



John Richard Fueslein

May 23, 1933 - December 13, 2025

John Richard "Jack" Fueslein, 92, of Yale/Charlotte/Grand Haven, Michigan, took his last earthly breath and entered eternity with his Savior on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Jack was born on May 23, 1933, in his grandparent's home in Yale, Michigan. He is survived by his wife, Carole (Cole) Fueslein; son, J. Duane (Cecilia); daughter, Diane; son, Donald (Janice); grandsons, Blake (Emily Roberts), Kyle (Kristine), and Cole (Ashleigh Pippel); great grandchildren, Rowen, Jenna, and Madilynn; sisters, Jane (Kenneth) Bennett and Ann Manzano; sister-in-law, Sharon Palmateer; and many extended family members. He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Virgiline Fueslein; his brother, Jerome "Jerry" Fueslein; and sister-in-law, Laurene Green.

Jack grew up on his parent's dairy farm in the "thumb" of Michigan, specifically in Greenwood Township and the city of Yale where his German immigrant family had settled in the 1800s. He developed a love of working the land and the farm life. As a high schooler, he became active in 4-H, participating in many state-level competitions and shows, and in Future Farmers of America where he served as the Yale club's President his senior year and was a state-level contestant on the Parliamentary Procedure Team.

He graduated from Yale High School in 1951 and later attained an Associate of Science degree from St. Clair County Community College in 1959 while working and supporting his young family.

He met his future wife, Carole Cole, at Yale High School and they married on

October 3, 1953. Jack was drafted into the U.S. Army and conducted basic training at Fort Knox, KY and Ft. Sam Houston, TX, then transferred to Fort Carson, CO as a Medic, 8th Infantry Division, and a Clerk Typist, G-2 Intelligence Office. He was discharged in December 1955 as an E-5 Specialist 1st Class.

Upon returning to Michigan, Jack's career life initially began by returning to his farming roots raising milk cows, and also working as a Research Technician at Mueller Brass Co. in Port Huron. After a brief time in insurance sales with Sun Life of Canada, he became a Salesman of International Harvester industrial equipment with Chas. F. Lambert & Son of Smiths Creek. This inspired his entrepreneurial spirit, and he and the family moved to Charlotte, Michigan for a position at Lovell Implement Co, becoming Owner and Proprietor of J.R. Fueslein, Inc., in 1969. Jack became integral to the farming community there and could always tell you which farmer bought what equipment, even many years after. He was awarded as an "XL Dealer" by International Harvester for meeting the highest customer service standards and was one of the first two individuals awarded as such in the state of Michigan. He retired from JR Fueslein, Inc., in fall of 1992 and developed his own yard installation/excavation business which he fondly called "the dirt business." During this time, Jack was also employed by Spartan Motors of Charlotte as the Transportation Driver of their show vehicle semi-truck traveling all over the United States to trade shows and exhibits. Carole accompanied him on those adventures, and they had many great experiences and made many new friends.

As a young man in the fall of 1952, Jack accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior, and this grounded his marriage and family life in Biblical values and efforts. He was the Treasurer and SS Superintendent for North Lakeport Wesleyan Church for many years, using his creativity and passion to encourage increased attendance from the community. He also maintained the church grounds for many years, pulling the children in to mow and pull weeds weekly. Upon moving to Charlotte, he became involved first at the Charlotte Free

Methodist Church and later at the Charlotte First Baptist Church. In later years while wintering in Zephyrhills, Florida, he attended and was supportive of Faith Baptist Church there. Jack's faith has not wavered through the highs and lows of life, always expressing a gratefulness of God's blessings in prayers for the family, even as recently as Thanksgiving 2025 at 92 years old and with failing health.

Jack's community involvement included many endeavors. He was Member and 1-year President of Charlotte Kiwanis Club and caretaker of their fundraiser county fair "pecan pie booth." He was a Board Member and greatly involved with the Kiwanis Manor Apartments serving the elderly community in Charlotte. He was an Eaton County Road Commissioner for many years. He was a Board Member and President of the Maple Hill Cemetery Board of Charlotte and was recognized for his many contributions with the naming of the rear gate and a street for him. He was a Member of the Michigan Farm Equipment Dealer Association and a Member of the Eaton County Parks & Recreation Department.

