October 22, 2024 at 10:39 AM

LH

“ Liz Heinrichs purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jeffrey L. Hepner.



Liz Heinrichs - October 22, 2024 at 10:39 AM

MH

“ Jeff was an awesome friend and mentor! He always had time to help others! His friendship was only matched by his integrity!! He cherished his family and lived his life as an example to others!! He will be missed by all who knew him!!  
Warmest regards!!  
Mike Hamlin

Michael B Hamlin - October 21, 2024 at 04:38 PM

YB

“ *Your friends at Brighton-Best purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jeffrey L. Hepner.*



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**Your friends at Brighton-Best** - October 21, 2024 at 11:41 AM

MK

“ *McCurdy Family & Jeff's friends at KMW purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Jeffrey L. Hepner.*



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**McCurdy Family & Jeff's friends at KMW** - October 21, 2024 at 09:51 AM

CZ

“ Jeff and I are Phi Psi brothers. We enjoyed a deep respect for each other and supported each other, especially as we served in chapter leadership positions. As young marrieds, Jeff and Jenny hosted us at their Coldwater Lake, MI cottage, knowing that we had expected to continue renting it from its previous owners, Randy and Sue Harms.

Jeff contacted me when cottages became available for sale on the lake. We purchased one six doors from Jeff and Jenny. So began the next chapter of Hepner-Zervos friendships as our children, Rachel and Ashley, and Christopher and Jackie, became cottage buddies each summer. When my 10-year old son got his vintage 10hp fishing boat motor working, he puttered over to the Hepner cottage and took the Hepner girls out for a spin.

Years later, Jeff and Jenny, Persilla and I, found ourselves neighbors one block away from each other in Stone Oak. In 2004-2006, Jeff was working in Cleveland and I was working in Akron. We contacted each other and enjoyed each others company at dinner several times.

I will always think of Jeff as one of the most congenial, generous, warm-hearted men with a fine intellect, and a modest disposition which belied his incredible accomplishments in the business world. On behalf of my wife Persilla, and my children, Christopher and Jackie, I extend our sincerest condolences to Jenny, Rachel and Ashley and their extended families. May his memory be everlasting.  
Chris J. Zervos

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Chris J Zervos - October 20, 2024 at 04:17 PM

RC

“ Jeff was one of the best natured people I ever met .The fraternity was lucky to have such a congenital ,fun loving , guy with a great sense of humor . He will be missed . We both ran cross country in high school at the same time . His standard joke with me was saying ( as he turned around ) Ray you probably only remember my back ,implying that he always beat me . I can't think of one person he didn't get along with .

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**Ray Corrigan** - October 20, 2024 at 01:43 PM

JR

“ We just lost an incredible fraternity brother, and for me in particular, a very dear pledge brother (Phi Kappa Psi, Spring 1968). I have nothing but fond memories of our fraternity days, but also enjoyed Jeff's company for many years after graduation. I remember playing golf at Riverby every Saturday, spending the 4th of July weekend in a canoe on some river in Michigan and partying at someone's home every month throughout the winter. He will be fondly remembered by everyone who knew him.

Jeff Roscoe  
PN 494...  
Dublin, Ohio

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**Jeff Roscoe** - October 20, 2024 at 08:33 AM

GF

“ Jeni, I thoroughly enjoyed every moment you, Jeff and I had visiting at your home and at Ohio Living Swan Creek . My life has been so enriched by having had Jeff be a part of it!...Friends and Brothers forever- Gary ...

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**Gary Forquer** - October 19, 2024 at 10:34 PM

MT

“ Jeff took my mother (his aunt Bea) and his mom to an Indian game where they sat in the home plate love. It was one of my mom's favorite days. Always a gentleman, he will be missed. Mary Ann tipple

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Mary Ann tipple - October 19, 2024 at 06:45 PM

RA

“ Ryan & Allison Rybarczyk-Scottsdale, AZ planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey L. Hepner.

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Ryan & Allison Rybarczyk-Scottsdale, AZ - October 19, 2024 at 02:39 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jeffrey L. Hepner.



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October 19, 2024 at 02:39 PM

JP

“ I met Jeff while he was President of Telefast. He seemed to know everything and everyone (and was known by everyone) in the fastener industry. He was diplomatic and courteous, even in the most trying of circumstances. We relied on him for advice even after he retired. He also had a wonderful sense of humor, and we enjoyed the comedy act between him and Jeff Walters, as they took turns razzing each other about kayaks and cowboy chaps. Jeff taught me a lot about fasteners and I will ever remember him with gratitude and fondness. My heart goes out to his family. Praying that the happy memories you have help carry you through the grief.

With deepest sympathy,  
Jennifer Pinkstock

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**Jennifer Pinkstock** - October 18, 2024 at 02:42 PM

SK

“ I remember Jeff fondly as a true gentleman. He was in several classes of mine in HS and his quiet demeanor, intelligent mind and great sense of humor are remembered fondly. My deepest sympathy to Jeni. Widowhood is a sorority we did not sign up for and prayers for you as you navigate life without your soul mate. I highly recommend an organization called Griefshare. I have found their support, videos and daily Bible reading a great comfort. Susan Anderson Klawitter BHS class of 1967.

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**SUSAN KLAWITTER** - October 18, 2024 at 12:34 PM

AP

“ Amy, Kerry, Tatum, Brad ans Pat purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Jeffrey L. Hepner.



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**Amy, Kerry, Tatum, Brad ans Pat** - October 17, 2024 at 06:11 PM