



John Edinger

January 7, 1932 - August 24, 2020

A private Mass of Christian burial for John Edinger of Wadena will be celebrated with his family at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena, with Father Arlie Sowada as celebrant.

A public no-contact drive-by of condolences will be held on Friday, August 28, from 11:00 until 11:30 a.m. at the Calvary Cemetery in Wadena.

John, age 88, passed away surrounded by his family early on August 24, 2020, at his home in Wadena, MN, with compassionate support provided by Knute Nelson Hospice.

John Leo Edinger was born to Leo and Rose (Pitzl) Edinger on January 7, 1932, in Wadena, MN. He attended St. Ann's Parochial School through the eighth grade and attended Wadena High School where he competed in high school sports and graduated with the Class of 1950. He served as a Corporal in the US Army during the Korean Conflict from September 1950 until his honorable discharge in May 1952.

John was united in marriage with Catherine Louise Kepner on December 28, 1960, in Clontarf, MN. They made their home in Wadena where John worked as an insurance agent. Lifelong passions included hunting, fishing, and community service. He was a Firearms Safety Instructor, member of the Elks

Lodge, Jaycees, Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, Lions, Wadena City Council, Wadena Fire Department, Wadena Parks and Recreation Board and Wadena Baseball Association, along with Knob Hill Sportsman's Club, MN Deer Hunters Association, the Ottertail Rod and Gun Club, and was an avid supporter of Wadena-Deer Creek High School athletic teams. He was a life-long member of St. Ann's Church, serving as an usher for many years.

Preceding John in death were his parents Leo and Rose; son-in-law Tom Myers; and brother-in-law Captain William Koch USN (Ret).

Memories of John will be held dear by his wife Cathy of Wadena; children Tim (Sarah) Edinger of Nisswa, Mary (Mark) Myers-Reinarts of Hutchinson, and Diane (Jason) Brickley of Duluth; nine grandchildren; and sister Rosemary Koch of Mount Pleasant, SC; and a host of neighbors and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be his grandchildren, Jack Myers, Luke Myers, Sam Brickley, Josie Myers, Lauren Brickley, Blaise Edinger, Tyler Reinarts, Claire Brickley and Tori Edinger.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

Military honors provided by the Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wadena, MN.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials be directed to the Wadena Fire Department, MN Deer Hunters Association-Youth Education, and Knute Nelson Hospice.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Franklin Dr. & 6th St SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Drive-By of Condolences

AUG 28. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Calvary Cemetery
Franklin Dr. & 6th St SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of John Edinger*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - August 27, 2020 at 02:28 PM

TG

“ *Thomas Gerszewski lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Thomas Gerszewski - October 08, 2020 at 11:34 AM

BP

“ *Barry & Sandi Pratt lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Barry & Sandi Pratt - August 31, 2020 at 12:22 PM

CU

“ *Cindy Umland lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Cindy Umland - August 31, 2020 at 04:36 AM

GW

“ *Glen Donna Wood lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Glen Donna Wood - August 30, 2020 at 10:52 AM

LO

“ *Played softball for the Edinger Insurance team back in the 60's. I was just out of high school and remember fondly the lessons I learned from John and the rest of those "old timers". RIP John.*

Lee Overmoen - August 29, 2020 at 01:33 AM

RG

“ *Rick Grewe lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Rick Grewe - August 28, 2020 at 09:41 PM

LG

“ Cathy and family. I was saddened to hear of the passing of one of Wadena's greatest assets. I have known John since he was in grade school and even remember his father's meat market. I didn't see John often, as I didn't come to Wadena that often, whenever I met him he always had a great smile handshake and greeting. I came many years to Minnesota deer hunters and he always sent me notice and was on top of everything concerned. I also was aware of all his contributions to all aspects of Wadena life, his church, sports, social and civil organizations of the community. It appeared to me that all of his time was in one way or other contributing to the improvement of Wadena. He was a real ambassador and much unrecognized for all of the goodwill he was doing. I think of him as "Mr. Wadena". He will be greatly missed and un-replaceable. May he Rest in Peace and enjoy his Eternal Reward. Larry Gallagher MD.