Jack always loved building and working with his hands, using his creativity and mechanical mindset to engineer, design, and build all kinds of things - improving things and making life interesting. He maintained an extensive workshop filled with mechanical equipment, trucks, tractors, and a self-made "oil pull", fixed and retrofitted equipment for his farming or dirt business, made Christmas ornaments early in married life when money was tight, enabled summer fun via camping trailers and trips as well as a cottage on Thornapple Lake, and collected antique tractor seats and farm equipment parts from which he made colorful chairs and yard flowers for all the family members. After such an active life, Jack found it difficult to sit still. As he reclined in the chair or bed during his last days, he often asked what he was supposed to be doing with an eagerness to get up and be on with it. Also, knowing his weakness and his wife's extensive care, he often asked what he could do and offered to help string the Christmas lights outside on the balcony. He lived a

purpose-driven and God-inspired life of helping others where and when he could.

Friends are encouraged to support Jack's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>. Visitation is Thursday, December 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home. Funeral services are Thursday, December 18th at 12:00 p.m. with Pastor Wally Miars officiating. Jack will be laid to rest at Maple Hill Cemetery. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>, click on Jack's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral

DEC 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Luncheon Reception

DEC 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Burial

DEC 18. 2:30 PM (ET)

Maple Hill Cemetery
801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of John Richard Fueslein*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 18, 2025 at 09:29 AM

BG

Beautiful glimpse into Jack's life and family.

Barbara Goetz - December 22, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of John Richard Fueslein*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 17, 2025 at 06:55 PM



“ 40 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 17, 2025 at 06:49 PM



“ *Judy and Hal Fox purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Richard Fueslein.*



Judy and Hal Fox - December 16, 2025 at 10:57 PM



“ *Love Nancy and Kevin Fullerton purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Richard Fueslein.*



Love Nancy and Kevin Fullerton - December 16, 2025 at 05:23 PM

TF

“ *The Lobsiger Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Richard Fueslein.*



The Lobsiger Family - December 16, 2025 at 02:17 PM

JS

“ *Fuzzy, So sorry for your Dad's passing he was such a generous and kind person.*

Jeff Smith - December 16, 2025 at 11:47 AM

KF

“ *Ken and Jane Bennett and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Richard Fueslein.*



Ken and Jane Bennett and family - December 16, 2025 at 11:11 AM

DK

“ *Duane and Cecilia, it was such a pleasure to to your father. He was a man's man. not many of those today .such a good example not perfect but wow! one who's life is a pattern for men to follow. May you two find peace in knowing "dad " is with his savior. eph6:10*

Dan Kanneth - December 16, 2025 at 10:22 AM

KM

“ Kevan, Dave, Melody & Carole Mueller purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Richard Fueslein.



Kevan, Dave, Melody & Carole Mueller - December 16, 2025 at 12:20 AM

KM

“ Kevan, Dave, Melody & Carole Mueller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Richard Fueslein.

Kevan, Dave, Melody & Carole Mueller - December 16, 2025 at 12:20 AM



“ Dear Duane and Diane; your Father shines like a great man. Be thankful that he knew the Lord. Take comfort in that. I am unable to attend the funeral as I will be in the hospital on that day, but I will remember you during this time. Chuck & Denise Tomasello

Chuck Tomasello - December 15, 2025 at 10:39 PM

SB

Diane and Duane, I did not know your Dad personally, but his incredible love for our Lord was spoken through my parents. His love and spirit like a beacon and shines through both of you and I am sure Don as well(I did not know Don, either). I will be lifting your family in prayer as you walk through these days and weeks of grief. Also for your Mom! Your family is a beacon for Christ and His love for us!

