



John Thomas Kailing

JAN 6, 1949 - DEC 7, 2022



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REED CITY - John T. Kailing, 73, of Reed City, passed away peacefully on December 7, 2022, after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

He was born January 6, 1949, in Reed City, MI, the son of Theodore and Jane (Deacey) Kailing, and graduated from Reed City High School in 1967. Following graduation, John became an electric lineman where he would tragically lose his hands as a result of an industrial accident. John was famously undaunted by his handicap and continued working (and playing) hard throughout his life. He was a "jack of all trades", dabbling in heavy equipment, farming, and ultimately owning and running two small businesses in the Reed City area.

Despite his disability, John loved darts, bowling, tennis, golf, hunting, fishing, and playing cards. He designed many of the gadgets and modifications that were necessary for him to enjoy his hobbies. He was actively involved in the AmVets and the Reed City VFW and was a member of the Paris Snowmobile Club and the Moose. John was affectionately known to be a "cat with nine lives" and a teller of tall tales.

John was predeceased by his parents, Theodore and Jane Kailing. Surviving in addition to his loving wife, Judy (McCain) Kailing are his children, Amanda (Kailing) Grant, Marcy (Kailing) Walston, Matt Kailing, Nate Kailing, Brandon Couture, and Becky Couture; grandchildren, Claudia, Nicole, Jonathan (Drea), Joshua, Cody, Connor, Ariel, Savana, Peyton, and Jagger; great grandkids Levi and Xoe; his siblings, Mary Lou (Tom) Swincicki, Linda (Wes) Frisbey, Jean Ann (Marvin) Sakakihara, Marcia (Ron) Tripp, Debora McGillivray, Steven Kailing, and Cindy (John) Kirby; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

John's family will be celebrating his life at a later date. There will be no funeral services. In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions in John's name to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) or Hospice of Michigan (www.hom.org).



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Care and arrangements are entrusted to the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids.
Share a memory or express condolences at mohnkefuneralhome.com.



Tribute Wall

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CS

Cris Ward Shearer posted:

We are so sorry to hear of John's passing. We are thinking about you during this difficult time. He is with the Lord and this is all that matters.

December 17 at 8:00 PM

LT

Laurie (Beasley) Thiel posted:

My parents bought the Kailing farm in 1972. John decided to take on the job of teaching me to drive. He drove out to the old hayfield and we switched places. I got ready and asked if he was going to shut the door. He said "no, I might have to jump out!

December 15 at 8:00 PM

LL

Luke And Lisa Lenahan posted:

John you were a joy to be around and will be greatly missed - Luke and I remember going to the U P with you and Judy and when we went out to eat you told the waitress you were skipping dinner because you were the designated driver:) It was classic John!

December 14 at 8:00 PM

SG

Sue & Fran Gallaway posted:

John you will surely be missed. You were an awesome guy to know:) God bless all of your family that will be telling John stories for years:) ♥

December 14 at 8:00 PM

HE

Heather Ellison lit a candle in honor of John.

I will always carry fond memories of my Uncle John. We always looked forward to our visits with him - gator rides in the woods, fishing in the pond, cards at night. He was always quick with a joke and great fun to be around. He will be missed by so many.



December 14 at 8:00 PM



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GG

Gary & Janalee Graham posted:

Condolences to John's family, may you find peace and understanding. I remember John from the tractor pulls in Hawkins.

December 13 at 8:00 PM

LP

Larry M Pion lit a candle in honor of John.

To John's family, so sorry for your loss, John was a classmate of mine at Reed City High School class of 67. May the good Lord be with you in your time of need and in the following days R.I.P. John



December 13 at 8:00 PM

JW

Jackie Fallat - Wright lit a candle in honor of John.

Blessings to Johns family. He was a bigger than life, open hearted friend. He knew he was loved and admired. May peace be with you all. ❤️ RIP. Jackie



December 13 at 8:00 PM

TH

Tracy Hatchew posted:

Judy & Family - I am so very sorry to hear of John's passing. You will be in my prayers. May the memories of good times heal your broken hearts!

December 13 at 8:00 PM

KW

Kathy Weck posted:

I still remember the assembly line of blanching many bushels of corn and then freezing them for John and our family. Johns hooks worked great for getting the corn out of the boiling water. Also the Many times of playing cards at Ruth and Wayne's as well.

December 13 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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