



William Joe Risner

August 23, 1955 - October 16, 2021

William Joe Risner, 66, of Akron, Indiana passed away surrounded by his girls at 6:21 am, Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 at his residence.

Joe was born on Aug. 23, 1955 in Prestonsburg, Kentucky to the late William “Willie” and Helen K. (Adams) Risner. He married on Feb. 12 1977 in Silver Lake, Indiana to Billie Lu Gillespie, she survives.

Joe proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force station at the 122nd Fighter Wing of Ft. Wayne, Ind. He served for 30 years retiring in 2014. During his active duty he served as Chief of Supply in Balad, Iraq and he was also deployed through his years in Qatar and Iraq. He was an active part of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. After retirement he wanted to stay active. He assisted the Fulton County Sheriff's department as a Correctional Officer.

As a young man he grew up in Floyd County, Kentucky. He ran the hills barefoot in Ruff and Tuff Holler. He and his family traveled back and forth to Indiana for work. In elementary school his family settled in the Sydney area. Then they moved to Silver Lake, where he would first meet his future wife Billie.

He loved Taekwondo, and he was a fifth degree black belt. He ran a school in

North Manchester and Akron, where he was instrumental in many children's lives. He was an avid traveler. He loved camping with family. Every year they took the entire family on a vacation. He and his wife travelled all around the world, which included Mexico and Italy.

Joe's love for riding started many years ago. He showed up on his first date with Billie on a motorcycle. He rode all kinds and brands of motorcycles. His last bike was a teal Harley-Davidson trike. He loved to take motorcycle trips down to Brown County. He also enjoyed rebuilding golf carts in his spare time.

Joe is survived by his wife Billie Risner of Akron; daughters Nicole (Albert) Gutierrez of Akron and Stacey Hoxie; grandchildren Emma, Dylan, Elizabeth, Bella, Gavin, Axel, and Frankie; siblings James (Barb) Risner, Drema (Todd) Montgomery of Burket, Debbie (Mike) Jensen of Hamlet, Danny (Donna) Risner of Warsaw; and sister-in-law Irene Risner; and 12 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother Paul Risner.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 am, Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021 at Hartzler Funeral Home 305 West Rochester Street Akron, Indiana with Pastor Tim Lee officiating.

Military honors will be performed at the Lakeview Cemetery, Silver Lake, Indiana.

The visitation hours will be from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Friday, Oct. 22, 2021 at Hartzler Funeral Home, Akron, Indiana.

Memorial contributions can be made to the donor's choice of animal shelter in Joe's memory.

Cemetery Details

Lakeview Cemetery

Silver Lake, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 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

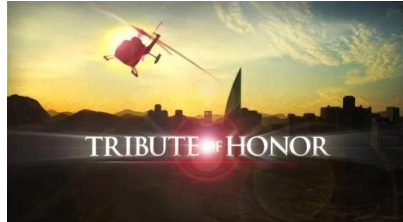
OCT **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of William Joe Risner*



Hartzler Funeral Services - October 19, 2021 at 06:47 PM

KH

Very nice tribute. Joe will be missed. Prayers for his family.

Kathy Hamman - October 21, 2021 at 11:27 PM

NG

We cannot without him.. Hes a wonderful man. My rock my hero

Nicole Gutierrez - November 03, 2021 at 12:37 AM

DK

“ *it is truly a shock to hear of Joe's passing ! I knew him to be one of the finest person anyone would care to meet. Joe was the kind of person that would gladly do anything for you and was very easy to get along with. Joe and I would talk about life and and anything else that would peak our interest together in a worthwhile conversation. I always admired Joe and his zest for like. I consider it a privilege to say I knew him and deeply regret his passing, the world was a better place when he was in it! Gods speed Joe!!! My heart goes out to his family for loosing someone like Joe!*

David Koughn - October 23, 2021 at 07:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Joe Risner.*



October 21, 2021 at 11:01 PM



“ *Thoughts and prayers to the family. I remember Joe back in Silver Lake,,, elementary school days . So sorry for your loss .*



Kathy Howard - October 21, 2021 at 10:20 PM



“ *4 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Hartzler Funeral Services - October 21, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Joe Risner.*



