



John E. Salzer

August 28, 1949 - November 23, 2025

John E. Salzer, 76, of East Peoria, unexpectedly passed away on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital with his family by his side. He was born in Peoria on August 28, 1949, to Trevlin and Margaret (Edwards) Salzer. On December 6, 1974, he married his wife of nearly 51 years, Barbara Ervin, in Peoria; she survives.

Also surviving are his three children, Tracie Crawford, Kristie (Scott) Garver, and Joe (Kelly) Salzer, all of East Peoria; 2 brothers, Bob Salzer and Phil (Nancy) Salzer; 5 grandchildren, Justin (Elizabeth) Hulva, Brittany (Caleb) Turnquist, Chase Crawford, Maria (Josh) Jewell and Brandon Phillips; and 5 great grandchildren, Jayden and Ryland Hulva, Remington and Gauge Turnquist, and Joey Jewell.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Sheila; brother, Dick; and one infant brother.

John graduated from East Peoria Community High School with the Class of 1967, then went on to earn his degree in engineering from Bradley University. From 1973 to 2009, he worked with Peoria Local 649 of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

John was a lifelong member of St. Monica Catholic Church in East Peoria and a member of Msgr. E.L. Grzybowski Council Knights of Columbus where he served in many capacities including Grand Knight from 1997 to 1998. He was also a member of the Fourth Degree Spalding Assembly 0206. In 2012, John was awarded the highest honor in the Peoria Diocese as a Knights of

Columbus, with the award of Knight of Knights. John was also one of the original founders, organizer, and chairperson for the drive-through Folepi Narrated Nativity in East Peoria.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, November 30, 2025, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Monica Catholic Church on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 10 a.m., with visitation from 9:30 until the time of service. Father John Steffen will officiate. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memory Gardens in Morton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Mary, Mother of God Parish. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Memory Gardens

21925 Washington Road
Morton, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 30. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc. - East Peoria
444 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL 61611

Visitation

DEC 1. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Monica's Catholic Church
303 Campanile
East Peoria, IL

Funeral Mass

DEC 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Monica's Catholic Church
303 Campanile
East Peoria, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of John E. Salzer



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - December 02, 2025 at 05:41 PM



“ John was a great operator mentor, he taught me so many things that I needed to know over the years and it meant a lot to me. Thinking of John's family, and sending prayers for comfort.
Chuck DePalma

Chuck DePalma - November 30, 2025 at 03:47 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of John E. Salzer.



November 29, 2025 at 08:12 PM



“ Brian Flynn & Jennifer Duffey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E. Salzer.

Brian Flynn & Jennifer Duffey - November 29, 2025 at 08:12 PM



“ 32 files added to the album LifeTributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 28, 2025 at 06:48 PM



“ Our condolences to Barb, their kids& grandkids. Remember all the time at family reunions & at the lake. He will be missed.

Barbara Edwards Lamont - November 27, 2025 at 05:19 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John E. Salzer.



November 26, 2025 at 12:00 AM



“ The Sohn Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E. Salzer.

The Sohn Family - November 26, 2025 at 12:00 AM

VD

“ I lost touch with baby cousin John, but that doesn't mean I loved him less. Will miss him. My condolences to Barb and family. Valera Edwards Doerr.

valera edwards doerr - November 25, 2025 at 09:29 PM

AJ

“ To be included like family to John and Barb's home on so many occasions for great meals and lots of laughter will always be in my memories of him. My prayers for all his loved ones.

Aunt Jane - November 25, 2025 at 08:50 PM

GS

“ I have many great memories growing up with an uncle just ten years older than me. Seems John always had time for his nephews. Whether spending the night at grandma and grandpa's and staying up late watching Creature Feature, staying at the lake cabin and fishing all night, or letting us tag along riding in his first car, which was a 1950 Willy's pickup. John was a special uncle!
Gary Salzer

Gary Salzer - November 25, 2025 at 07:26 PM

PR

I was an East Peoria and Bradley classmate of John's. On cold winter day in what have been the winter of 71-72, John could not get that Jeep started while at Bradley. I pulled it with my wife's VW Beedle but as I recall we were not successful in getting it started. However, it did bend the VW bumper and the hood (trunk) opened better after that. John was a good guy and we had a few laughs together. My thoughts are with his family. Paul Reber

Paul Reber - November 26, 2025 at 05:29 PM

RB

Our condolences to the entire Salzer family. My Mom's house was located between John's house and Joe's house, so when I was at my Mom's house, I would see John drivin by, goin to Joe's house. John would always wave, with a smile, and sometimes stop, and talk. He was always smilin and usually had something funny to say! I always enjoyed talking to John, and could tell that he enjoyed life! Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe, Kelly, and the Salzer family.

*Your friends,
Rick and Vicky Bohm and family*

Rick Bohm - December 01, 2025 at 10:18 PM

PH

*Thinking of your whole family at this time of sadness and sending sending peace and love to you and yours. John was special to me. After I left the operators I would see him often at the grocery store on early mornings. Glad I got to visit with him at the last 649 gathering.
- Patricia Hight*

Patrcia Hight - December 09, 2025 at 08:55 AM