



John Yacko

October 10, 1933 - August 1, 2012

John Yacko, age 78 of Hiteman, passed away Wednesday, August 1, 2012, at his home in Hiteman.

John was born October 10, 1933, in Blakesburg, to Andrew and Anna (Yarkosky) Yacko. He attended grade school in Hiteman, and graduated from Albia High School.

John was in the United States Army and later worked at John Morrell and Company for 25 years, retiring in 1973. He also farmed his entire life in Hiteman.

John was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia, American Legion Howard Cessna Post #136, and Knights of Columbus Council #4167. He enjoyed attending parades, listening to country western and polka music, and going to sales. He also loved to travel and would frequently visit the sick and help them any way he could.

John is survived by his sister, Verna Yacko of Albia. He is also survived by a special niece, Connie Hatfield; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

John was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Helen Hazlett and Irene Yacko; and three brothers, Andrew, Peter and Albert Yacko.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 4, 2012, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia, with Fr. Michael E. Volkmer, C.P.P.S. officiating. Burial with military rites provided by the American Legion of Albia, Lovilia and Melrose will be in St. Mary's Cemetery in Albia.

Visitation will open to the public at 11 a.m., Friday, August 3, 2012 at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with John's family present from 5-8 p.m. A rosary will be led at 6 p.m., provided by the Knights of Columbus Council #4167, with a Christian Wake Service beginning at 6:30 p.m., Friday evening at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to St. Mary's Catholic Church or to Knights of Columbus Council #4167.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Yacko*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *John Yacko*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *I have read the other memories of Johnny from those who left them here. They sum him up to the letter. He was always there to lend a helping hand from pulling out neighbors who fell victim to the mud on the Cedar Creek bottoms, filling silo, working cattle, moving cattle up off of the bottoms in time of a coming flood, or chasing said cattle when they decided that the grass was greener on the other side of the fence. He also seemed to always have advice for any topic that I asked him about anyway. I suppose that you could stump him, but I had not found a topic that he couldn't discuss.*

My last memory of Johnny was him assisting me on a mission of mercy as I was reminded of the exact location of a hill side seep and got a tractor and brushcutter stuck. He came over to my family's farm and pulled me out. There he and I shared another of his wisdom giving moments about a job issue I was having. The old neighborhood will never be the same without you, Johnny. Rest in Peace

Jeremy Little - Edgerton, KS - Friend - August 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PI

“ My father and John were cousins. They grew up together and were very close. Some of my fondest memories were visiting or staying out at the Yacko farm, when I was a little girl. I remember John showing me how to milk a cow, and gather eggs. Whenever there was a family event, either in celebration or sadness, John was there. His dedication to family, friends and his faith will be what I remember the most about John.

Patricia (Gasper) Stenzel - Iowa Falls, IA - August 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ When you think of the word "friend" , it is no stretch of the imagination to think of John Yacko as that word in person. I doubt that he ever met anyone that didn't receive a warm smile and friendly laugh. John always had time for people. He would help when there was an illness and the neighbors would get together to assist with farm work, or if he knew that you were working and might just need a hand. I have heard young men say "man, he sure could throw a bale of hay". John Yacko...a kind and caring soul , who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Rest in Peace my friend. Your heavenly home has welcomed a new neighbor. Doris Little

Doris Little - Albia, IA - friend / neighbor - August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JU

“ *God Bless Great Uncle Johnny!*

He used to shop at Aldi's where I worked. Always so cheerful and bubbly. SURE LOVED THOSE GREAT BIG BEAR HUGS!

Those overalls were certainly his trademark.

Johnny we miss you already. You'll be in our hearts forever.

Love,

Jill & Jimmy Hatfield

Jill Hatfield - Ottumwa, IA - He was my husband's great uncle - August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Johnny will be missed by all who knew him or simply met him once. He made a lasting impression. It is my loss that I did not take more time to make it back to Hiteman to visit with him.*

Poofa

Bob Blackburn - Ankeny, IA - Friend - August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *Johnny was a wonderfully kind man to all he met. While I didn't get back to Iowa often to visit my relatives, whenever I did Johnny was always there to greet me and make me feel comfortable. One of my favorite memories was when he took us to the Slovak museum. Even better than our destination was our journey to and from, where we learned so much about the histories of the area, my family, and culture. His friendliness and generosity to all will remain great sources of inspiration to me.*

Thom Gasper, Jr. - Playa Del Rey, CA - 2nd Cousin - August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ John was one of the most loving, caring people in this world. He knew no strangers and was first in line to Help everybody. He watched over both of my parents, Joe & Margaret Evans as they completed life's journey.

I just know St. Peter met him at the gate and invited him immediately inside...no waiting!

He had a big booming voice - he had a huge sense of humor and a huge laugh - he was physically big, - but nothing equaled the size of his heart. From that little farm house, he touched the lives of so many. We love you Johnny - rest in peace.

We are sorry not to be there to share the loss with his family, but especially to Verna...please feel our sympathy and love. You, too, are a fantastic person.

*Love & Hugs,
Joan and Richard Reece*

Joan Reece - Marina Del Rey, CA - 2nd Cousin - August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I have known John my whole life. I grew up neighbors to him, and you could always tell when John entered a room by his laugh. He was always full of life and more than willing to help anyone in need. He will be missed by all that knew him. Rest in Peace now John.

Jennifer Little - Albia, IA - Friend/Neighbor - August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ John was such a nice person. Our daughter Emily was interested in learning the Czech language he was more than thrilled to teach her some words and tell her about our families heritage. Both sets of eyes lit up as the information was being shared between the two generations. I wish we could have gotten together more to share stories from the old country as these stories fade away. Rest in Peace my friend and we see you on the other side.
Dennis, Mim, Adam and Emily Kurimski

Mim Kurimski - Melrose, IA - friend - August 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ John was the nicest, most friendly person you could ever meet. I don't think he ever knew a stranger. He was one of the last living links to the Slovak families who came from Europe to Monroe, Mahaska, and Wapello counties to work in the coal mines and then moved on to farming. He was one of the last people in the area who could speak Slovak. Last summer, I introduced him to a young woman who wanted to learn to speak Slovak. I think that we all learned a few words of Slovak that day. He told me stories about all of our family connections. One was a story of how he and his cousin, George Gasper, had driven to Detroit MI to visit George's cousin, Leona Gasper Gergely and my Uncle Steve Gergely. John will be greatly missed on Earth, but I'm sure that he's having a wonderful time in heaven!

Rita Gergely - Albia , IA - Slovak friend - August 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I HAVE KNOWN JOHN ALL MY LIFE, AND MY HUSBAND HAS KNOWN JOHN SINCE HE AND I WERE MARRIED. JOHN WAS A GOOD NEIGHBOR, A GREAT FRIEND AND IT WAS A PLEASURE TO HAVE KNOWN HIM. IN THIS WORLD OF REALLY TRAGIC HAPPENINGS WE COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON JOHN TO BE STEADFAST AS A FRIEND, NEIGHBOR TO MY FAMILY AND JUST AN ALL AROUND GOOD GUY. WE WILL MISS HIM, BUT WE KNOW HE NOW RESTS WITH PERPETUA; LIGHT UPON HIM..

KATHRYN M MELLECKER, AND ROBERT J MELLECKER - RIVERSIDE, IA - NEIGHBOR, FRIEND - August 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM