



John Christian Herbstreit

March 15, 1931 - February 8, 2025

It is with heavy hearts but also with profound gratitude for a life well lived that we announce the passing of John Christian Herbstreit, who departed this world on February 8, 2025, at the age of 93. Born on March 15, 1931, in Lansing, Michigan to the late John and Clara (Anger) Herbstreit, John was a dedicated educator, a proud veteran, and a beloved family man.

John was a graduate of Grand Ledge High School, Class of 1948. He then earned his Bachelor's Degree at Michigan State University and continued his education at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. John's passion for teaching led him to begin his career at Bad Axe Public Schools before returning to Grand Ledge, where he inspired high school students with his knowledge and enthusiasm for learning.

A proud member of the United States Army, John served his country during the Korean War, earning the respect and admiration of those around him. His commitment to service continued as a longtime member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where he played an active role in the community and cherished the friendships he made. Additionally, John took pride in his role with the Cole-Briggs Post 48 Memorial Honor Guard, honoring fellow veterans with dignity and respect. His passion for gardening, golfing, church music, and leadership brought so much joy to his life and to those around him.

John leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, and kindness, and is survived by his devoted spouse of over sixty-four years, Ethelen Herbstreit, his children: daughter, Deborah Herbstreit, son Michael (Daleann) and son Mark (Tracey); granddaughter, Breanna Herbstreit. John was preceded in death by his sister, Joanne Catlin. John had many nieces and nephews that he loved and appreciated very much.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the remarkable staff at Right At Home and Autumn House for the exceptional care and support they provided for John during his later years.

In celebration of John's remarkable life, a memorial service with military honors will be held on April 4, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7000 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48917 where family and friends will gather to honor his memory. Prior to the service, there will be a visitation at the church starting at 10:00 AM. A private family interment will take place at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, Watertown Township, Clinton County, Michigan.

As we come together to remember John Christian Herbstreit, let us celebrate the profound impact he made on all of us. He will be deeply missed but will live on in our hearts forever.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the charity of the donor's choice. Share your memories and condolences online at www.holihanatkin.com.

Cemetery Details

Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens

4444 W. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7000 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Lansing, MI 48917
<http://goodshepherdmi.com>

Service with Military Honors

APR 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7000 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Lansing, MI 48917
<http://goodshepherdmi.com>

Tribute Wall

VS

“ My deepest condolences to Ethelen and the entire Herbstreit family. His room was right down the hall from me at Sawdon. I always thought of him as the quintessential good guy
I enjoyed seeing him from time to time after leaving Sawdon - it was always a joy to see him

Vicki Sandstrom - April 02, 2025 at 09:32 PM

SB

“ Mr. Herbstreit was my 9th grade physics teacher at Grand Ledge High School. I remember him as a great teacher who kept us in line and also had a good sense of humor. I remember him fondly. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Steve Boehm GLHS Class of 1980

Steve Boehm - March 12, 2025 at 04:19 PM

SR

“ I posted “Mr. Herbstreit’s” obituary (as we knew him in high school) on the Facebook site You Must be from Bad Axe if you.... He was an excellent chemistry and physics teacher. Gum was not allowed in school in 1966. However when Michigan State played Notre Dame in 1966 a bet took place in our first hour chemistry class. One person said if Notre Dame wins I’ll buy gum for everyone in the class. Another said if MSU wins I’ll buy the gum. Then another smart aleck said if it’s a tie I’ll buy gum for the class. John was smiling throughout. Wouldn’t you know it, that was the 10-10 infamous tie game. The bet was paid and the entire class received a stick of gum in school the following Monday.

Scott Ross - February 23, 2025 at 06:17 AM

SG

“ I remember Mr. Herbstreet fondly. He was a good, strict teacher but he had a great laugh. Since he was my teacher more than 46 years ago and I still remember him well, I guess his legacy lasted a good long while. Condolences to his family.

Steve Graszler - February 12, 2025 at 07:01 PM

BN

“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. I enjoyed him as a teacher in high school and later in life as my neighbor. I was so lucky to have such wonderful neighbors! May God wrap his loving arm around the family in comfort.

Brenda Neirink - February 11, 2025 at 07:54 PM