



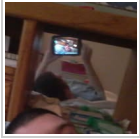
John Paul Friel

June 28, 1934 - October 8, 2022

John Paul Friel, age 88, of Gary, passed away on Saturday, October 8, 2022, while in hospice care at the Residences at Coffee Creek in Chesterton, Indiana. He was a lifelong resident of Gary, IN. John was a graduate of Emerson High School in Gary. In 1956 he completed his Bachelor of Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame. While at the University of Notre Dame he lettered in Fencing and participated in the Notre Dame marching band. After graduating from Notre Dame, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a pilot. John received a Master's degree in education from Indiana University. In 1974 he received a Juris Doctorate Degree from Valparaiso University. In 1958, he became a teacher in the Gary Community School Corporation. As a teacher, John took an active leadership role in the Gary Teachers Union, Local #4, and was proud of his contributions to improvement of the working conditions for teachers within the Gary Community Schools. From 1974, until his retirement in 2020, he was a practicing attorney. John founded the law firm of Friel & Friel Attorneys at Law P.C. which specialized in the representation of public school corporations as labor relations attorneys. John was proud to achieve over forty (40) years of sobriety, during which time he dedicated himself to helping numerous others achieve sobriety through several chapters of the A.A. program. On October 3, 1959, he married Jean Ermine Friel at Notre Dame University. He was married to Jean for 52 years until her passing on August 15, 2011. John was preceded in death by his wife, Jean and his daughter, Eileen Gray. He is survived by his two children: Daniel (Christine)

Friel of Chesterton and Julie (Greg) Nichols of Valparaiso. John is survived by 4 grandchildren: Nicholas and Noelle Friel, Zachary and Austin Nichols. The love he had for his family and his four grandchildren was one of the greatest joys of his life. Pursuant to John's wishes, there will be a private service held with his immediate family. Burns Funeral Home (Hobart) entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall



“ John Paul Friel saved my life in my mid 20s I was a bad heroin addict on the street he gave me a place to live and showed me a better way. Thank you JP. I had a job in Miller Indiana at flamingos and got my high-school diploma at portage adult Ed. I met his son once. Reminded me so much of his dad. JP thank u so much

Jim Marcantonio - April 08, 2023 at 02:55 PM



“ Just found this out today. I sat in many, many meetings with Jack. He was loved, he will be missed.

Jake Minhaut - October 23, 2022 at 03:57 PM



Jake Monhaut***

Jake Minhaut - October 23, 2022 at 03:58 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. Mr. Friel was one of the finest teachers I ever encountered. He made us think, not just parrot back dates and names. He made us apply the lessons of history and debate whether generalizations were valid or unsubstantiated. May God grant him eternal joy and peace!

Karen Preston - October 14, 2022 at 08:12 AM



“ My deepest condolences to John's family and friends.

Lou Lindinger - October 12, 2022 at 08:58 AM