



John Earl Sturgis

March 8, 1944 - May 31, 2026

John Earl Sturgis, 82, of Lebanon, Indiana passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 5:35 a.m.

John was born March 8, 1944, to Thomas and Ada Mae “Peg” Sturgis. He grew up in Bluffton and graduated from Bluffton High School in 1962. In May 1964, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, served one tour in Vietnam, and was honorably discharged in 1967.

After the service, John went to work for Panhandle Eastern Pipeline, first in Bluffton and later transferring to Zionsville. He worked as a welder, regulator, and everything in between. John had an unmatched work ethic—he heated his home with wood he cut himself, and if you ever saw him coming out of the woods with a bushy beard, long hair, and homemade buckskin clothes patched together like a walking quilt, you’d think Daniel Boone had joined the union. He loved collecting coins, guns, and pocket knives—though the knives had a funny way of disappearing into the couch cushions.

In July 1967, John met the love of his life, Emmadell High. They were married on August 16, 1969, and were blessed with three children: Makada Love (Michael), Rachel Dicus, and John (Isaac) Sturgis (Lori), all of Lebanon. John and Emmadell were members of First Community Church in Lebanon. An avid outdoorsman, he loved hunting, boating, and camping, and he raised his

children to love the same.

John is survived by his wife, Emmadell; his three children; his grandchildren, Lauren Huff (Steven), Carly Greene (fiancé Tanner Drews), Harrison Love (fiancée Betsi Bayles), Zayne Sturgis, Carrienne Dicus, Isabelle Sturgis, and Murrlyn Sturgis; and two great-grandsons, Lawson Huff and Burton Huff.

Military funeral services are planned for 12:00 noon on Friday, June 5, 2026, at Myers Mortuary, 1502 North Lebanon Street, in Lebanon, Indiana. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the time of services. Burial of John's ashes will be held at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lebanon at a later date.

He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Memorial contributions in John's honor may be made to VFW Post 910 in Lebanon, supporting disabled and needy veterans.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

935 East Washington Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Myers Mortuary
1502 North Lebanon Street
Lebanon, IN 46052
(765) 482-0620
office@myersmortuary.com
<https://myersmortuary.com/>

Military Funeral Services

JUN 5. 12:00 PM (ET)

Myers Mortuary
1502 North Lebanon Street
Lebanon, IN 46052
(765) 482-0620
office@myersmortuary.com
<https://myersmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall

KS

“ Kay S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Earl Sturgis.

Kay S. - June 06 at 09:47 AM

MR

“ I worked with John early in my Panhandle Eastern time and before I left the area. Always fun, always hard working and always honorable. I said a prayer of comfort today for his family and a prayer of thanks for having known him.

Mick Rafter - June 05 at 11:52 AM



Thank you for sharing such a lovely memory of Dad and for your condolences.

Makada Love - June 05 at 06:42 PM

MY

“ We loved John and his silly jokes. He will be missed! Keeping you and the family in our prayers. Love, Marsha and Frank Yarber

Marsha Yarber - June 05 at 08:34 AM



Thank you for your condolences - we have so many memories of fun times and laughter with you, and your family.

Makada Love - June 05 at 06:46 PM

SB

“ Emmadell and family, Nancy and I were shocked to hear about the loss of a good friend and former Panhandle co-worker. We had lost contact with John for many years until we moved to Lebanon. While at the dog park one day John recognized me and we rekindled our friendship. We spent many, many hours at the dog park reliving our pasts. John and I would sit on the park benches watching our dogs, Bonnie and Dickens run, play and try to get squirrels while we were catching up on our pasts. John will be missed! Nancy and I plan to make a memorial contribution in John's honor to VFW Post 910. Love and hugs to you. Scott "Skip" Barker



Scott & Nancy Barker - June 05 at 01:02 AM



Thank you for coming today, for giving your condolences and for sharing such lovely memories of Dad.

