



## Jay Ballard

March 16, 1947 - December 2, 2022

Jay Ballard, 75, of Huntington, IN, died peacefully at home on December 2, 2022 in the care of his family and the kind staff from Parkview Hospice. Jay was a gentle father, a loving husband and grandpa, and a committed Jesus follower who was eager to meet his good Father.

Jay was born in Xenia, OH on March 16, 1947 to John and Freda Ballard. He spent his childhood working on the family farm, tinkering with his ham radio, and trapping in the woods. Jay studied electrical engineering at John Brown University in Bentonville, AR and worked for Square D in Oxford, OH and Huntington, IN for 42 years. He led his engineering team to strive for constant improvement in efficiency and made a point to know everyone in the manufacturing plant by name. Jay cared about his coworkers' stories, knew about their families, and often asked for their feedback.

In 1979, Jay met a young lady named Jan Thompson at Grayston Avenue Church. They began playing tennis, riding bikes, and watching *The Waltons* together. Long story short, they married in August 1980 and built a red brick home where they would spend the next 42 years raising their 5 children - Liz, Becky (Travis), Dan (Tara), Sharon (Kenny), and Dave (Emily) - and doting generously on their 15 grandchildren. In his final days, Jay was given one more gift of joy in the birth of a granddaughter — Everly Joy.

Anyone who knew Jay also knew that he cared deeply about education, woodworking, and good conversation. He was so proud to see his 5 children through college and into meaningful careers. He loved teaching and working alongside his son-in-law, grandson, and friends in his home woodshop. He loved striking up conversation with new people everywhere he went. And he loved hiking in the woods with his grandchildren.

Jay served faithfully as a deacon, elder, and led multiple building projects for The Well United Brethren Church in Huntington. Therefore, it's only fitting that visitation will be available at The Well on Friday, December 9 from 3:00 - 7:00 PM, and a memorial service held at The Well on Saturday, December 10 at 11:00 AM with visitation beforehand at 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider supporting By the Book Program of the Associated Churches of Huntington County.

Please sign the online guest book at [www.baileylove.com](http://www.baileylove.com).

Bailey-Love Mortuary is honored to serve the family of Jay Ballard.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **9**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

The Well  
1883 Old U.S. Highway 24  
Huntington, IN 46750

## Service

DEC **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Well  
1883 Old U.S. Highway 24  
Huntington, IN 46750

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ I became friends with Jay when I placed senior students from Huntington North High School which were on a half day work program. He was always a great person to talk with and I had great respect for his professionalism. He helped the students get started in the Engineering field. He was always interested in helping others. He will be missed.

*Paris Seibold - Retired Teacher - ICE work program - Huntington North*

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**Paris Seibold** - December 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ To the Ballard family  
We were surprised to hear of Jay's death. It was my pleasure to have him as a friend and a helpmate on the outfitting of the new BtB trailer. What a wonderful obituary, what a life well lived. He will be missed by many. A special hug to Liz. Jack & Jean Oberholtzer

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**Jack Oberholtzer** - December 13, 2022 at 01:17 PM

MG

“ I'm sorry about hearing this, I worked with Jay many years, he was a wonderful person, we spent many hours discussing projects, designs, etc.  
Early resignation to family.

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**Mario Gutierrez** - December 13, 2022 at 10:49 AM

KF

“ Jan, so sorry to hear about Jay. Enjoyed our times when we all got together for lunches and know he will be truly missed.

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**Karla Funk** - December 10, 2022 at 10:02 PM

AB

“ Beautiful write up of a great man. I am so sorry for your loss, Ballard family. Thinking of you all in this difficult time. What a gift he was to so many! Praying for you as you both grieve & celebrate a life well lived. And the gift of husband, father, grandfather, & friend he was to each of you. Praying for a peace that surpasses all understanding. Love, Alison (Rahn) Bland

Alison Bland - December 09, 2022 at 11:20 PM

BM

“ I have only known Jay for about 16 years, you couldn't ask for a nicer neighbor and friend. He will certainly be missed by all his Norwood neighbors. To the Ballard family you are in our thoughts and prayers Barbara McCarty

Barbara McCarty - December 09, 2022 at 11:19 AM

GR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories



Gustavo Ruiz - December 08, 2022 at 09:05 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Jay Ballard.



December 08, 2022 at 12:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jay Ballard.



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December 07, 2022 at 11:08 PM



“ I remember Jay with a great smile, positive disposition, great christian family man, fun to be around as our children grew up together. Many great memories working with Jay at the Good Shepherd Church on Flaxmill Rd. He will be greatly missed.

