



## Joseph William "Joe" Day

January 5, 1952 - January 13, 2024

Joseph William "Joe" Day, 72, of Akron, Indiana passed unexpectedly on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024 at Day Hardware doing what he enjoyed.

Joe was born on Jan. 5, 1952 in Hammond, Indiana to the late Richard E. "Dick" and Julia "Judy" Ann (Bidwell) Day. He grew up in Hammond alongside his sister Pam. His family moved to Akron in 1963 when he was 11 and purchased the hardware store. He helped at the store throughout his childhood after school. Joe enjoyed the change of pace of the Akron area. He was a 1969 graduate of Akron High School. He lived from 1970 to 1977 in Bloomington and St. Louis where he did sound engineering for many bands with his Econoline van. In 1977, he became a full-time employee of Day Hardware, working with his mom and dad.

Joe met Marianne Billman when she came to Akron. He was always a salesman and put on a suit and tie to introduce himself. After he left, Marianne knew he was the man she would marry. They married her July 11, 1987 in Fulton, Indiana. Together they had a son Patrick. He was a huge part of their lives. Patrick was a regular in the hardware working with his family. Joe loved when people would come in with questions and ask for Patrick.

He built his own home on generational family property. Joe loved going to gun and knife shows every year, where he had longtime friends. He also collected

trains, fountain pens, and books. Joe enjoyed learning, and sharing what he learned. He was the master of trivia. He memorized all the presidents and vice presidents. He knew Pi to 100 places. His aunt Betty joked "he remembered when he was in the womb." Joe was knowledgeable about Akron history and researched his family genealogy. He also enjoyed airstream vacations and riding his motorcycle. He made several trips to the NASCAR race in Talladega with numerous friends. He loved cooking and smoking meat, and liked to share recipes and talk about it. Over the years he also read to Akron Elementary School students.

Besides the hardware for 47 years, Joe served his community on the Henry Township Volunteer Fire Department since 1977, and had been chief of the department for several of those years. He was extremely proud of his years with the department and the men he served beside. Joe was instrumental in the purchase of trucks and equipment. The hardware was a 50 plus year member of "Do It Best". He was also a member of the Akron United Methodist Church and Akron Chamber of Commerce, formerly of the Township Advisory Board and Akron Town Hall Building Corporation, and at one time managed the trailer park for his grandpa Bidwell.

Joe was very proud to live in Akron.

He is survived by his wife Marianne Day of Akron; sister Pam Vandermark of Akron; nieces and nephews include Leann and husband John Carr of Akron, David and wife Angela Madeford of Akron, Scott and wife Tiffany Cooksey, Akron, Kevin and wife Carrie Cooksey of Silver Lake; several great and great great nephews and nieces; cousins; and step brothers David and wife Caren Delp and John and wife Jennifer Delp.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, son Patrick Day (Nov. 13, 2006), brother-in-laws Joey Madeford and Jim Vandermark, and stepmother Georgia

Ann Day.

The funeral service will take place at 10:30 am, Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024 at Hartzler Funeral Home, Akron, Indiana with Pastor David Eaton officiating. See the video of the service at: <https://youtu.be/9MraiV6ttto>

The interment will take place in the Akron Cemetery, Akron, Indiana.

Visitation hours will be held from 2 pm to 8 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024 at Hartzler Funeral Home 305 West Rochester Street Akron, Indiana. A fireman's service will conclude the visitation at 8:00 pm.

Memorial contributions can be made in his memory to the Henry Township Volunteer Fire Department or the Akron Cemetery Association.

# Cemetery Details

## Akron Cemetery

S 1075 E  
Akron, IN 46910

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 17.** 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hartzler Funeral Home  
305 West Rochester Street  
P.O. Box 856  
Akron, IN 46910  
(574) 893-4423  
info@hartzlerfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com>

## Funeral Service

**JAN 18.** 10:30 AM (ET)

Hartzler Funeral Home  
305 West Rochester Street  
P.O. Box 856  
Akron, IN 46910  
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info@hartzlerfuneralservices.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 18, 2024 at 02:35 PM



“ Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 14, 2024 at 08:35 PM

RK

*As in life and as in death the fire has to go out. So sad.*

Robert A Kahmark - January 15, 2024 at 10:59 AM

MM

*Retiring to Beaver Dam Lake 5 years ago, I was surprised to find most anything I needed at Day Hardware. Joe became my go-to guy for the what, where, when and how. Akron was so fortunate to have Joe Day.*

Mike McKee - January 15, 2024 at 03:18 PM

LT

*Growing up in Akron it was the go to place, for hardware, and a nice visit with Joe. So many fond memories from school. And Evelyn Adams got so much joy visiting with Joe at school and sends her deepest condolences to Joe's family and friends. Nancy, too.*

Linda Tucker - January 17, 2024 at 01:15 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joseph William "Joe" Day.*



January 17, 2024 at 07:30 PM

LT

“ *Linda T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph William "Joe" Day.*

Linda T. - January 17, 2024 at 01:06 PM

MW

“ *Melinda Webb lit a candle in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day*



Melinda Webb - January 17, 2024 at 12:02 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph William "Joe" Day.



January 17, 2024 at 10:07 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph William "Joe" Day.



January 17, 2024 at 05:53 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph William "Joe" Day.

January 16, 2024 at 11:24 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joseph William "Joe" Day.



January 16, 2024 at 12:37 PM



“ Gary Ellenwood & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph William "Joe" Day.

