



## Jay S. Avery

May 13, 1937 - November 2, 2020

Jay S. Avery, age 83, of East Peoria, IL, passed away on Monday, November 2, 2020, at UF Health The Villages Hospital in Florida surrounded by his wife and daughters. The world has lost a great husband, father, and leader.

Jay was born to Virgil Avery and Marguerite (Rebeke) in Peoria, IL on May 13, 1937. He married his high school sweetheart Nancy Brownfield on May 5, 1959, she survives. He is also survived by his three daughters, Jayne Story (Alec) of Houston, TX, Jananne Brockman (Brad) of Somers, MT and Jaye Crouse (Michael) of Herriman, Utah; one brother, Gail Avery; five grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. Jay was preceded in death by his parents.

Jay lived a very full life. As a child and up to 18 years of age, he performed in competitive partner dancing where he earned the nickname “Tip” because he was always dancing on his tip toes. He graduated from East Peoria Community High School in May of 1955 and began working at Caterpillar as a floor sweeper. In October of 1955, he was accepted into the Machinist Apprenticeship Program. He was laid off from Caterpillar multiple times between 1957-1964 and worked as a meat cutter apprentice and journeyman at Kroger’s and Buehler Grocery Store. He permanently returned to Caterpillar in May of 1964 and finished the Machinist Apprenticeship. His Caterpillar career spanned 40 plus years as he continued to work on a consultant basis until the age of 77. He spent many of those years working in England and Europe. He was admired by many coworkers as he would rather show you

how to fix the problem instead of fixing it himself, earning the nickname “the professor.”

Jay enjoyed traveling throughout Europe. His favorite destinations revolved around World War II and castles. He was an avid golfer and woodworker. He was so intelligent; he always had a solution for a problem. His children had coined the phrase, “go ask dad,” whenever they needed to know something. A public graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at Fondulac Cemetery in East Peoria, IL. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements. Memorial donations in Jay’s name may be made to St. Jude or South Side Mission.

Online condolences may be left at [www.GaryDeitersFH.com](http://www.GaryDeitersFH.com).

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

NOV **12**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Fondulac Cemetery  
1985 E. Washington Street  
East Peoria, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ Jay S. Avery

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ My condolences to the family of Jay Avery. Jay was a fun pal growing up in East Peoria in the late 1940s and in the fifties. I have lots of good memories of that. Sincerely, Howard (Butch) Iber - a former next door neighbor.

Howard John Iber - November 22, 2020 at 01:27 PM

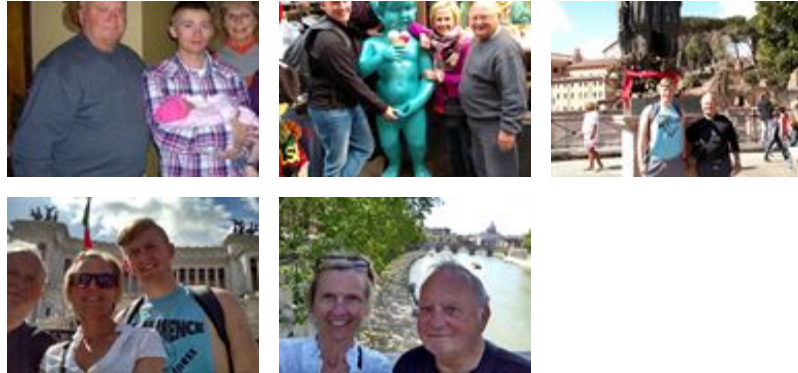


“ Jay was one of my favorite friends at Cat. Could always count on him for an opinion. There was always discussion since he was in Quality and I was in Production. Not sure I ever convinced him that we only produced the best quality. I am sorry to hear of Jays passing; however, I am sure that he lead a full life. His family is in my prayers.

Mike and Claudia -Bima - November 14, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ 31 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - November 11, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ *JoAnna Brownfield purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Jay S. Avery.*



**JoAnna Brownfield** - November 11, 2020 at 03:13 AM



“ *To Alec, Jayne and Family - So sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

**Joe Lundvick** - November 09, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Jay S. Avery.*



November 09, 2020 at 04:07 PM

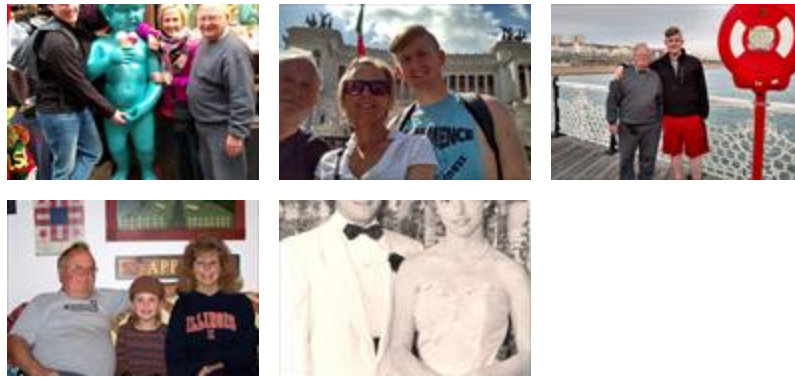
SP

“ *My sincere condolences on the passing of Jay. I had the pleasure of working with him for a bit at Caterpillar...such a fine, talented, funny man. I still have a mantle clock he made for me..so beautiful! You are all in my thoughts.*

Susie Maloney Papenhouse - November 08, 2020 at 11:26 AM

JA

“ *25 files added to the album Jay's Photos*



Jayne - November 07, 2020 at 12:57 AM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

November 07, 2020 at 12:47 AM

JB

“ *Jayne, Alec , Reddick and Family, Kathy and I send our sympathy to each of you as you grieve the passing of your amazing and impressive dad/grandpa. We pray you will be comforted by your many fond memories and your faith*



Jim and Kathy Burdette - November 05, 2020 at 08:31 PM