



# John Charles Goodbrake

MAY 29, 1936 - AUG 23, 2016



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## **John Charles Goodbrake**

MAY 29, 1936 - AUG 23, 2016

**D**ecatur – John Charles Goodbrake, 80, of Decatur passed away on Tuesday August 23, 2016, after a 19 year battle with Leukemia.

John was born on May 29, 1936, in Decatur, the son of John R. and Virginia E. (Rollinger) Goodbrake. He married Betty R. West in Clinton, IL on April 30, 1953. Mr. Goodbrake was employed for 30 years in the Railroad Industry. He was a yard clerk for the Illinois Central Railroad, freight agent for Pennsylvania and Conrail Railroad., terminal superintendent for the Wabash Valley Railroad, as well as trainmaster for Illinois Terminal railroad and superintendent of transportation for Prairie Central Railroad.

After retirement, he worked 15 years in the auto industry for Perry Thomas/Bob Ridings Lincoln-Mercury in Decatur. He and his wife owned 2 businesses during their life together; Goodbrakes's Tropical Fish and Goodbrake's Roofing and Fence Co. His many interests included miniature train, plane modeling and World War II history. He and Betty enjoyed many vacations together, including two Hawaiian vacations. They've been avid campers at Arrowhead campground and for a number of years wintered on the coast of South Texas at Rockport which he had fond memories of calling Bingo at Circle W Ranch.

The family would like to thank Dr. Estrada-Garcia and her staff for the outstanding care John received. He had much affection for those at the Cancer Care Center. Also, would like to thank Symphony of Decatur Second Floor and all the staff for their kindness and loving care John received towards the end of his life. He felt safe there and didn't want to go anywhere else.

Surviving are his wife Betty; son, Richard Goodbrake (Vickey) of Decatur; daughters, Anita "Kay" Georgeson (Tom) of Elgin; Barbara Welch (Rich) of Decatur; Deb Mitchell (Kevin) of Decatur; brothers, dale Goodbrake (Sandy) of Cotter, AR; Ronald Goodbrake (Billie) of Terrell, TX; Mary Lou echart of Decatur; 10 grandchildren, 12



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great-grandchildren and 2 on the way; step-sisters, Rose Crane (Jack) and Dorothy Burnett (James) ; step-brother, Bobby Rollinger; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son, Mark Goodbrake, brother, James Goodbrake, step-sisters, Sarah Burroughs and Helen Pullins, and one granddaughter, Michelle Czerechowicz

Funeral service to celebrate John's life will be 10 AM Tuesday, August 30, 2016, in Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home with Pastor Steve Cecil. Visitation will be 5-7 PM Monday in the funeral home. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Westside Church of the Nazarene, 788 N. Sunnyside Road Decatur, IL 62522.

The family of John Charles Goodbrake is being served by Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur, IL. Send condolences to the family at [www.gracelandfairlawn.com](http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com).

Video Tribute for John Charles Goodbrake:

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/DSZ7MRTSP2R8ZGNT>



## Tribute Wall

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JD

**Joyce Davis** posted:

We will always remember John, who we know as Sonny, for his smile and as a man who spoke with such love and pride about his wife and family. I remember John taking our kids through the Tropical Fish store and I thought they would drive him crazy with their questions, but he was so patient with them! We laughed so much as we all shared many late night card games in those days! During the last two years I heard many stories about John from Dean, who loved John like a brother. Dean's favorite was when they went dirt-biking in Indiana. First time up a tall hill, John crashed and he was done with dirt-biking! John was brave in his fight against leukemia! Most would say he lost that battle, but I think the 19 years made him a winner! Rest in peace, John.

August 29 at 8:08 AM

BW

**Barbie Welch** posted:

Lit a candle in memory of John Charles Goodbrake

August 28 at 4:29 PM

JV

**Jen Vitacco** posted:

Love you Grandpa. I know you are at peace. You will forever be in our hearts and will live on in future generations. R.I.P. 🇺🇸

August 28 at 1:26 PM

JV

**Jen Vitacco** posted:

I have so many memories of time spent with my Grandfather. His nickname for me was "my little Jenabee." I spent so much time with him and Grandma when I was young. I will never forget sleepovers, watching Love Boat and Fantasy Island. All the camping trips we went on. I love you Grandpa! I know you are at peace now and no longer suffering. You will always be with us in our hearts and will forever live on in future generations. R.I.P. Grandpa 🇺🇸 🇺🇸

August 28 at 12:04 PM

JC

**Julie Cox Lpn** posted:

so sorry for your loss

August 28 at 9:41 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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