Gary Ellenwood & family - January 16, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph William "Joe" Day.



January 16, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ 14 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 15, 2024 at 03:16 PM

EW

“ We wish to extend our deepest sympathy for the passing of Joe. He and I were firemen together, he in Akron and myself in Mentone for several years. We were in many situations concerning the fire service, and he will truly be missed. May God's blessings surround you and your families during this grieving process.



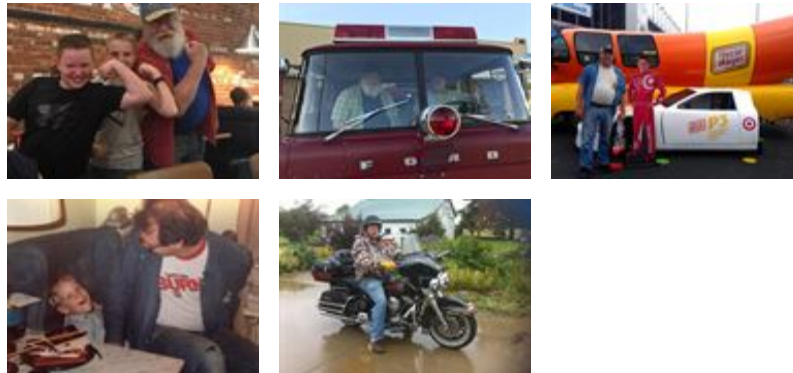
*Butch and Diane Warren*

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**Everett (Butch) Warren** - January 15, 2024 at 12:10 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Life Tributes



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**Hartzler Funeral Services** - January 15, 2024 at 12:06 PM

SM

“ *Susie Marvel lit a candle in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day*



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**Susie Marvel** - January 15, 2024 at 11:09 AM

SG

“ *My sympathy and prayers for the family. He was special.* ”



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**Shirley Gray** - January 15, 2024 at 09:37 AM

RF

“ *Ron and Sara Krugger Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Joseph William "Joe" Day.* ”



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**Ron and Sara Krugger Family** - January 15, 2024 at 09:13 AM

DS

“ *Diane Sheetz lit a candle in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day* ”



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**Diane Sheetz** - January 15, 2024 at 09:07 AM

KG

“ *I have many fond memories of Fireman Joe at Akron School. He was a great guy that gave so much to the town of Akron. Kathy Good* ”



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**Kathy Good** - January 15, 2024 at 09:05 AM

MP

“ *Melinda Pratt lit a candle in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day*



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**Melinda Pratt** - January 15, 2024 at 03:31 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph William "Joe" Day.*



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January 14, 2024 at 10:34 PM

JK

“ *Joyce Krieger lit a candle in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day*



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**Joyce Krieger** - January 14, 2024 at 09:02 PM

DM

“ *Darrel M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph William "Joe" Day.*

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**Darrel M.** - January 14, 2024 at 08:58 PM

JS

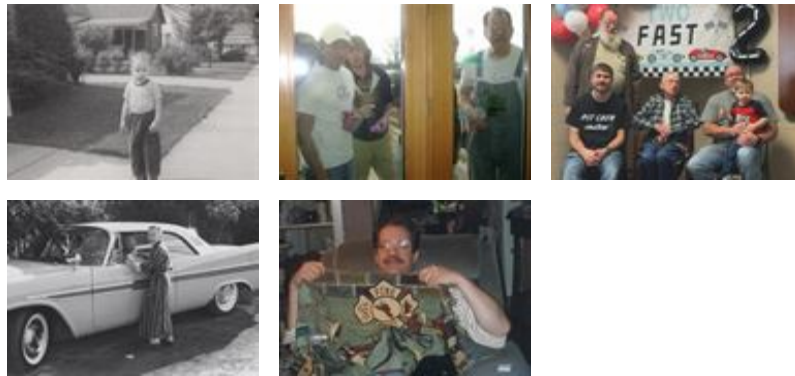
“ Remembering an old friend. Joe was on Akron VFD back when I was on North Manchester VFD. We both were fire Investigators. My condolences go out to his family and friends. RIP Joe until we meet again 🙏



James Straws - January 14, 2024 at 08:43 PM



“ 101 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 14, 2024 at 08:30 PM

WM

“ WENDELL & GEORGIA MOUDY lit a candle in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day



WENDELL & GEORGIA MOUDY - January 14, 2024 at 08:22 PM

RB

“ Pam, I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your brother. I have nothing but, good memories of being helped with different projects when going into the hardware. He will be greatly missed. Praying for the family.



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**Rose Berger** - January 14, 2024 at 08:13 PM

SB

“ Shirley Bickel lit a candle in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day



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**Shirley Bickel** - January 14, 2024 at 07:10 PM

GR

“ Condolences to the family. Will miss seeing him walking the town of Akron. The Reeds, George and Pam

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**George and Pam Reed** - January 14, 2024 at 06:58 PM

JW

“ Judy Walgamuth lit a candle in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day



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**Judy Walgamuth** - January 14, 2024 at 06:47 PM

BD

“ I was so sorry to hear about Joes passing. He was truly one of my favorite people. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and sister. I will miss seeing him on the streets of Akron. He will be missed.

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**Bonita Daine** - January 14, 2024 at 06:29 PM

DM

“ Denise A Murray lit a candle in memory of Joseph William "Joe" Day



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**Denise A Murray** - January 14, 2024 at 05:53 PM