



Jess Isonhart

September 28, 1934 - February 15, 2026

Jess Isonhart, 91, of East Peoria, passed away on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at his home. He was born in Peoria on September 28, 1934, to Jesse, Sr. and Helen (Baggs) Isonhart. On May 31, 1959, he married the love of his life, Nadine Sering in East Peoria. They enjoyed nearly 60 years of marriage until she passed away on October 21, 2018. He was also preceded in death by his 3 sisters, Mary Catherine "Cass", Dorothy, and Janet "Jan". He is survived by his sons, Bruce (Diane) Isonhart of Garland, TX and Scott (Vickie) Isonhart of East Peoria; four grandchildren, Justin (Amy) Isonhart, Trevor (Danielle Kalkwarf) Isonhart, Natalie (Joshua) Cregger, and Lindsey Isonhart; and 3 great grandchildren, Annika and Hayden Cregger and Wyatt Isonhart. Jess graduated from Manual Training High School. As a teenager, he worked as a pin setter at the bowling alley. He then joined the Army and was stationed in Alaska. After completing his service, he worked as a delivery driver for Dean's Distributing and

delivered Kitchen Made pies to local restaurants. He later worked for Mississippi Valley

Stihl, until he retired in 1991.

Jess belonged to Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church in East Peoria and previously

participated in the Jay Cees. For many years, he umpired softball, baseball, and

basketball games with IESA and Fondulac Park District and volunteered at the Enchanted Forest for the Festival of Lights in East Peoria. He was an avid gardener, bird watcher and deer hunter, and he enjoyed sharing countless silly songs and life stories with his family and friends. He had an amazing sense of humor and loved to tease. If you were ever teased by Jess, you can rest assured that he really liked you.

Visitation will be from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at GT Church in East

Peoria, with a Memorial Service beginning at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Dann Berkel will officiate.

Full military rites will follow.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fondulac Park District. Online condolences

may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB **26.** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Glad Tidings Assembly of God
2201 E Washington St
East Peoria, IL 61611-3022
(309) 694-4433

Memorial Service

FEB **26.** 6:00 PM (CT)

Glad Tidings Assembly of God
2201 E Washington St
East Peoria, IL 61611-3022
(309) 694-4433

Tribute Wall



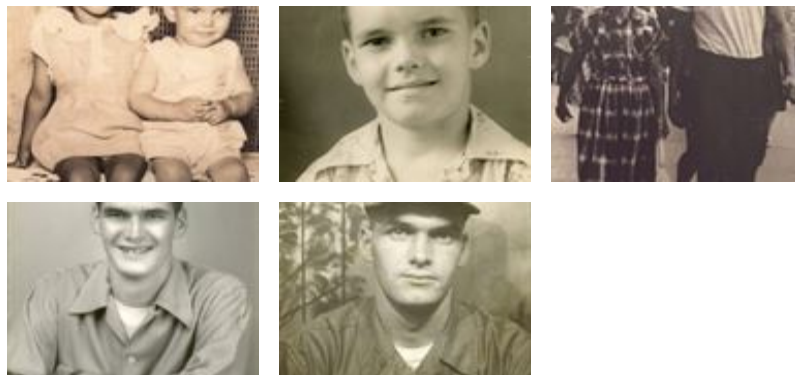
“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Jess Isonhart



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - March 06 at 12:17 PM



“ 32 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - February 26 at 11:14 AM

RW

“ My mornings at Glad Tiding wasn't complete until I went over and visited with Jessie and Carl. I always had a piece of candy for them both and he had a look I'll never forget ,ornery ,yes but I loved it. We both lived on the south side and he'd find a way to joke about it. Sure loved him ,I'm so blessed to say I knew him and we'll see him again someday.

Randy W. - February 21 at 10:09 PM

KP

“*Jessie was a very lovable and funny man. He will be missed very much. You made it to your reward.*”

Ken & Becky Pritchard - February 21 at 06:03 PM

MR

“*Mariah Ramsey lit a candle in memory of Jess Isonhart*”



mariah Ramsey - February 21 at 04:02 PM

SA

“*Jess will be very missed, he was a great man with a goofy sense of humor.... He liked to tease me about my “pink” (red) bowling ball.... We will miss seeing you at church but we will See you in Heaven buddy...*”

Shannons Andrews - February 18 at 10:01 PM

GB

“ *Uncle Jess was one of a kind. Love him so much! We called him Uncle Pest because he was so ornery & picked on everyone & loved it when you did the same. He loved being outside, walking in the woods, planting his garden & taking the back roads when ever you went some where. My favorite is him telling me "You just made my day" when I would visit him. He is now with the love of his life Aunt Nadine! Hearing the words "I love you" from Uncle Jess meant the world. He called my son Aubrey (Andy) "Andrew Huggins" & never knew where that came from but always makes me smile. Can't forget going to getting Orange Julius from Steak n Shake when I babysat in the summers. Loved going on rides with Uncle Jess, he always said "you drive" so that way he could watch the scenery. For a couple of years I got to "help" Uncle Jess plant his garden & flowers which consisted of him sitting in a chair being the supervisor & letting me use the tiller; so loved those times of conversation, laughter that was filled with so much love! Uncle Jess was LOVE, kindness & gentleness!*

My sympathies & love to Uncle Jess's family at this time of great sorrow. I have you in my heart & prayers always.

Glori Breitbarth-Daniel - February 18 at 08:20 AM

GB

“ *Glori Breitbarth-Daniel lit a candle in memory of Jess Isonhart*



Glori Breitbarth-Daniel - February 18 at 08:02 AM