Sharon Burch-Davis-Truncer - December 16, 2025 at 01:33 AM

BW

Recently my priest gave a homily concerning Advent and the virtues of patience, patient waiting and trust in the Lord. He mentioned that farmers exemplify that virtue to perfection. It reminded me of a memory of Jack. In 1997 Jack completed a seeded lawn at my new home. When he finished on the last day we both sat on my back porch and discussed a number of topics. As he was leaving he said: " All we have to do now is wait." I shook my head and said: " Wait for what, Jack?" He said: "For rain and trust in the Almighty."

Bill Wright - December 16, 2025 at 10:22 AM

BW

A second memory of Jack that is dear to me involved a prank that Jack and my wife, Kathy, played on Carole and me. I would take my employees out for luncheon on their birthdays, so, some April 27th sometime in the 1980s I took Carole to the Pour House (remember that place)? As we talked and glanced around, we saw Jack and Kathy in a booth laughing and talking and just having a grand ol' time. Carole froze and my jaw dropped and then Jack looked over, pointed , roared laughing and they both joined us. I believe there was some mention of goose and gander or two can play this game. Lord, we had fun that day. God gave us memories and I am forever grateful. Bill Wright

Bill Wright - December 16, 2025 at 10:44 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Richard Fueslein.*

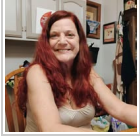


December 15, 2025 at 09:26 PM

DA

“ *Don, Charlene, Matt, Jeremy, and all.... planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Richard Fueslein.*

Don, Charlene, Matt, Jeremy, and all.... - December 15, 2025 at 09:26 PM



“ *Carole and Diane, and family.
So very sorry for your loss of John (Jack,) oh.he was such a wonderful man, when I first met him I was nervous until we talked. His smile was incredible and his laughter, I will never forget him. I was one of the caregivers who had the pleasure of caring for him. Rest in peace.
Vicki Lewis from Comfort Keepers.*

Vicki Lewis - December 15, 2025 at 05:30 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Richard Fueslein.*



December 15, 2025 at 03:06 PM



“ *William D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Richard Fueslein.*

William D. - December 15, 2025 at 03:06 PM

KS

“ This is how I remember Mr. Fueslein.



Kim Sfreddo - December 15, 2025 at 09:32 AM

CL

Jack and Carole moved next to me in Charlotte. They were the best neighbors I ever had. Memories of Jack include helping with my lawn and the time I caught him standing on his roof blowing leaves off the top. I let him know his options if he happened to fall off. Another neighbor helped him after that. Jack also had a little shop in his garage and men would stop by for a hello and a request to fix a piece of metal work. Jack was kind loving and caring to his wife, children, grandchildren and neighbors.

Carol Lile - December 16, 2025 at 10:52 AM

JW

First, as friends with a shared love of the Lord and then agriculture...it was not surprising that when Dad retired from the Extension Service, John offered him a job selling irrigation equipment. It was the perfect chance to continue interacting with farmers with a purpose. Jack's personality as a "Boss" was more like working with a longtime friend, which, of course, he was! I can only be grateful when Jack and my Dad reunite in Heaven...Oh My...I imagine a lot of back-slapping and that just makes me smile...!

Jan Wiltshire - December 18, 2025 at 12:45 PM

ES

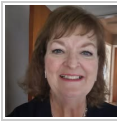
Carole the service was beautiful. Jack was a friend to every one he met. He will be missed by many. You will be in our prayers.

Ellen Strickler - December 19, 2025 at 12:12 AM

CM

Carole, there are some recent statistics sharing that pastors are leaving the ministry for a number of reasons. However, if every church had a few more "Jacks" in them, that would never happen. A joyful man with a caring compassionate heart and a joyful smile with never ending encouraging words...that's what Jack was to me and many others. He was a man of quiet faith, but his faith was genuine and deep. We rejoice in his gift of faith which has ushered him into the presence of his loving Lord and Savior. Our love and prayers are with you and your dear family. Chuck and Marilyn Moore

Chuck Moore - December 26, 2025 at 07:47 PM



Mr. Fueslein was my boss at my very first bookkeeping office job when I was in high school at JR Fueslein Inc. He was a very kind decent man and well respected by his employees. I am sorry to hear of his passing.

Cheryl Dikeman - December 27, 2025 at 02:39 PM