



Orell Whitaker

June 23, 1951 - March 15, 2026

Orell Whitaker, age 74, of Merrillville passed away on March 15, 2026. He was born in East Chicago on June 23, 1951. Orell was raised in Gary, Indiana and graduated from Calumet High School, class of 1969.

Orell proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War from 1971- 1972 .He was a certified welder and certified welding instructor at Cleveland Cliffs. Orell retired after 44 years of service in 2013. He was a family man, and his grandkids were his pride and joy. Orell took care of the land he inherited from his parents in Kentucky. He will be remembered as a pillar in his community and his willingness to always help neighbors, friends, and family.

Orell is survived by his wife, Francine Whitaker; daughter, Leslie Whitaker; son, Jason Whitaker; grandsons, William and Tyson Ballard; granddaughter, Taylor Ballard; sisters, Cheryl Denton (Whitaker), Susan Wojihoski (Whitaker), and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Troy Whitaker; mother, Mildred Whitaker (Noblitt); sister, Elinda Whitaker; brother, Alvin Whitaker; nephew, Daniel McConnell; sister, Brenda Markham (Whitaker); brother, Kenon Whitaker.

Memorial visitation will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 2 p.m. until the memorial service at 5 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home and Crematory, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. Rev. Thomas Clark officiating. Please visit Orell's online obituary and guestbook at www.burnsfuneral.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 28. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

MAR 28. 5:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

C(

“ All three of my brothers headed to school. Shined up like new pennies ! Times were tuff back in the days but there was enough love in the family to cover all the things that were lacking. God bless each and every one of them . Love your sister Cheryl



Cheryl Denton (sister) - April 03 at 10:04 AM

MH

“ I am devastated by the events that lead to the loss of our friend. One of the best memories was from 1985 when we were camping, boating, fishing and all the activities that go along with evening campfires.
I'm so sorry, Fran. My hope for you is healing strength and peace of mind.
Much love dear friend.
Margaret Hadarich

Margaret Hadarich - March 30 at 06:39 PM

PC

Fran, I am so sorry for your loss. I think of you often . Call me when you recover. I gave Brandie my phone # 😞

Peggy Goocher Church - April 26 at 10:15 AM

FC

“ From Donna Chalos purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Orell Whitaker.



From Donna Chalos - March 28 at 12:56 AM

DF

“ Davey Beller & the Beller family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Orell Whitaker.



Davey Beller & the Beller family - March 27 at 12:09 PM

LW

“ LeeAnn & John Welker purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Orell Whitaker.



LeeAnn & John Welker - March 27 at 10:26 AM

WS

“ With love, Bella, Liv & Nicole Stevens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Orell Whitaker.

With love, Bella, Liv & Nicole Stevens - March 26 at 03:58 PM

WS

“ With love, Bella, Liv & Nicole Stevens purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Orell Whitaker.



With love, Bella, Liv & Nicole Stevens - March 26 at 03:58 PM

LF

“ Love, Ninfa Mayorga and family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Orell Whitaker.



Love, Ninfa Mayorga and family - March 26 at 11:28 AM

C(

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Denton (sister) - March 26 at 09:59 AM

MO

“ So sorry Whitaker family. You lost a Great man. Praying for you all. 🙏❤️. We all grew up together , never a bad memory of Tootie!! One Halloween at night we were throwing eggs at cars. Didn't know it was Tooties car. He slammed the breaks on. Never did find us. He was very clean with his cars .

Marlene Oliver - March 26 at 09:23 AM

C(

I bet you did run if would of caught you ,you would be working at the Car Washer lol Cheryl lol

Cheryl Denton (sister) - March 27 at 09:44 PM

ET

“ *I am sorry to hear about the passing of Whitaker, please accept my prayers and condolences. This is never a easy thing to go through, but through hard times lean on each other for support. My prayers are with the family at this time.*



Earnest Tyler - March 25 at 10:08 PM

JF

“ *Very sadden about our dear friends passing. One of the most kind, friendly, compassionate, full of laughter person I know. Enjoyed working by his side for 44 years. I will cherish the many memories made. John & Penny Flores*

John and Penny Flores - March 25 at 05:49 PM

LF

“ *Love John and Penny Flores purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Orell Whitaker.*



Love John and Penny Flores - March 25 at 05:32 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Orell Whitaker.*

March 24 at 11:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Orell Whitaker.



March 24 at 11:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Orell Whitaker.

March 24 at 09:46 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Orell Whitaker.



March 24 at 09:46 PM



“ Cheryl Denton purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Orell Whitaker.



Cheryl Denton - March 24 at 09:18 PM

CD

“ Cheryl Denton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Orell Whitaker.

Cheryl Denton - March 24 at 09:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Orell Whitaker.

March 24 at 07:18 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Orell Whitaker.



March 24 at 07:18 PM

SM

“ My uncle was one of the hardest-working and most loving men I've ever known. He taught me how to water ski, and my childhood would not be complete without the memories we made together during those endless summers on Lake Michigan. He was always working, always cleaning, and never complained — not once. I will miss him so terribly. Knowing he is now with Grandpa and Grandma brings me comfort and peace. I love you, Uncle Tootie.



Stephanie Moretz - March 24 at 06:57 PM

AR

*Oh , I love that picture!
Uncle Troy and Grandma Whisker's house.*

Aline Robinson - March 24 at 07:52 PM

AR

“ *I am so sorry and saddened at Orells passing.
My prayers are for peace and comfort for his family.*

I visited Kentucky in September 2024 with my cousin, Martha Ann Depree.

We were going to the cemetery and we were so excited to find Orell at home. (Premium,Ky)

We introduced ourselves!

He is our first cousin but we had never met! He was so happy that we were there. We shared some history's of our families. We had the best time!

He escorted us to the family cemetery.



Aline Robinson - March 24 at 06:23 PM

C(

“ *Orell is my youngest brother and last brother to leave us to soon. My heart is broken with his passing and thats a understatement. He was such a hard worker and very meticulous at everything he touched. He would help anyone that needed it. He will be missed by so many especially me his baby sister . Love you Tootie I made sure you new that as I did all my family members gone before you. See you in our next life God Bless You and keep close . Love Cheryl*

Cheryl Denton (sister) - March 24 at 05:17 PM