



John D. Griffin

July 17, 1928 - July 25, 2011

Retired Toledo business owner John D. Griffin passed away at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor on July 25 following the recent onset of a number of health problems.

He was born in Chicago to Patrick Dominic and Annetta Veronica (Maynes) Griffin on July 17, 1928. His family relocated to Toledo while John was a youth and he acquired his fondness for all things mechanical during his high school days. While working at Willys-Overland after graduation he discovered his vocation as a tool and die maker. John served his apprenticeship at the craft and gained experience with local corporations before establishing a partnership with another respected journeyman in 1963. Astute management combined with a reputation for quality prompted Dun-Rite Industries' success. John took courses to improve his knowledge of computers and melded advances in technology with Dun-Rite's machinery. The firm prospered making injection molds and machine tools for the automobile industry and other producers of consumer products before John and his partner sold the business and retired.

Free from the everyday concerns of running a company, John pursued hobbies. He tinkered with mechanical objects of every sort and could repair almost everything. In 2005 he began pursuing a long-time interest in photography, taking classes to improve his innate skills. This brought forth a number of award-winning images in recent years.

John met his first wife, Velma Bushey, while still in high school. They were

married in January 1946 and became the proud parents of four lovely daughters over the next ten years. Sadly, Velma passed away in January 1977 after a prolonged struggle with injuries suffered in an automobile accident. Throughout the difficulties John remained at her side as attentive husband and caretaker. In July 1980 he married Eldora Lombardo. During their twenty-six years of marriage the couple moved from Toledo to Loch Erin in the Irish Hills and established a winter residence in Webster, Florida before Eldora passed away in May 2005. In June 2006 John married Sunny (Vernice) Snow. Throughout their five fun-filled years together John and Sunny enjoyed the fruits of retirement. They traveled extensively. Each summer they drove to Maine to visit with Sunny's family, stopping frequently along the way to call on friends or do some sightseeing. Alaskan and Hawaiian cruises allowed them the opportunity to experience the majesty of America's far western states, but their greatest trip was a tour of Ireland in May. In between long trips John and Sunny loved life at Loch Erin, taking leisurely boat rides across the placid waters and hosting relatives for great Fourth of July reunions. In their Florida home during the winter months John and Sunny kept active visiting friends and taking short trips.

Remaining on earth to cherish his memory are his devoted wife Sunny (Vernice); daughters Sheila [Asendorf] (Norman) Falkenberg, Katherine (Richard) Rajner, Janice (Kevin) Tidd, Mary (Michael) Tate; eight stepchildren, including Judith Sypercinski; grandchildren John (Aranne Moody) Asendorf, Mary Asendorf, Katrina Daun, Kelly Tidd, Megan Tate and Patrick Tate; and a large number of grand-children, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. John was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Patrick and Joseph, sisters Marie McAtee and Gladys Darkowski, and his wives Velma and Eldora.

Visitation will be at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd, Thursday from 2-8pm where a Scripture Service will be recited at 5pm. The funeral will begin in the mortuary Friday at 10:30 A.M. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in Little Flower Church at 11 A.M. Interment at Calvary Cemetery. Memorials can

take the form of a contribution to the Onsted, Michigan Senior Center, 333 Conner St, Onsted, MI 49265, where he spent many happy hours with his retired friends and neighbors.

Tribute Wall



“ Our thoughts and prayers to all during this most difficult time. Mary, your dad was truly loved, and lived an amazing life. Remember the wonderful times together. They will give you peace. Love you all...Dale and Carol###imported-begin##Dale and Carol Lewis###imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



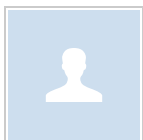
“ We are so sorry to hear about your lost ,may the memories you have fill you. May God comfort you in this time of need. Love, Rocky ,Angie and Ben###imported-begin##Rocky###imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Goodbye Papa John, we love you.###imported-begin##Jennifer Kottke jennkottke@aol.com###imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I no I didn't know you so well, but from the few times i did, I knew you were a very nice and caring man. I am happy that my grandma met and married you and got to spend five fun years together. I love you and wish I had been able to see you and grandma more. Goodbye PaPa John I will see you again when I leave this earth. Love Michele###imported-begin##Michele Mathis your new grand daughter mspchele01@yahoo.com###imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I am praying for you to have peace and strength at this time. You have my deepest sympathies.##imported-begin##Patti Ann (Darkoski) Thurman##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Good bye Uncle John. I only met you a couple times but you always put a smile on my face. Say hello to my Grandma Gladys##imported-begin##Adam Thurman adamthurman@sbcglobal.net##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dad, I will miss you so bad. I loved when you came to Georgia and stayed with us for a few days 2 times a year. I am so glad your passing was peaceful, and that you are in God's hands now and not in anymore pain. For us on Earth, we are saddened, but pray our Grief is short and may our memories be long. I truly loved you as a Father and a Dad. I love you Daddy.##imported-begin##Your step-daughter##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ What a sweet man.. He will be miss.. So sorry for your loss. Lots of love, John, Tammy, Ashley, and Jonathan Neill.##imported-begin##The Neill Family @Atl##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ He sounds like a great man. We wish we could have known him. You and your family will be in our prayers.##imported-begin##Wes and Cilla Owen##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you John Griffin for raising the most wonderful and caring daughter in the entire world. Love you Sheila!##imported-begin##The Peltier Family##imported-end##

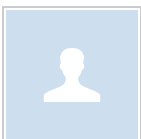
July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to the whole family. We will all miss Uncle John and terrific ways. We will miss spending time with him at the lake house and he will be in our prayers.