Makada Love - June 05 at 06:47 PM

CB

“ My sincere condolence to Emmadell and the entire family. I have fond memories of the hunting trips with John and his father Tom in the 70s and 80's. My son Chuck and I loved his Gabby Hayes impersonation. It was just like having Gabby all to ourselves.. Chad Baller

Chad Baller - June 04 at 05:14 PM



Thank you for sharing such beautiful memories of Dad, and for your condolences.

Makada Love - June 04 at 07:48 PM

FC

“ I want to offer my condolences to the Sturgis Family. I enjoyed working with Ike in little league, Emmadell talked me in working with Cub Scouts on one occasion. I had to accept for all the times she helped Our Little League teams. Prayers to the Sturgis family. Love and fond memories.

Freddie Crane - June 04 at 03:11 PM



Thank you for your kindness.

Makada Love - June 04 at 07:49 PM

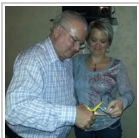


“ His famous bird
Calls on trails were
The best. Making me hiking sticks. Naming
The trees. His hugs when I would walk in the door. But his famous saying, and yes I am my father's daughter because I am not afraid to post it right here. while my mom was and is a bit feisty he would always top it off with his most famous saying “ Give em hell Emmadell”,

Rachel Kaehr - June 03 at 09:35 PM



Makada Love - June 04 at 07:59 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Hugs and prayers to your family.
-Sherry Poland .

Sherry Poland - June 03 at 08:59 PM



Thank you Sherry, I appreciate your kind words, thoughts and prayers.

Makada Love - June 04 at 08:00 AM

RA

“ Rachel purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of John Earl Sturgis.



Rachel - June 03 at 07:40 PM

RA

“ Rachel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Earl Sturgis.

Rachel - June 03 at 07:40 PM

KL

“ Emmadell and family, I am so very sorry about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you and may you find peace in knowing that John has found eternal rest. May he RIP.

Karen Lasley - June 03 at 07:36 PM



Thank you Karen.

Makada Love - June 04 at 08:01 AM

CK

“ Chad and Kristin purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Earl Sturgis.



Chad and Kristin - June 02 at 07:15 PM

MW

“ Dear Emma Dell & children, Rod & I have such good memories of John when we lived in Lebanon & attended church together. May you find peace & comfort in His arms & sending our love.

Maggie Waltman - June 02 at 06:30 PM



Thank you for sharing and for your words of comfort.

Makada Love - June 02 at 11:48 PM

NS

“ Nicole Schutzler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Earl Sturgis.

Nicole Schutzler - June 02 at 03:10 PM

TR

“ My thoughts and prayers to Emmadell and all of the family! My all time favorite memory of John is years ago probably early to mid 80's I was at the Mother Daughter dinner at First Community and our entertainment was a style show given by the men who were all dressed up in fancy women's clothes! It may have been around the time the movie Tootsie had come out, it was hysterical! I also remember when Makada got to go with him on an Honor Flight a few years back too, he loved it!! I find peace knowing he had a great faith and I know he will always be watching over you all from Heaven above! Again, cling tight to your many memories over the years and rejoice he is now with Jesus!

Tami and Mark Richardson - June 02 at 01:45 PM



Thank you for sharing such wonderful memories of Dad, and for all your love and support during this difficult time.

Makada Love - June 02 at 11:50 PM

GH

May God bless the family and grant them peace.

Gordon J Husk - June 03 at 11:54 AM



Thank you Gordon.

Makada Love - June 04 at 08:02 AM

MK

“ Martha, Gretchen, & the kids purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of John Earl Sturgis.



Martha, Gretchen, & the kids - June 02 at 12:57 PM

TS

“ We are so very sorry for this loss. Ted & Sallie

Ted Sallie - June 02 at 12:28 PM



Thank you for your condolences.

Makada Love - June 02 at 11:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Earl Sturgis.



June 02 at 11:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Earl Sturgis.

June 02 at 11:19 AM