October 21, 2021 at 07:05 AM



“ *Kevin Raypholtz purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of William Joe Risner.*



Kevin Raypholtz - October 20, 2021 at 08:57 PM



“ *I am truly sorry for your loss. When two souls find each other like you two did all those years ago, it was just meant to be. After reading Joes obituary and seeing all that he accomplished after we all went our separate ways, I was both amazed and proud. Proud to say Joe was a good friend and neighbor of mine. You were both good friends and I have so many great memories of both of you. Just wanted you to know your in my thoughts and prayers. You to Drema, I've never forgot you either. God Bless you all.*
Kevin Raypholtz

Kevin Raypholtz - October 20, 2021 at 08:33 PM



“ *Joe is a Warrior. God, Country, Family, Self. May he rest in peace and God bless his family.*

Steve Lyseczko, CMsgt, USAF (Ret) - October 20, 2021 at 11:36 AM

AA

“ I worked with Joe at the 122FW. He always had a smile on his face during our early morning work outs. He will be missed. Prayers to Billie and family.

Aaron - October 20, 2021 at 07:22 AM

SJ

“ So sorry to see where Joe passed. He was a wonderful asset to the Fulton County Jail staff.
Prayers of peace and comfort to his entire family....



Staff of the Fulton County Jail - October 19, 2021 at 09:48 PM

JH

“ He will really be missed. He was a great coworker and friend. Our prayers go out to Billie and family.

Jerry Huffman - October 19, 2021 at 09:27 PM

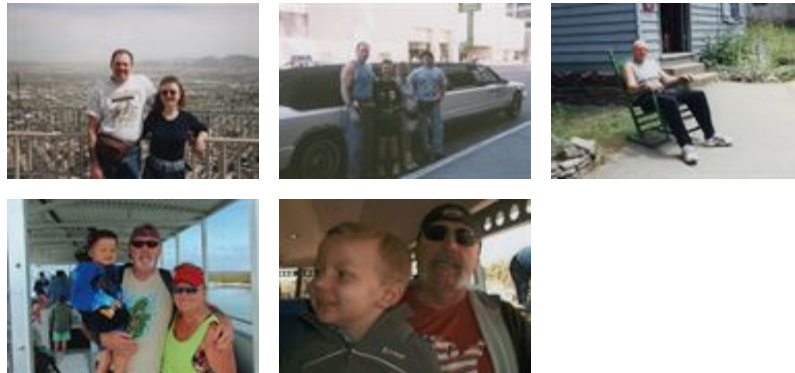
NB

“ I worked with Joe for many years at the 122FW and knew him as a kind, gentle man who could always be trusted to do the right thing. He was always so proud of his family. Praying for you all!

Nancy and Brian Buck - October 19, 2021 at 09:01 PM



“ 85 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Hartzler Funeral Services - October 19, 2021 at 06:45 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William Joe Risner.*



October 19, 2021 at 06:38 PM



“ *Sending prayers to Billie and family. Had the honor of serving with Willie Joe for 14 years at the 122nd FW and deployed locations. Always a smile and positive attitude. Rest In Peace Brother. Adam Fretz*

Adam Fretz - October 19, 2021 at 12:40 PM

DW

“ Dennis and Marty Wolfe purchased the Memorial Honor Blanket for the family of William Joe Risner.



Dennis and Marty Wolfe - October 19, 2021 at 11:18 AM

FR

“ Our prayers are with the family at this time, I worked along side Joe in the 122nd for many years before my retirement and we shared many stories and good times together.

Frank & Linda Ratcliffe
Zanesville, In

Frank Woodrow Ratcliffe - October 19, 2021 at 10:39 AM

ST

“ Sara Thompson lit a candle in memory of William Joe Risner



Sara Thompson - October 18, 2021 at 10:24 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Joe Risner.



October 18, 2021 at 03:31 PM

EL

“ *Ellen lit a candle in memory of William Joe Risner*



Ellen - October 18, 2021 at 02:56 PM

JW

“ *Judy Walgamuth lit a candle in memory of William Joe Risner*



Judy Walgamuth - October 17, 2021 at 06:49 PM