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**Tom Ringenberg** - December 06, 2022 at 05:29 PM



“ Watching him at the house on King Street operating his ham radio. I was enthralled that he could build it himself and talk to people in so many places. Respected and loved him a lot. Jay Bryson your family of cousins will miss you and always love you

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**jackie Wallace Poske** - December 05, 2022 at 05:58 PM



“ We had the distinct pleasure of knowing the Ballard family as neighbors and friends for the 35 years we lived in Norwood, and our children all grew up together as friends. Jay Ballard was truly one of the kindest and most giving people ever with such a positive attitude. This is such a sad loss. We send our deepest condolences to Jan and the family. We hold you in our prayers as you grieve the loss of your beloved husband, father and grandfather.

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**John and Judy Niedermsn** - December 05, 2022 at 05:49 PM

AW

“ Everyone at Legacy Staffing Associates sends their deepest condolences to all of you at this difficult time.

Amy Westbay - December 05, 2022 at 05:31 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Jay Ballard.



December 05, 2022 at 05:29 PM

AW

“ Jay will be missed! Sending love to you all! From Steve, Amy & Colin

Amy Westbay - December 05, 2022 at 05:25 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jay Ballard.



December 05, 2022 at 05:21 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jay Ballard.



December 05, 2022 at 01:25 PM

SM

“ Our condolences to Jan and family. I had the opportunity to know Jay and he was a true gentleman and family man.  
Steve Mason

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**Steve Mason** - December 05, 2022 at 11:52 AM

FS

“ I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Ballard for more than few years in SquareD/SE. He was a coach to me, very knowledge engineer but for far more a better human being. Jay was full of stories and sayings, some work related... some others about life. I remember he usually shared his next woodworking project. I'm sure he will be missed.  
To his family... I know you are mourning, let's celebrate Jay's life. I remember he used to say "If mama is happy, everybody is happy. If mama is not happy, nobody is happy"  
My sincere condolences, Fabian Sanchez, Monterrey MX.

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**Fabian Sanchez** - December 05, 2022 at 11:19 AM

JE

“ Dear Elizabeth, I'm so sorry your father passed away. Our parents are so precious. You were one of my favorite kids I coached in Kim League basketball. Cherish your memories.

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**Jeff Etter** - December 05, 2022 at 05:54 AM

JH

“ I worked with Jay for about 30 years at Square D / Schneider Electric. What a great guy. Always a positive outlook, a calm demeanor and willing to do anything he could to make the plant successful. We worked on many projects and challenges together and I really appreciated being on the same Team with him. As a trapper, I really enjoyed hearing about Jay’s many trapline adventures and memories from his youth. I also enjoyed hearing about the history books that he would read and the interesting facts that he liked to share. But I think his favorite topic was his family, and he always enjoyed discussing the latest updates about them. He was a good man and will be missed.

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**Jim Harden** - December 04, 2022 at 08:00 PM

SK

“ Worked many years with Jay at square d. Prayers to his family.

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**Sandra Kirk** - December 04, 2022 at 02:45 PM

KM

*Janet, condolences on the loss of Jay. I pray that you and your family will receive God’s peace. May you find comfort in your children and grandchildren and the many memories you have made. Love, Karen*

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**Karen Miller** - December 04, 2022 at 11:47 PM

DL

*Dear Janet, I'm thinking of and praying for you and your family today in the loss of Jay. I didn't know him, but he sounds like a wonderful man. So glad you and your family had a few weeks to say your goodbyes and that you will be reunited with him in Heaven. May God bless and comfort you in all the many memories of your loving husband. Love, Dorothy Miller Labert*

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**DOROTHY LABERT** - December 05, 2022 at 11:55 AM

DH

*When I think of Jay, I think of joy. Debbie Hersey*

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**Debra Hersey** - December 14, 2022 at 12:39 PM



*Jay was my friend & classmate at John Brown University. Although not a prankster himself, many of his engineering classmates were. He encouraged them by laughing along with them, myself included.*

*Such was the case at a required Lyceum where a flutist performed. While all of the music majors sat in the very front seats, he & his engineer friends sat at the very back seats playing cards. During the pauses of the flutist's performance, whoever was shuffling the cards made it a point of shuffling as loudly as he could' thus vibrating that sound throughout the lower auditorium of the Cathedral of the Ozarks.*

*In disgust those music majors turned around to give their dirty looks to the annoying engineering majors. To no one's surprise & to prevent future embarrassment to guest musicians. JBU stopped requiring the engineering students to attend those Lyceums.*

*Larry Fast of Sylvania, Ohio*

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**Larry Fast** - June 06, 2023 at 06:03 AM