Larry J Gallagher - August 28, 2020 at 03:49 PM

DG

“ Duane And Jan Guck lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Duane and Jan Guck - August 28, 2020 at 03:05 PM

SF

“ SANDY FRENCH lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



SANDY FRENCH - August 28, 2020 at 11:13 AM

ML

“ *Tim, Sarah, Blaise, and Tori:*
We are sorry for your family's loss and hope you're able to find comfort and peace in your happy memories and also by knowing you're in our family's thoughts and prayers.
With love,
Steve, Melissa, Madison and Connor Lund

Melissa Lund - August 28, 2020 at 09:27 AM

MS

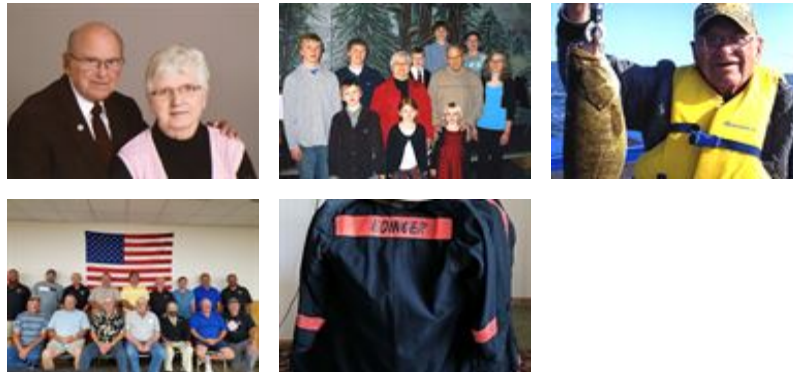
“ *Mike And Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Mike and Lea Snyder - August 27, 2020 at 04:36 PM



“ *51 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - August 27, 2020 at 02:20 PM

JJ

“ *Jon And Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Jon and Patty Johnson - August 27, 2020 at 07:50 AM

DL

“ *Dan & Melissa Lawson lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Dan & Melissa Lawson - August 26, 2020 at 09:37 PM

MP

“ *Morris And Karen Priebe lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Morris and Karen Priebe - August 26, 2020 at 06:42 PM

JS

“ *Jill Stevens-Becker lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Jill Stevens-Becker - August 26, 2020 at 06:41 PM

WD

“ *Wadena Fire Department lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Wadena Fire Department - August 26, 2020 at 06:32 PM

DP

“ *To Tim and family, my family's sincere condolences. Many memories of growing up in Wadena somehow seem to involve John, he was involved in almost everything it seems. A true servant to his family, his country and his community. His contributions will not be soon forgotten.*

David Palloch

David Palloch - August 26, 2020 at 06:07 PM

LW

“ *Our heartfelt sympathy to the whole family. May your many memories together hold John in your hearts forever. May God keep you all safe and hold you in HIS loving embrace..*



Len and Sally Siegler of Wadena - August 26, 2020 at 03:59 PM

SL

“ When my parents, Jerry and Mary Jane Knuttila, moved to Wadena it was John that welcomed my Dad to the community. They became good friends and John got my Dad involved with the Chiefs Baseball Association and my Dad became President. John was who gave me gun training and later in years I sat on the Summer Rec Board with him for many years. John was an unbelievable man. He was such an integral part of the community. Just reading all of the organizations he was involved with is beyond impressive. Every time that I was blessed to see him he always had a smile and was so very kind. I find solace and it makes me smile knowing that John and my Dad are once again sharing jokes and reminiscing about their times hunting, fishing and their friendship. It pains me that this wonderful, kind, giving and amazing man isn't getting the huge celebration of his life that he so justly deserves. The community of Wadena has lost one of its most prized citizens. Scott and I are so very sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. God's Blessings to you.

Scott and Peggy Loween

Scott and Peggy Loween - August 26, 2020 at 01:56 PM

MT

“ Missy Tabery lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Missy Tabery - August 26, 2020 at 09:34 AM

MA

“ *MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS ASSOCIATION purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Edinger.*



MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS ASSOCIATION - August 26, 2020 at 09:20 AM

JT

“ *So very sorry to hear of Johns passing our hearts are with you! John was a Wadena legend and will be missed.*

Jim and Vickie Thompson - August 25, 2020 at 11:46 PM

MH

“ *Marjorie And Harry Harrison lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Marjorie and Harry Harrison - August 25, 2020 at 11:30 PM

GL

“ *Gary And Lois Lawson lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Gary and Lois Lawson - August 25, 2020 at 11:25 PM

CA

“ RIP John. Thoughts and prayers Cathy, Tim, Mary, Diane and families. He will certainly be missed.



