



William "B.J." John Fitzpatrick

November 20, 2025

William John "B.J." Fitzpatrick Obituary

William John "B.J." Fitzpatrick, age 75, of Braidwood, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at Lightways Hospice Home, Joliet.

Survived by his devoted wife of 33 years together 38 years Sheryl (nee Erickson) Fitzpatrick, his children Ryan (Melissa) Fitzpatrick, Courtney Garrelts, Jenny (Kurt) Crater, and Jackie (Brett) Gould, grandchildren Britni (Gio) Scianna, Mya Anderson, McKenna Fitzpatrick, Rowan Fitzpatrick, Reese Fitzpatrick, Aubrey Jensen, Leah Jensen, Grady Jensen, Peyton Garrelts, Dylan Garrelts, Camryn Garrelts, Alexis Crater, Natalie Crater, Beth Crater, Benjamin Gould, Trevor Gould, and Evan Gould, great grandchildren Jack, Eva, Raven and Hagen, his brothers Jack (Sharon) Fitzpatrick, Mike (Jeanette) Fitzpatrick, Tim (Kasie) Fitzpatrick, sisters-in-law Sandy (Dave) Biros, Shirley (John Franklin) Sinclair, Diane (Mike) Marques, and Debbie (Jeff) Pierce, his brother-in-law Doug Letterly and numerous nieces, nephews and friends. Preceded in death by his parents William and Ruth (nee Becker) Fitzpatrick, parents-in-law Fred and Marie (nee DeGrush) Erickson, his stepson David Anderson, his brother in infancy Brian Joseph Fitzpatrick, his brothers Patrick Fitzpatrick and Lawrence Fitzpatrick, his sister Lynn Letterly, his brother-in-law Jim Sinclair, his sister-in-law Katie Fitzpatrick and his faithful canine companions "Spike" and "Mugsy". B.J. was born and raised in Braidwood, he was a graduate of St. Rose Grade School, Reed-Custer High School, and Illinois State University with a Bachelor's degree in business

management and mathematics. After graduation he worked for Peabody Coal in Braidwood followed by Commonwealth Edison for a short time. B.J. then got a position at Exxon Mobile Refinery where he worked for 38 years retiring in 2012. After retirement he enjoyed wintering in Florida with his wife Sheryl. B.J. enjoyed golfing for leisure and many golf leagues throughout the years. He also was an avid reader, loved crossword puzzles, Wheel of Fortune, Chicago Bears, telling jokes, stories of his younger years, swimming in his backyard pool and chipping golf balls in his back yard for hours. B.J. also built his home in Braidwood from the ground up, he was too humble to brag about it but he was very proud of the home that he created. B.J. had a heart of gold, he loved everyone he met and they loved him back. His family was everything to him; he will be remembered for his sense of humor, his kind and generous spirit, and his loyal friendship. Visitation for B.J. will take place on Monday, November 24, 2025 from 4-8:00pm at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home and Crematory, Braidwood, IL. Funeral service will take place the next day, Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 10:00am also at the funeral home with Fr. Josh Miller officiating. Inurnment Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Wilmington will immediately follow. Arrangements entrusted to Forsythe Gould Funeral Home, Manhattan. Please direct any questions to Forsythe Gould Funeral Home, 815-478-3321, www.forsythegouldfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Mt Olivet Cemetery- Wilmington

498 Kahler Road
Wilmington, IL 60481

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **24**. 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
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

Service

NOV **25**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

DW

“ B.J., Pat, Jack were our neighbors and friends growing up. My brother Tom and him were good friends_ going through high school and Illinois State together. Our parents used to take Patty and I to kindergarten. Patty and I played little league together while Mr. Fitz. was our coach. Tom and B.J. and Pat and Jack all worked out at Exxon Mobile. B.J. and Tom golfed on leagues out at the BRC. Now they are golfing in Heaven! Will miss my Fitzpatrick friends until it is my turn to be called home! My condolences to his wife, children, and brother's.

Dan Wilson - November 21, 2025 at 05:51 PM

DW

“ Dan Wilson lit a candle in memory of William "B.J." Fitzpatrick



Dan Wilson - November 21, 2025 at 05:41 PM

RC

“ I am saddened by the news. In all my years at Mobil Oil B.J was one of the best guys to have on your team. With his sense of humor, and great attitude he helped make the worst jobs bearable. Everyone liked him and also loved partying with him. He will be missed by all. Rick Cook

Rick Cook - November 21, 2025 at 05:00 PM

MB

“ So sad to hear of BJ's passing. My deepest condolences to his family. He will be missed



Mary Bell - November 20, 2025 at 07:08 PM

AL

“ Feeling so sad to hear this news today. BJ was truly one of a kind and treated everybody with kindness. I enjoyed the times I would cross paths with him at Exxon! Prayers lifted for his family- especially Sheryl and his kids. May God have mercy on his soul. With Profound sympathy!

Amy Luczak - November 20, 2025 at 06:30 PM

RZ

One of the friendliest people I ever met , will miss that smile and laugh every time he came up to me. God bless him and his family

Rick Zilm - November 22, 2025 at 08:51 AM

DF

Sheryl and family, so sorry to hear of BJ's passing. BJ & my dad were brothers. We have not been in contact over many years, but have fond memories of younger days, where we attended St Rose Grade School. Thoughts & prayers for BJ, family, & friends. Our loss but God's gain. May he be at peace. Rob & Donna Flowers

Donna Fitzpatrick Flowers - November 24, 2025 at 03:33 PM