



## John J. Wagner

June 14, 1929 - August 25, 2018

John J. Wagner

age 89, of Butternut, died on Saturday August 25, 2018 at his home. He was born on June 14, 1929, the son of Joseph and Anna (Pichler) Wagner. John lived most of his life in Butternut, growing up on the family farm in the Town of Chippewa, and was a fixture in the community as an adult. His handiwork as a carpenter can be seen throughout the north woods in the shape of homes, barns, garages, churches, and other buildings; and the endless hours he spent splitting field stone to create beautiful pieces of workmanship are apparent to those who look around.

John was a pillar of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Butternut, serving for many years as the gravedigger for St. Cecelia Catholic Cemetery. He spared no one of his wit and dry sense of humor, as those who played cards with him, or competed against him for fair prizes, would well attest. He was a champion gardener, master stone mason, and an accomplished carpenter who was well known and respected by those who were able to witness any of the innumerable items he grew, created, or built.

John served his country in the United States Army on the front line during the Korean War and was awarded the Purple Heart.

John was beloved by his family and a small circle of friends. His integrity was

well known. John was a regular at many local restaurants; his image is present on one of the murals in Butternut; and his presence within the community spoke louder than any words he ever said.

He is survived by his:

(3)brothers:

Frank (Betty) Wagner of Park Falls

Edward (Sheila) Wagner of Woodruff

Louis Wagner of Park Falls

his aunt Katherine Wagner of Park Falls

and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, (3)brothers: Joseph, William, and Leonard, (3)sisters: Mary Ann Bucheger, Theresa Zimmerman-Anderson, and Rose Differt, (3)brothers-in-law: Ray Bucheger, Eugene Zimmerman, & Donald Anderson, (3)sisters-in-law: Marge, Mary, and Kathy Wagner.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday August 29, 2018 at 11:00am from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Butternut. Fr. Shaji Pazhukkathara and Deacon Bob Schienebeck will co-officiate.

Burial will follow at St. Cecelia Catholic Cemetery in Butternut with military honors under the auspices of the Butternut American Legion Post.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday at the church from 9:00am until the hour of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to St. Cecelia Catholic Cemetery would be appreciated.

# Cemetery Details

## Saint Cecelia Catholic Cemetery

Butternut, WI 54514

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **29**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
410 Michigan St  
Butternut, WI 54514

## Service

AUG **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
410 Michigan St  
Butternut, WI 54514

## Military Honors

AUG **29** (CT)

Saint Cecelia Catholic Cemetery  
Butternut, WI 54514

# Tribute Wall



“ *John J. Wagner*

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October 05, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ *Michael Christian lit a candle in memory of  
John J. Wagner*



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**Michael Christian** - August 29, 2018 at 11:01 PM

BW

“ Rest In Peace to one of the most important men in my life...and Purple Heart recipient. He always had my heart from the start.

*I have so many memories, more than I can count. From days visiting him and my Grandpa (Frank) at job sites (notably Larry and Laurie's home--the Fleming homestead) to innumerable lunches prepared by Grandma (Betty) during their breaks; from all the Butternut Fair visits seeing him win nearly every ribbon and proudly showing off his trophies to Christmases when he would bring us the same kind of box of chocolates, year after year, and share war stories; to my high school graduation and going up to Plover to see the Korean War Memorial, I cherished every moment I spent with him. Many knew he was often reserved and a man of few words, but he showed how much he loved all of us through always quietly "showing up." Everyone knew that he wasn't wowed by modern technology or bothered by other things we all can get caught up with from time to time, but you knew that if he showed up for you, you were special. He also showed his love through service with his involvement with the Butternut cemetery, devoted service to the parish, and in so many more ways.*

*As my Grandma would say, I'm happy you can now go on to tend to another garden and am so blessed to have gotten to spend one of your last good days with you in early August. I will cherish the bond we had, always. My love for you extends beyond this life. 💜 "I carry your heart; I carry it in my heart." I can't wait until we meet again one day, my sweet Uncle John.*



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**Bethany Wagner** - August 29, 2018 at 06:53 PM

MW

“ I am filled with a great sense of sadness to know that Uncle John has gone. Like the stones that he used with such care and beauty, it felt as though he would always be with us. I am thinking of him sitting with Bill on the couch at the family farm as he did so many Christmases and the laughter they so freely shared with all of us. God Bless you, John, and may you swiftly find your way to the arms of The Carpenter you modeled for the rest of us.



*Michael, Ruthie and Logan Wagner*

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**Michael Wagner** - August 29, 2018 at 10:07 AM

SW

“ I have had the honor to work with John the past 20 years at St. Cecelia Cemetery .We spent many hours together in the cemetery. John taught me many great lessons of life and the beauty of Eternal life. John shared many stories of each grave he dug who the person was the age and if the digging was easy or not and what the weather was. Our family will miss him greatly. We shared coffee and luncheon together at home when John would come to get the orders for his duty at the cemetery. I am very honored to have shared many great times with this proud Man. REST IN PEACE JOHN J. WAGNER

*Your Friend Always SHARON F. WALKER*

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**Sharon F. Walker** - August 29, 2018 at 03:27 AM

SW

“ A true hunting tale.

*50 years ago John wounded a deer when hunting at the family farm. He tracked that deer to our house near Butternut and when he stopped in for a break he was covered in snow and ice. After warming up with fresh homemade donuts and drying his clothes, he continued to track that deer until he caught up with it and finished it off near his house on hiway 13. He would not give up on that wouded deer. He was such a dedicated, determined, hard working man. He will be missed by many.*

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**sheila wagner** - August 28, 2018 at 10:44 PM

LL

“ a great American Korean war hero whom I looked up to in so many ways. His great talent with stonework was and is second to none and i was so lucky to be able to have him do all the stonework on our home as this photo shows just one of 100's plus beautiful works he did thru his life. His love for gardening was also a very important part of his life always winning Blue Ribbons for his gardening skills at the Butternut Fair (he truly had green thumbs!!). I'm proud to call him Uncle John as many many others also do!



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**Larry Lawver** - August 28, 2018 at 02:10 PM

BR

“ *Heaven has gained another angel. Rest in Eternal Peace Uncle John.*



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**Barb Rienow** - August 27, 2018 at 02:21 PM

LS

*may you rest in peace, and many many thanks for serving our country Uncle John.*

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**Lori Brost ( Schroeder)** - August 28, 2018 at 12:33 AM



“ *When I was a kid John was involved in any remodeling projects at our house...he always shared lunch and supper with us and also shared many great stories. He was a great guy!*

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**Laurie Hart** - August 27, 2018 at 12:46 AM

LR

“ *As a niece and person who helped at life's end, I can say with certainty that heaven gain an angel, who will be greatly missed by many! On to your much deserved reward in heaven!*

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**Linda Rybak** - August 26, 2018 at 06:54 PM