



John William Kivisaari

May 15, 1944 - October 20, 2016

NORWAY- John W. Kivisaari, 72, of Norway, died Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin.

He was born on May 15, 1944 in Marquette to the late Wilho and Lempi (Maki) Kivisaari.

In 1951, John's family moved to Norway, which remained his hometown for the rest of his life.

John graduated from Norway High School in 1962 before serving in the U.S. Army in San Francisco and Germany during the Vietnam War. After his service, John graduated from Northern Michigan University.

He worked in the wholesale grocery industry for many years as a purchasing agent and assistant manager with Northland Grocers, and later as a salesman and merchandiser for Kraft Foods.

While attending NMU, John met his wife, Wendy (Guldswoog). On April 5, 1974, under overcast skies, they were married at St. Mary's Church in Norway, surrounded by family and friends.

John enjoyed a quiet life of happiness and serenity, finding both in his family

and loved ones. He lived humbly, and received joy not from material things, but in life's simple pleasures: the stillness of the morning while sipping a hot cup of coffee, the wind blowing through the oak trees on the golf course, the smell of soil and freshly-cut grass as he and Wendy worked together in their garden, watching University of Michigan football games with his son, and the unconditional love and support from Wendy.

John is survived by Wendy, his wife of 42 years; son, John C. Kivisaari of Madison, WI; brother, Peter (Cheryl) Kivisaari of Norway; sister-in-law, Karen D. Guldswoog of Iron Mountain; brother-in-law, Donald H. Hinds of Norway; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, October 25 from 11- 1p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Norway

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran with Rev. Dr. Michael J. Langlais officiating.

Interment will be held at the Norway Township Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
805 Iron Street
Norway, MI 49870

Service

OCT **25**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
805 Iron Street
Norway, MI 49870

Tribute Wall



“ John was a great, down to earth, personable man who, with his wife and son John, always made me feel welcome and almost like a part of the family when I was around. He will, obviously, be dearly missed. My regrets for not being able to attend but Little John and Wendy, you are in my thoughts.

Matthew Sturm - October 26, 2016 at 11:14 AM



“ Rosemary Haepers lit a candle in memory of John William Kivisaari



Rosemary Haepers - October 25, 2016 at 01:26 AM



Wendy, John C., Peter and family...." Memories have a magic way of keeping loved ones near---Ever Close in Mind and Heart, are the ones we hold most dear"....Love, Rosemary

Rosemary Haepers - October 25, 2016 at 01:30 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John William Kivisaari.



October 24, 2016 at 01:47 PM

AM

“ *AMY lit a candle in memory of John William Kivisaari*



AMY - October 24, 2016 at 12:38 PM

AM

May God bless all of you during this difficult time .. You are in my thoughts and prayers and cherish all the wonderful times you had with John . .thinking of you Wendy, John and family.

AMY - October 24, 2016 at 12:40 PM

KK

*Wendy, Just wanting you to know I'm thinking of you and John and sending my sympathy to you. May you be comforted with all your special memories, God's love and care for John, you, and all your family. I'm so sorry for your loss.
Sincerely, Karen Kayne*

karen kayne - October 24, 2016 at 08:21 PM

LS

“ *Lisa Swanson lit a candle in memory of John William Kivisaari*



Lisa Swanson - October 23, 2016 at 07:32 PM

CS

“ *My sincere sympathy to you, Wendy, am also to your son and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. May God bring you comfort and peace.*

Carol Socha - October 23, 2016 at 08:48 AM

FN

“ From your Friends at Nabisco purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John William Kivisaari.



From your Friends at Nabisco - October 22, 2016 at 11:22 AM



“ So sorry for your loss Wendy and John C. Prayers are with you always!!! Lean on GOD and keep the faith. John is your angel and will be by your side always!!! You will never be alone! Love u!!



Tammy Rusch - October 21, 2016 at 05:08 PM

PH

“ To my Best friend John: I miss you so dam much! We had so much fun together and a ton of laughs! I think of you everyday. I know you are up in heaven watching over us! Do they have golf courses up there? You are probably out golfing right now! Are you still picking your head up before you hit the ball? I bet you are. How are you're knees feeling? Oh, that's right! You have wings now, so you can golf as much as you want! And don't worry about Wendy! We promise to take care of her! I know you had to do all the house and garden work, but I can help her with some of it. I hope to see you someday when we can be together again. Make sure you keep Mondays and Thursday open! Love You, Freato Haepers

Peter Haepers - October 21, 2016 at 01:26 PM



Sure does suck! You can hit golf balls up to John. Hang in there dad. Love u!

Tammy Rusch - October 21, 2016 at 05:02 PM