Sincerely,
Nanci McAtee-Thomson and Jon Thomson##imported-begin##Nanci McAtee-Thomson
britesmile2005@gmail.com##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest Jan, (Kevin and Kelly, too) - our thoughts and prayers are with you all. A happier week ahead for everyone - he'll be there in spirit, we're sure. One day at a time.##imported-begin##Sharonn & Mike Trabbic##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Vernice, Kari and family,

I was so saddened to hear of the passing of your beloved husband and step father. May he always be in your memories and your hearts.

*Love,
Debby and Mike###imported-begin##Debby (Patt) Margiotta dsmargiotta@gmail.com###imported-end##*

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary and family you are in my prayers and thoughts..May God Comfort your family....God bless###imported-begin##Cindy Tate/Lodzinski###imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Sounds like your Dad had a full and fulfilling life! I know you will miss him dearly, but know you will see him again in eternity with our Lord. love to you and yours.
Kate###imported-begin##Kate Sullivan Wesolowski xraykate43@yahoo.com###imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mike & Kari,
We were sorry to hear about your step-Dad passing. Please know that everyone here has you in their thoughts & prayers. What a wonderful new journey he has started on. Treasure the memories you have. Hope to see you soon.##imported-begin##Frank & Ruth White##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear loved ones it is so hard to find words to express how saddened for you during this Great loss. Our hearts share the pain. Only miles separate us. Every wish for Peace Be With you all. Love, Patty Jo + Patrick##imported-begin##Patty Jo + Patrick Andrews-Mulcahy pga2u@aol.com##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary,
Sounds like your father was quite a man. The obituary was such a lovely, written tribute to your father. So sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Janet Jacoby Skidmore##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ With deepest sympathy for John and his family.

I have many fond memories with John. He was a very innovative man, and was able to quickly envision complex molds and machinery designs. He was also generous with his time in teaching and sharing his knowledge with apprentices and other employees of Dun-Rite Industries.

While I had not seen him often in recent years, I stayed in touch with him for a many years after he retired from Dun-Rite and stopped in to see him a number of times in Loch Erin. He was always on the move, traveling and pursuing diverse hobbies.

I always got a kick out of his home he built in Loch Erin where he designed and crafted special raised panels for his garage door of embossed 4-leaf clovers all across the length of the panels. He had done the same thing for the home he had in Toledo. It was another testimony of John's personality.. Just as he did in his company, he was always willing to put in the extra effort and time to make the job right, and to have the final product exude a high level of craftsmanship.

He will be missed, but his passion for doing a job "right" is instilled in the scores of tradesmen he and my father trained over their 30+ years as owners of Dun-Rite Industries that will undoubtedly be passed on again and again through the ages.

An honest man, a class act.##imported-begin##Jeff Szkutnik Jmszkutnik@bex.net##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Sheila.. so sorry about your dad. May God's peace be with you and your family.##imported-begin##Mary Beth Dibling Rumer##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Gramma and the entire Griffin family. I am so sorry to hear the news of Papa John's passing. I was so blessed to know him in the small way i did. God truly blessed my Gramma with him in her life. I want you all to know you are in our families thoughts and prayers. May the Peace of the Lord Jesus be upon you. His Love is the key to true Peace. I pray you all turn to Him and allow His Love to saturate your souls. Never the less Papa John will be missed, but the memories will remain. Blessings Craig, Jennifer, Branden, Emma, Abigail, and Hannah Smith.##imported-begin##Craig Smith(Sunny's Grandson)##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear that John has left us. A great loss for the family. May his soul rest in peace. And now he is with Gladys and Richard and Patrick. Remembering the good times.

Arlene##imported-begin##Arlene Cappella##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry to hear about John's Passing. We will miss him. We spent many a night playing cards. We were his neighbors at the lake for about eight years. We ar now in Arizona.

John was a lot of fun to be around and he sure enjoyed his cards. May he rest in peace.

Stan and Sandy Chrapek

Green Valley AZ##imported-begin##Stan and Sandy Chrapek arizret@cox.net##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ John was a wonderful man. He made my grandmother happy in so many ways and that made me happy. John has a special place in my heart and has been an integral part of my life. Also, he has been a blessing to my own family. He will be missed very much. Every time I see a sail boat, I think of him.

With love,

Bill, Cathy, Jackie, and Zachary Pinney##imported-begin##The Pinney Family##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM