



## John Gretch

December 4, 1948 - March 21, 2023

John A. Gretch of Owendale, age 74, passed away Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at home with his loving wife by his side after a courageous battle with cancer. John was born December 4, 1948, the son of the late John C. and Augustina (Masa) Gretch. He graduated from Bad Axe High School with the class of 1967. He married the love of his life, Betty Kipfer, in 1968. They could often be seen holding hands like young love throughout their 54 years of marriage. John worked in several trades throughout his career such as a welder, die setter and millwright with his last job retiring from the Cooperative Elevator. John took great pride in everything he did and was known for his enormous garden he planted every year for the joy of watching it grow and sharing its bounty. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, going to casinos with friends and spoiling his grandchildren.

Left to also cherish John's memory are his children Christine (Claude) Kolar of Unionville and Michael J. Gretch (Jennifer Fox) of Davison; four grandchildren, Michael R. Gretch, Lauren Kolar, Camryn Kolar, and Brooke Kolar; sisters Mary (John) Dowling of Onsted and Eleanor Murphy of Albuquerque, NM, sisters-in-law Shirley Blome of Bad Axe, and Donna (Clare) Bechler of Pigeon; his godchildren Todd (Beth) Snay and Tammy Fritz; and his cuddly best buddy, his rescue dog, Teddy along with many nieces and nephews. Since he was not blessed with brothers, he acquired two special "brothers", Michael Radomski and Don MacMillan who were always getting into mischief together. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by

in-laws Clarence and Clara (Naffien) Kipfer, his sister and brother-in-law Lillian and Bill Snay, brothers-in-law Richard Sturgis, John Blome, and Kevin Murphy.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 11 am at Good Shepherd Parish – St. Columbkille Catholic Church of Sheridan Corner. Visitation will be held on Friday, March 24, 2023 from 3 – 8 pm at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe or Saturday at the church from 10 am until the service time at 11 am.

Memorials may be offered to the American Cancer Society, ThumbAnimal Shelter or the family discretionary fund.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **24**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.  
84 Westland Dr  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 269-3000  
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Visitation

MAR **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepard Parish - St. Columbkille Catholic Church  
3031 McAlpin Rd.  
Ubly, MI 48475

## Funeral Mass

MAR **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Good Shepard Parish - St. Columbkille Catholic Church  
3031 McAlpin Rd.  
Ubly, MI 48475

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Gretch.*



March 24, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Gretch.*



March 23, 2023 at 06:52 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences to you, Betty. We always enjoyed seeing you and John at all the family functions. You had a love and a marriage that everyone dreams of. We will keep you in our prayers.*



**Amy and Scott Lord** - March 23, 2023 at 06:37 PM



“ *Ellie Murphy purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Gretch.*



**Ellie Murphy** - March 23, 2023 at 12:28 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Gretch.*



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March 23, 2023 at 10:33 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Gretch.*



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March 22, 2023 at 11:05 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Gretch.*



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March 22, 2023 at 07:38 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Gretch.*



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March 22, 2023 at 10:55 AM

TF

“ *The Kokowicz Family purchased the Delightful Di effenbachia for the family of John Gretch.*



**The Kokowicz Family** - March 22, 2023 at 10:47 AM

RB

“ *Betty  
Reggie and I send our deepest sympathies to you. John was an honest, trustworthy, strong, and resilient man, and these qualities enabled him to overcome the obstacles that arose in his life. We know he fought like the warrior he is to be here with us - now he is truly watching over us. Our friendship became family to us and our love and life are forever blessed.- Rest In Peace John Your Southern family - Reggie & Bren along with Willie G & Chloe*



**Reggie & Bren** - March 22, 2023 at 09:46 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Gretch.*



March 22, 2023 at 03:20 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Gretch.*



March 22, 2023 at 02:15 AM



“ *Betty, sorry to hear Johns passing , Glenn Fritz*

**Glenn C Fritz** - March 21, 2023 at 10:01 PM



“ *JOHN WAS ALWAYS HAPPY AND GLAD TO SEE ME. AS I WAS TO SEE HIS SMILING FACE. A GRAT COUSIN.*

**Duane naffien** - March 21, 2023 at 08:28 PM