



## John Francis Wepprecht

May 5, 1935 - May 16, 2015

Age 80, of Essex, IL passed away Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL. Born May 5, 1935 in Union Hill, IL to the late Omar Paul and Marian Frances (nee Boyer) Wepprecht.

John attended Union Hill Grade School and graduated from Reddick High School in 1953. He was a standout athlete, participating in basketball, football, and baseball. He excelled in basketball, receiving a scholarship to the Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL.

He soon married his high school sweetheart, the love of his life, Delores "Dee" (nee Persak), on September 13, 1954. He then went to work for Herscher Natural Gas and Storage Company for thirteen years. In 1966, he worked for Peabody Coal Company, until it closed in 1975. He continued to work there for one more year to help in the reclamation of the company. He also worked from 1976-1984 as a supervisor at A.O. Smith. Lastly, in 1984, he worked for Commonwealth Edison in the mechanical maintenance department, and retired from Exelon in 2002.

In his youth, he was an avid baseball player, playing for the Essex VFW and Acre Inn fast pitch softball as a catcher and "clean-up hitter". He shared his knowledge of baseball by coaching Little League and Senior League for sixteen years.

He attended the St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church in Essex and the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington, IL. He was vice president of the Essex Historical Society. He served on the Essex town board, was a

charter member of the Essex Lions Club, and President on the Reddick High School Board of Education. He also was a charter member of the Ponderosa Sportsmen Club and head of the waterfowl hunting program.

His greatest joy in life was spending time with his children and grandchildren, teaching them everything about anything he knew! He took great pride in gardening and working in his yard and had a love for all Chicago sports teams.

Surviving are his wife of sixty years, Delores "Dee" Wepprecht, of Essex; three children, John Bradford (Daphne) Wepprecht of Reddick, IL, Jeff (Katy) Wepprecht of South Wilmington, IL, and Michelle (Larry) Dumke of Grand Ridge, IL; seven grandchildren, Braden (Colleen) Wepprecht, Jared (Elizabeth) Wepprecht, Caleb Wepprecht, Shane Wepprecht, Matthew Wepprecht, Kyle Dumke, and Blair Dumke; five great-grandchildren, Claire Wepprecht, Amelia Wepprecht, Courtney Wosik, Katie Wosik, and Connor Wosik; three siblings, Ronald (Elaine) Wepprecht of Mackinaw, IL, Joyce Raab of Bradley, IL, and Sandra (Dan) Ryan of Union Hill, IL; numerous nieces and nephews; and his favorite physician, Dr. Jayesh Mehta, M.D., Professor of Medicine Director at Northwestern University.

Preceding him in death were one son, John Gregory Wepprecht; three grandchildren, Hillary Wepprecht, Amber Wepprecht, and Kerri Dumke; one infant brother, James Wepprecht; father and mother-in-law, George and Hazel Persak; and brother-in-law, Paul Raab.

Funeral services will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. & Crematory, Braidwood Chapel, Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Interment Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville, IL. Visitation Wednesday, May 20, 2015 from 4-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name to the Essex Historical Society, Essex Lions Club, or the Essex Volunteer Fire Department would be appreciated.

# Cemetery Details

## Braceville-Gardner Cemetery

7295 W. Braceville Road  
Braceville, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 20.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home  
401 East Main St.  
Braidwood, IL 60408  
(815) 458-2336  
[info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

## Service

**MAY 21.** 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home  
401 East Main St.  
Braidwood, IL 60408  
(815) 458-2336  
[info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

# Tribute Wall

HW

“ *Dee, Jeff, Katy, Shane & Matthew,*

*We send our Heartfelt Sympathy to you during this most difficult time. May the beautiful cherished memories hold dearest to you, brighten a path before you with Strength, Comfort, Love, and Peace.*

*May you continue to feel the Love and Support of Family and Friends, as you grieve the loss of one so dear to your heart.*

*Friends of the Family, Harry and Bev Welsh*



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**Harry & Bev Welsh** - May 22, 2015 at 12:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Francis Wepprecht.*



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May 20, 2015 at 03:11 PM

LK

“ *Lorna K. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Francis Wepprecht.*



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**Lorna K.** - May 20, 2015 at 09:50 AM

SB

“ Our sincere sympathy on John's passing. May God comfort you and your family. Shirley Berger and Norman Bauer

shirley berger - May 20, 2015 at 05:57 AM

TW

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Thoughts and prayer are with you. We have know the family a long time. Rest in peace.  
Calvin and Terri Wright



Terri Wright - May 19, 2015 at 10:35 PM

DL

“ Dennis & Janet Lewis purchased the Violets And Butterflies for the family of John Francis Wepprecht.



Dennis & Janet Lewis - May 19, 2015 at 04:20 PM

LR

“ I wish I was there to wrap my arms around everyone... and to give our love to Grandpa John... I know the tears and sadness will be replaced with smiles and laughter in time, but for right now hearts are broken... praying for comfort for all of you. We may not be able to be there physically but know our hearts are with you this week. I love you all!  
Leann and Dean

Leann Rankovich - May 18, 2015 at 08:12 PM

MH

“ John at basketball games! The games were so much more fun with him there. We will keep the whole family in our prayers! He will be greatly missed.

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**Mark and Marilee Harris** - May 18, 2015 at 07:36 PM

AG

“ Sending our love and sympathy to all of his family! He was always such a kind and friendly man...and it showed that he truly loved his family!



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**Angie Grieff** - May 18, 2015 at 06:39 PM

MM

“ John had an infectious smile and laugh that made you want to join into whatever fun he was having. The wonderful children and grandchildren he and Dee enjoy is a tribute to the fantastic parents & grandparents they both have been. Heaven is certainly a better place with John in it and now he & Ernie will work together for a Cubs world series victory.

*Maureen Mulhall*

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**Maureen Mulhall** - May 18, 2015 at 06:16 PM