



## Johnny (JB) Vandameer Burke Jr.

April 28, 1959 - June 8, 2024

Johnny Vandameer (JB) Burke, Jr., age 65, of Merrillville, IN, passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, June 8, 2024. He was born on April 28, 1959, in Charleston, WV, to Johnny V. and Frankie (Tharp) Burke.

John graduated from Merrillville High School in 1977. On August 31, 1985, he married his beloved wife, Barb (Clark) Burke. John was employed for 26 years at Ford Motor Company's Hegewisch Plant beginning on the assembly line and very quickly becoming an apprentice to become a Pipefitter. He retired from Ford on January 1, 2022.

John's journey through life was remarkable. He truly made the most of his retirement, spending his days bowling (7 perfect games), golfing, traveling, and hanging out with family, grandkids, and friends. John was a huge sports fan, passionately supporting the Cubs, da Bears and Notre Dame. He also loved classic country music and enjoyed attending concerts and supporting live local music with Barbie and friends. For decades, John and family have attended Bethel Church & Ministries in Crown Point, IN. John also enjoyed organizing the annual friends and family patio night at the stadium for the Gary SouthShore RailCats. He loved making memories at the annual Cubs' spring training games in Arizona and traveling to away games hoping to watch the Cubs play in every stadium. He cherished Sunday night family dinners at La Carreta Merrillville and hanging out at the Howlin' Mad Marine Corps Tun Tavern, and the Slovak Club.

He was preceded in death by his father, Johnny V. Burke; in-laws, Jim &

Dorothy Clark; stepfather, Danny Cutright; brothers-in-law, Ron Clark, and Bruce Bell; sisters-in-law, Marcia Clark, and Joan Clark.

John is survived by his wife, Barb (Clark) Burke; 2 sons, Austin (Emily) Burke and Addison (Krista) Burke; mother, Frankie (Joe & Family) Burke; 3 brothers: Mike (Martha) Burke, Gregg (Sharon) Burke and Rob (Kathy) Burke; brothers-in-law, Jerry (Susan) Clark, Dave (Tammy) Clark; 2 sisters-in-law, Cathy Bell and Bev (Don) McLain; 6 precious grandchildren: Jameson, Lochlan, Everett, Petal, Paisley and Gatlin; many other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

His absence leaves a void in our hearts, but we take comfort in knowing he is now with Jesus, reunited with his dad and other loved ones who passed before him. John's legacy of love, laughter, and loyalty will live on in the many lives he touched. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. RIP JB.

A memorial visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 12 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 3 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. Rev. Mark Jobe officiating.

Please feel free to wear Cubs, Notre Dame or Bears attire and shorts! There will be no burial services. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's honor to Bethel Church in Crown Point, Howlin' Mad Marine Corps Tun Tavern in Merrillville, or the charity of your choice. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JUN 18. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (cst)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Memorial Service

JUN 18. 3:00 PM (cst)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
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# Tribute Wall

MH

“ *Barb, I am so sorry for your loss. With deepest sympathy to you and your family. May all the wonderful memories help you through this difficult time.*

*All my love!*

*Michaelene Hamang*

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**MICHAELENE M HAMANG** - July 15, 2024 at 10:20 AM

KK

“ *Barb, we're so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Love, Bill and Kathy Kasper*

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**Kathy Kasper** - June 22, 2024 at 01:18 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Service Tribute Video*



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**Burns Funeral Home & Crematory** - June 19, 2024 at 10:29 AM

BB

*What an awesome tribute for John. Thank you to Burns Funeral Home!!*

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**Barb Burke** - June 23, 2024 at 11:09 PM

WO

“ Wendy O. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnny (JB) Vandameer Burke Jr..

Wendy O. - June 17, 2024 at 03:28 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Johnny (JB) Vandameer Burke Jr..



June 17, 2024 at 11:59 AM

LH

“ Jay & I just bowled with JB at Nationals in Las Vegas. He was such a fun loving guy to be around. We send our heartfelt condolences to Barb and the rest of his family and close friends.  
Lisa Harrold & Jay Kaurich

Lisa Harrold - June 15, 2024 at 05:18 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Johnny (JB) Vandameer Burke Jr..



June 14, 2024 at 11:09 AM

RR

“ Barb, Austin, Addison, and family, I was so sorry to hear of Johnny's passing, and my heart goes out to your family. I have so many memories of living across the street at 800 West 79th when I was there with my father, and seeing Johnny on the lawnmower taking such beautiful care of the lawn... his friendly wave hello, and playing volleyball in the backyard. He made the world a more beautiful place in so many ways. I will be praying that you all will find comfort surrounded by those who love you and loved him so very much. Surely his legacy will continue, and his light will always shine. Sending my sincerest condolences to all of you... Chelle Robertson

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**Rochelle Robertson** - June 12, 2024 at 12:33 PM

MV

“ So very sorry for your loss. John was such a kind hearted man always smiling and loving life. Our sincere condolences to his family he will be greatly missed.  
Love Todd and Melinda Victor

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**melinda victoy** - June 12, 2024 at 07:50 AM

JB

“ Sorry for the passing of John. I heard the news announced at the Sunday morning services at Bethel Church. At Ford, his coverall locker was right next to mine so I saw him nearly every morning that I worked. I wore shorts into November, but John wore them all winter long, even in the harshest cold! Funny the memories that stand out. Great Bethel legacy as well, a solid Christian man, and a gentle soul. Our sympathies, The Bowdish Family.

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**Jim Bowdish** - June 12, 2024 at 05:32 AM

SS

“ Steve & Kelly Smith purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Johnny (JB) Vandameer Burke Jr..



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**Steve & Kelly Smith** - June 11, 2024 at 01:12 PM

LH

“ Austin and Addison. So sorry for the loss of your father.

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**Lance Huish** - June 11, 2024 at 11:36 AM

IC

Barb and family so sorry for your loss. May Gods peace and strength surround you through and in this time. 🙏🕊️❤️

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**Iris Cyrus** - June 12, 2024 at 07:19 PM

JG

Sorry for loss

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**James Gourley** - June 16, 2024 at 09:36 AM