



## John Harland Blabaum

April 23, 1956 - March 27, 2025

Dodgeville – John Harland Blabaum, age 68, of Dodgeville, WI, passed away on March 27, 2025, at UW Hospital, surrounded by his family, following a long struggle with congestive heart failure.

Born on April 23, 1956, in Dodgeville to Beauford and Mildred (James) Blabaum. He grew up with two brothers and kept his parents on their toes. John enjoyed farming alongside his grandpa and uncles and developed a love for working on cars. He graduated from Dodgeville High School in 1974, attended Fennimore Vocational School, and then enlisted in the Army, where he served in the Army Reserves.

John married Marilyn Ruppert in 1978, and together they raised three children: Janean, Eric, and Brad. Over the years, John worked in a variety of fields, including as a mechanic at Ladd Implement and Hennessey Implement, and briefly at Dodgeville Agri Service. He and Marilyn created countless memories while farming for 25 years where John particularly enjoyed milking his jersey cows and driving his Ford tractors. During his farming years, he also volunteered as an EMT and worked as an emergency room tech at Upland Hills Health.

In 1999, John changed careers and pursued nursing, attending Nursing School and later working at Upland Hills Health, St. Mary's Hospital, UW

Hospital, and Dean Health Clinic. Known for his easy smile, sense of humor, and mischievous spirit, John was beloved by both his patients and co-workers.

John had a passion for both creating and savoring delicious food, finding joy in every bite. He enjoyed working on his John Deere tractor, driving his red Ford truck, and spending time golfing and bowling with his family and friends. He also cherished family breakfasts, watching western shows, and stopping by Dodgeville Agri Service for a cup of coffee.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn (Ruppert) Blabaum; children Janean (Ryan) Marr, Eric (Pam) Blabaum, Brad (Mary) Blabaum; grandchildren Mason Marr and Beau Blabaum; parents Beauford and Mildred Blabaum; brothers Jim (Patti) Blabaum and Mark (Ange) Blabaum; In-laws Norma (Galen) Baker, Ken (Karin) Ruppert, Jean (Scott) Halvorson, Phil Ruppert, Annette Maybaum; along with many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

He is preceded in death by his in-laws Ernest and Delores Ruppert and brother-in-law Rusty Maybaum.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:30 am on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH in Dodgeville, WI. Luncheon immediately following at the school. A visitation will be held from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at GORGEN-McGINLEY & AYERS FUNERAL HOME in Dodgeville and from 10:00 am to 11:20 am on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at the church.

The family offers a sincere thank you to the members of his care team. All the love and care you provided was greatly appreciated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be donated to The American Heart

Association.

Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home

[www.gorgenfh.com](http://www.gorgenfh.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home  
400 East Grace Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533  
(608) 935-5222  
gorgenfh@mhtc.net

## Visitation

APR 3. 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
405 S. Dacotah Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR 3. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
405 S. Dacotah Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

# Tribute Wall

BR

“ I was a colleague of John’s when he worked at UW in the VAD program. What I remember best about John was his kindness and infectious smile. To his family and friends please accept my deepest sympathies. I am grateful to have known John. He touched many lives including mine and I am grateful to have known him.

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**Becky Rakocy** - April 03, 2025 at 01:59 PM

AH

“ Sorry for your loss.  
I first met John as a large animal veterinarian when he was milking cows. He was always happy and in a good mood. Through his kids and family, we have kept in touch.  
No words can even come close to expressing how it feels when you lose someone you love. Hope you know you are being thought of with friendship and caring.

*Alan and Jamie Holter*

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**Alan and Jamie Holter** - April 01, 2025 at 04:35 PM

WL

“ Marilyn Janean Eric and Brad,  
So Sorry for your loss.  
Seems like everything in John's world was a smile shared. Cheerful in storming weather, never shirked a task and landed a hand where needed. Saw him in Ladds shop, with his Jerseys , throwing bowling balls and cheering up people.  
I am certain you'll want him here at times but His joy with his SAavior and others who pasted the Heavenly gates before him will keep him company till ya all join him in the circle in the Sky!

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**Wayne Lipska** - April 01, 2025 at 03:52 PM

KY

“ I have been so sad to hear of the loss of John. His family is in my thoughts and prayers. I worked with him at UW hospital. He was working tirelessly in the VAD program and I was in the device clinic. We shared many patients in their care. He always put his patients and their families care first.  
As a coworker he was so reliable /knowledgeable and on a personal note -Witty -funny and kind! The best smile!  
My heart is sad but he is no doubt with the Lord and smiling-healthy again! Hugs!  
Kimberly Young

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**Kimberly Young** - April 01, 2025 at 11:38 AM

FR

“ To John's Family. So sorry to hear of his death. I was fortunate to have worked with him at UHH. He in ER and I in the lab. When he brought stuff into the lab, I always saw a big smile and a joke or witty comment. Always a ray of light. I watched his career in nursing grow. He was a hard worker for his patients, community and his coworkers. One of those people you feel blessed to work with.  
Grieving and celebrating a wonderful person!

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**Francine Rask** - April 01, 2025 at 08:46 AM

JM

“ Sorry to read your heartfelt and loving loss of John. Wishing you all strength and peace as you will remember him always. Rely on God's comfort and peace.

*John T. Matthias - Today March 31 at 11:00 A.M.*

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**John T. Matthias** - March 31, 2025 at 03:34 PM

VB

“ Sam and Vonita Brown will not be able to attend the funeral. In lieu of we are setting the funeral hour aside to pray for God’s comfort and peace as you send John off to his heavenly father.

Vonita Brown - March 30, 2025 at 06:18 PM

MM

“ Megan and Meredith purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Harland Blabaum.



Megan and Meredith - March 30, 2025 at 11:39 AM

CD

“ Our deepest condolences during this time of loss. We hope you are given comfort and peace through the love and care of others, and in sweet memories, in the days and weeks ahead.

Cindy & Alan Downs

Cindy Downs - March 30, 2025 at 11:20 AM

JL

“ All the Lindner family offers you a heartfelt and loving loss of John. Wishing you all strength and peace as you will remember him always.

Jane Lindner - March 30, 2025 at 12:02 AM

TL

“ *Too Tall Landscaping LLC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Harland Blabaum.*

Too Tall Landscaping LLC - March 29, 2025 at 10:55 PM

TL

“ *Too Tall Landscaping LLC purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Harland Blabaum.*



Too Tall Landscaping LLC - March 29, 2025 at 10:55 PM

MS

“ *Oh Marilyn and family I am so so sorry. Know you are surround by love and prayers. Hugs. Maribeth Scholz Stivers*

Maribeth Scholz Stivers - March 29, 2025 at 06:34 PM



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

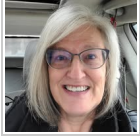
March 29, 2025 at 06:16 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Harland Blabaum.*



March 29, 2025 at 06:16 PM



“ *The Gail Lewis Family offers their deepest sympathy and are praying for his family.* ”

**Linda Lewis** - March 29, 2025 at 04:35 PM

JL

*All of the Lindner family offer you our love and condolences for the loss of John.*

**Jane Lindner** - March 29, 2025 at 11:50 PM

JT

*Marilyn and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. John was a great person. You have my deepest sympathy and hugs and prayers for your family.*

**Jo Theobald** - March 30, 2025 at 10:25 AM

GF

*Marilyn and family, our condolences to you. I was fortunate to have worked with John at Ladd implement.  
Gordon and Lori Freymiller*

**Gordon Freymiller** - April 03, 2025 at 05:24 AM