Cindy Anderson - August 25, 2020 at 10:06 PM

DS

“ Dan And Deb Sweere lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Dan and Deb Sweere - August 25, 2020 at 09:57 PM

JB

“ Jack & Lucille Belch lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Jack & Lucille Belch - August 25, 2020 at 07:58 PM

MS

“ John was truly a "Man about Town"! Our daughter once accused me of hiring him to keep an eye on her. Of course, I agreed with her since she was a teenager at the time and I could use all the leverage I could get. John was a great asset to the community and will be truly missed. Our deepest condolences to Cathy and Family.

Mary and Dave Schmidt - August 25, 2020 at 07:49 PM

MP

“ *Morris And Karen Priebe lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Morris and Karen Priebe - August 25, 2020 at 07:09 PM

AB

“ *Alan Bielema lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Alan Bielema - August 25, 2020 at 05:02 PM

SS

“ *Tim and family - I'm so sorry to hear of John's passing. He was such a Wadena High School sports fan - and he also supported the Sapphire band - I don't think he missed one time Sapphire was at the Elks. Tim - I'll always remember the look your dad gave us when we were coming up with some of our hair brained schemes, like riding snowmobile to Deer Creek for pizza. He knew - he knew we'd barely make it - and he was right!*

Steven Stromberg - August 25, 2020 at 04:48 PM

DS

“ *I think most would agree we could use the term "Wadena Icon" to describe Mr. Edinger. My sincere condolences to the Edinger family.*

Doug Stromberg - August 25, 2020 at 04:40 PM

SM

“ Sue And Scott McDonald lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Sue and Scott McDonald - August 25, 2020 at 03:22 PM

DO

“ Doug And Joan Ostlund lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Doug and Joan Ostlund - August 25, 2020 at 01:39 PM

JK

“ John left a voicemail a few months ago letting me know he'd be dropping by with the seed we had ordered from MDHA. He said "Brunsy (my maiden name from 20 years ago) I'll be at your house in a little bit with your deer hunters seed - don't be alarmed!" LOL! Blessed be his memory.

Jessica Keddy - August 25, 2020 at 01:09 PM

SS

“ Dear Aunt Catherine, Tim, Mary and Diane,
I am sending my love and deepest sympathy to you all. I will treasure so many wonderful memories of Uncle John during our growing-up years and our many family visits and gatherings. Uncle John was fun and funny, and I was always aware of his good works in all of his volunteer activities. I am thinking of you all, and wishing you peace and comfort. Rest in Peace, Uncle John.
Susan

Susan Schmidgall - August 25, 2020 at 01:07 PM

SW

“ Steve & Ellen Wallgren sent a virtual gift in memory of John Edinger



Steve & Ellen Wallgren - August 25, 2020 at 01:01 PM

SW

John was one of a kind. He will be missed by many. May he rest in peace.

Steve & Ellen Wallgren - August 25, 2020 at 01:02 PM

TK

“ Sending love, hugs and prayers to all of you during this time! Tammie (Klawitter) Hamlin and family



Tammie Klawitter - August 25, 2020 at 12:41 PM

MB

“ John was a friend to our family. He always had a word about our activity in school sports, a sense of humor that I did not appreciate until I was in my late 20's. I am thankful for having him as a neighbor growing up. Mark Beckel , Dade City, FL.

Mark Beckel - August 25, 2020 at 12:35 PM

WL

“ Wadena Library lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Wadena Library - August 25, 2020 at 12:15 PM

SN

“ So many memories.....so many stories..... so many laughs.....too many to recount here.....John was truly a legend to all who knew him. Amateur baseball, fast-pitch softball, high school sports, Knob Hill Sportsman's Club, fire department, City Council, St. Ann's Church, rec board and on and on. They all were better because "Dinger" was always there to sponsor, teach, usher, serve as a board member or just be a cheerleader. Over the years how many miles did John put on his car, just in the city limits of Wadena, checking out what was going on? How many of us did he call a woodpecker nearly every time we saw him? Heaven better be ready, because the volunteer of the century just showed up to keep everyone on their toes. Rest in peace, John. You've made the world a better place.



