



John Calvert McKenzie

May 8, 1936 - October 28, 2025

John C. McKenzie, age 89, of Wauseon, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at Fulton Manor Nursing Home. Born on May 8, 1936, in Fort Valley, Virginia, John was the son of Clarence W. and Julia K. Rinker Plucinski, and Angus Hubert McKenzie, who lovingly helped raise him. John grew up in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, where his love for the outdoors took root. As a youngster, he learned the value of hard work-tending gardens, chopping wood, and caring for chickens. After graduating in 1955 from Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland, John married Elizabeth "Betty" Wagner, and together they began a life full of adventure and dedication. A call from his Uncle Vincent led John and his young family to Toledo, Ohio, where he began his long and successful career as an elevator mechanic with Haughton Elevator and later became a proud member and business agent for Local 44 Elevator Constructors Union.

Over the years, John made homes in Fort Valley, Silver Spring, Toledo, Holland, and Whitehouse, Ohio. He was a man of many talents and interests-an avid fisherman, deer hunter, and horseman. He spent countless hours on Lake Erie boating and crafting his own fishing lures, and for nearly twenty years enjoyed a permanent site at Wild Wings Campground in Port Clinton, where he could always be found during fishing season. John also had a deep appreciation for music; he played guitar, loved the blues, and even performed in a rock and roll band in his younger days. Known for his famous buttered spaghetti, shrimp, and chocolate pies, John delighted in family gatherings,

good food, and great conversation-especially political debates, which he always won with passion and humor.

John's generous spirit extended beyond his family. He was a dedicated supporter of labor unions, the Democratic Party, and causes that championed working people. He was known for his kindness and willingness to help anyone in need-and once even made the local news for catching a World War II "bomb" while fishing on Lake Erie!

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Julia; his sisters, Mary Murphy and Judy Van (Bill) Harris; brother Thomas McKenzie; his daughter, Vicki McKenzie Bucher; daughter-in-law, Carlene Cicerella McKenzie; and son-in-law, Michael Lemle.

John is survived by his brother, Clark (Karen) Plucinski; his beloved children, Charles McKenzie, Carol Lemle, Paula McKenzie, and Julie (Dave) French; grandchildren Ami (Chris) Hens, Jennifer Cloutier, Scott Cloutier, Matt (Jean) Bucher, Olivia (Ben) Lehr, Christopher (Chrissy) Crowder, and Monica McKenzie; nine great-grandchildren with one on the way; and two great-great-grandchildren. He was deeply proud of his family and their accomplishments. Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation on Monday, November 10, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo, OH. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice in John's memory.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **10**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

CP

“ John was a brother to remember. Full of passion and love for the family, always a big brother. Willing to give you the shirt off his back when times were rough. I spent most of my weekends with John, the kids and wife Betty, when we were younger. Fishing and hunting were indeed his true love. It was very sad for us in DC when the family moved to Ohio. We will miss him. That said 89 years surrounded by love was a good ride. His little brother - Clark

Clark Plucinski - November 11, 2025 at 01:18 PM

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - November 10, 2025 at 08:59 AM

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“ IUEC Local 44 Elevator Constructors purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Calvert McKenzie.



IUEC Local 44 Elevator Constructors - November 07, 2025 at 10:44 AM

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“ *The Ladd Family purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of John Calvert McKenzie.*



The Ladd Family - November 05, 2025 at 10:02 AM