



John Bert Hevel

November 13, 1937 - November 25, 2025

John Bert Hevel, age 88, of Hobart, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2025.

He was born on November 13, 1937. John graduated from Pleasant Lake High School in 1956, where he served as Class President. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Ball State University in 1960 and completed his Master's degree at Indiana University.

John dedicated more than 30 years to the Portage Schools, where he worked as a science teacher, Principal, and Director of Transportation. His commitment to education and his students left a lasting impact on the community.

On August 21, 1960, John married Judy Wall, beginning a loving marriage that lasted over 60 years until her passing in 2021. Together they built a life centered on family, faith, and service.

John was an active member of the Hobart Kiwanis and a member of Hobart Presbyterian Church. He was known for his generosity, leadership, and sense of humor. Beyond his professional and community work, John had a unique passion for collecting flashlights, pocketknives, and anything with batteries or a button—a hobby that delighted his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Russell and Ruth Harmon, stepfather; Clarence Harmon, sister; Joyce Hevel, and granddaughter; Reid Tomlinson.

John is survived by his children; James (Debbie) Hevel and Jodie (Ken)

Tomlinson; grandchildren; Ashley (Clint) Freeman, Zac (Hailey) Hevel, and Lane Tomlinson; and great-grandchildren; Mason and Harper Freeman, and Jamie and Hayes Hevel.

The family invites you to join them in Celebrating John's life at Burns Funeral Home, 701 East 7th Street, Hobart. Services will take place on Saturday, December 20, 2025, visitation from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM with a memorial service at 1:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Hobart Food Pantry, 200 S Hobart Rd, Hobart, IN 46342.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 942-1117
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Memorial Service

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Tribute Wall

PL

“ Mr. Havel was my High School Principal. He was a great guy, he put up with so much from my class especially when Animal House came out, I don't remember any parents being called, he just made everyone clean up the cafeteria “food fight!!!” LOL he especially made my senior year the best, class of '79, his last year as a principal, which was the last year of Portage High on Willowcreek Rd. love ya, you will be missed.

Pam Livergood-Mischanko - January 15 at 03:38 PM

DP

“ Mr and Mrs Hevel were wonderful friends to my parents. They were part of a loyal church-based social group including the Deals, the Alansos, the Krseks ... many more ! These friendships sustained my parents. Thank you, Hevel family, for sharing your parents with mine. It made a difference in their happiness. Wishing you peace as you face the ongoing. Darsha Primich Batavia IL

Darsha Primich - December 30, 2025 at 10:11 AM

SB

“ Mr. Hevel was my principal and I truly respected him! He was a wonderful man!

Sharon Johnston Burke - December 19, 2025 at 10:56 AM

JE

“ Our sincere condolences to Jodie and Jim and their families We had a lot of fun together with both Judy and John. We have many happy memories .Love from Judy and Raleigh Enslin

judy enslin - December 15, 2025 at 02:17 PM

JS

“ I first had contact with Mr. Hevel as my freshman biology teacher. Little did I know he would become a mentor and friend. Upon completion of my masters degree in education I was looking for a teaching position. John was the ptincipal of Portage HS. He contacted me to let me know there was going to be an opening and he would like to hire me. I had another offer but ended up coming to Portage. John moved to the central office. I ended up in administration in the Portage schools. He was a positive mentor and example. Thanks John.

Jim Samuel - December 15, 2025 at 08:47 AM

DW

“ Dr. Gary & Major (Ret) Katherine Wilhelm planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Bert Hevel.

Dr. Gary & Major (Ret) Katherine Wilhelm - December 08, 2025 at 10:02 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Bert Hevel.



December 08, 2025 at 10:02 PM

DH

“ So sorry to hear about John. I first met John when we would stop every year on our way to Wyoming for deer hunting . (my Dad was a John also) so his Uncle Walt could spend some time with him . It would be in the middle of the night at the closest rest area on the toll road ! Also, I made sure to talk to John every Pleasant Lake Day !!! Say Hi to Walt and Grace for me ! Dave Harpham

Dave Harpham - December 02, 2025 at 04:51 PM

DH

“ John was my dad's best friend in school and we went to visit them about once a year. As a little girl I thought he and Judy were so much fun. On one of our visits we went into Chicago and went to the museum of science and industry which was so interesting. Then we stopped at a record store and John bought me a 45 record of the Beatles. I cherished that record for so long. I also remember that John and Judy used to come and visit us late on Christmas. I always had to go to bed but I snuck out to make sure that I got a chance to say hello. It's going to be very difficult to tell my dad about John's passing. They were best friends since they were in elementary school.
Diane Swager Hansell

Diane Swager Hansell - December 01, 2025 at 10:31 PM