Steve Nelson - August 25, 2020 at 12:06 PM

SL

*Wonderful and perfect tribute.
Peggy Loween*

Scott and Peggy Loween - August 26, 2020 at 02:00 PM

JS

“ *Jim & Tracey Stoneman lit a candle in
memory of John Edinger*



Jim & Tracey Stoneman - August 25, 2020 at 12:04 PM

CS

“ *Char Schloeder lit a candle in memory of
John Edinger*



Char Schloeder - August 25, 2020 at 11:24 AM

BL

“ *Betty Lipinski lit a candle in memory of John
Edinger*



Betty Lipinski - August 25, 2020 at 11:01 AM



“ Alan Schumacher lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Alan Schumacher - August 25, 2020 at 10:18 AM



“ John belonged to Otter Tail Rod and Gun when we were members, and was always fun to visit with. He was very active and willing to do what was asked of him in any project the club was doing. He will be missed by many. RIP John. Rog and Gloria Setterholm



gloria setterholm - August 25, 2020 at 10:06 AM



“ Kathy and family, John was truly a super guy. Always quick witted. Always able to have fun. I will miss when he called me sunshine. God needed a worker up there to help with getting things done. John was terrific in accomplishing the many deeds such as managing Deer Hunting banquets. He will be missed very much. I pray God will help you all through this time and bless you with comfort and peace. You have many great memories to help you. And as our Lord and Savior promised, we will be together again. Peace and our deepest sympathy's at your loss. Jay, Jackie, Jacob and Jayson.



jay Perius - August 25, 2020 at 10:05 AM

JD

“ *Jerry/Janice Denny lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



Jerry/Janice Denny - August 25, 2020 at 10:02 AM

GS

“ *Gloria Setterholm lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



gloria setterholm - August 25, 2020 at 09:57 AM

M#

“ *John was a very active member in Wadena Elks Lodge #2386 and held many positions. John was a Charter Member for 53 years. He will always be remembered by the members of Wadena Lodge #2386.*

Members of Wadena Lodge #2386 - August 25, 2020 at 09:31 AM

DR

“ *David & Barb Rousslang lit a candle in memory of John Edinger*



david & barb rousslang - August 25, 2020 at 08:44 AM

JH

“ Jay Hutson lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Jay Hutson - August 25, 2020 at 08:21 AM

EL

“ Our sincerest sympathy Cathy and family. Paul and Elaine Lorentz

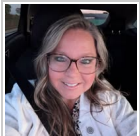
Elaine C Lorentz - August 25, 2020 at 08:20 AM

DG

“ Dee Goerge lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Dee Goerge - August 25, 2020 at 08:16 AM



“ Diane and rest of family...I am so very saddened to hear the news about your Dad. He was the sweetest man who always made us laugh whenever we visited. His gentle spirit, kind smile, and support at all the football and basketball games are times I will always remember. Please know I am sending you hugs from afar! I would come to Wadena for the service if I could...Unfortunately we are having a Celebration of Life for my mother-in-law this weekend as well. Feel free to reach out to me at any time. My heart is breaking for you! Love always, Lisa (Winkels) Beuning

Lisa Winkels Beuning - August 25, 2020 at 12:26 AM

DW

“ Dave And Lynda Wosmek lit a candle in memory of John Edinger



Dave and Lynda Wosmek - August 24, 2020 at 11:08 PM

MF

“ Cathy and family— I'm so sorry to hear about John's passing. RIP John~~~Marie Fraune



Marie Fraune - August 24, 2020 at 10:14 PM



“ I only knew John through MDHA and was always a very funny guy I'm gonna miss him at every MDHA there is. May he rest in peace

Scott Kern - August 24, 2020 at 09:16 PM

RB

“ Cathy and Family;
Our deepest sympathies for your loss. John was such an inspiration on the Wadena Fire Dept.
He made us firemen tow the line through transitional times, made it fun, and made us proud to be firemen. It was an honor to serve with John and to be with him on his final run last Monday.
Rest in Peace Chief.
Ray and Dorothy Beyer



Ray and Dorothy Beyer - August 24, 2020 at 09:13 PM

JS

“ *Tim and family,*

We are sending love to you all as you mourn the passing of your dad. The right words are always difficult to find, but know that you are all in our prayers. May precious memories bring you peace in the days ahead.

Love from Jay, Brenda, Drew, Ethan Sannes

Jay Sannes - August 24, 2020 at 08:13 PM