



## John Butler, Jr.

October 6, 1958 - February 7, 2026

IN MEMORY OF:

John Butler, Jr.

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

John Butler, Jr., age 67 of Murphysboro, passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at his home.

He was born on October 6, 1958 to John Elmer, Sr. and Ann Marie (Laga) Butler in Chicago, Illinois. On January 14, 1978, he married Laura Kula and they have been together for over 48 years.

He graduated from Downer's Grove South High School, where he and Laura met. During high school, he worked his way up from clerk to manager at Pampered Pet, and had a side business breeding African cichlids. After moving to southern Illinois for college, he worked for the US Forest Service. Later he clerked and then managed a store for Illinois Liquor Marts. One might say that led naturally to his career in law enforcement.

In 1989, John joined the Carbondale Police Department. There, he served as a patrolman, helped to start the bicycle patrol program, and served on the Special Response and Tactics team. He suffered a disabling injury which ended his police career. He returned to SIU-C, and finished his bachelor's degree (history) with honors in 2002. He wasn't done with law enforcement, though, and until his retirement in 2019, he was a probation officer with the Illinois First Judicial Circuit Court in Murphysboro.

Survivors include his wife, Laura; daughters, Melissa (Brian) Cline and their children, Adam, Leah, and Andie, and Jamie (Ryan) McClellan and their children, Johnny, Luke, and Claire; and nephew, Matthew Nichols.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his sister, Joyce Butler Nichols; and infant sister, Margaret Butler.

No services will be held at this time.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions may be made to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

The cremation of John Butler, Jr. will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

TA

“ My condolences to John's family, may God comfort you in your time of sorrow.  
I only knew John from an Internet forum but I got to know him well through our conversations there. He was a decent helpful man. While I'm saddened by his passing, I'm a better man for having known John.

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**Tom Allman** - February 18 at 08:49 AM

RH

“ I worked with John at Jackson County Probation. Good man and great to talk to. Rest in peace, brother. You will be missed.

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**Ryan Horn** - February 16 at 04:34 PM

ET

“ I had the pleasure of working with and becoming friends with John at the Jackson County probation office. John was a man that you could count on, both as coworker and a friend. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family that he loved dearly.

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**Erich H Tucker** - February 15 at 09:30 PM

CS

“ I worked with John for several years as the Jackson County Circuit Clerk. John was great at his job. My prayers are with his family.

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**Cindy Svanda** - February 13 at 06:32 PM