



John L Lehsten II

November 10, 1960 - November 23, 2025

John L. Lehsten II, 65, of Temperance, Michigan, passed away on November 23, 2025. Born on November 10, 1960 in Toledo to John and Margaret Lehsten, John grew up with a sharp mind, a big personality, and drive that would guide him throughout his life. He graduated from Whitmer High School in 1978 and spent his life building a legacy grounded in devotion, hard work, and unwavering love for his family and friends.

In 1985, John married the love of his life, Cheryl, beginning a 40-year marriage filled with laughter, loyalty, and a home that was always full. Together, they raised eight children: Amanda (Jason) Plum, Meaghan (Jamie) Brower, John Lehsten III (Melissa Keaton), Patrick (Adrienne) Lehsten, Sarah Lehsten, Ethan Lehsten, Emma Lehsten, and Ella Lehsten. Their house was rarely quiet, and John preferred it that way. He also welcomed countless “bonus kids” over the years, treating each one as family.

John spent most of his life on the road as a truck driver, later becoming a Driver Supervisor for Ryder Logistics. His years behind the wheel made him a human almanac—if you were lost, all you needed to do was call John, give him a couple of landmarks, and he could tell you exactly where you were and how to get where you needed to go. His work ethic was unmatched, and he earned deep respect from everyone who had the privilege of working alongside him.

A man of many passions, John was an avid marksman who shared a love of guns and shooting with his boys. He had a lifelong fascination with cars and trucks and was an extraordinary mechanic who could fix anything—often meeting his children on the side of the road at all hours of the night to get them going again. Larger than life and never having met a stranger, he filled every room with energy, humor, and heart.

John treasured his role as a grandfather to Bradlie, John, Owen, Michael, Ryan, Abel, Hailey, and Emily. His grandchildren brought him endless pride and joy. He loved watching them grow and excel in their interests; they were a bright light in his life and he loved being their "Papa."

John adored his Great Dane, Otto, who now wanders the house searching for him. He loved grilling, taking great pride in a perfectly seared steak with potatoes and grilled asparagus.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Margaret Lehsten; his brothers, Tom Lehsten and Jim Lehsten; and his beloved son, John Leonard Lehsten III, whose loss left a profound and lasting ache in his heart.

John's life was defined by love—love for his family, for his friends, for his work, and for the many people who found a home in the warmth of his presence. He will be deeply missed and forever cherished by all who knew him.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, November 30 from 1pm to 5pm at Ansberg-West Funeral Home, located at 3000 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo. Services will follow, beginning at 5pm.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **30**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Tribute Wall



“ I got the honor of meeting John at piston. He spoke highly of his family and coworkers. Always looking out for everyone John always had a great story to tell to lighten up the day. he went above and beyond for his team. He will be missed by everyone who ever got the honor to meet him. My condolences to the family. Brenda

Brenda Pencheff - December 02, 2025 at 07:16 AM

JA

“ John was a great man and friend I will miss him and his knowledge he helped me at the Assembly Plants for my Modular launches. Jeff Albright

Jeff Albright - November 30, 2025 at 12:13 PM

RP

“ I worked with John for 10 yrs at Ryder, talked to him every morning. John always looked after myself and others at work. So knowledgeable in just about everything. Had such good stories to tell ,miss are talks in the morning. John is and always will be a great Man. My condolences to his family. Garden Gnome

Randall Prater - November 27, 2025 at 01:46 PM

GS

“ Work with John at Ryder a while ago and became friends and stayed friends always had a good story and laugh had a smile on his face all the time very knowledgeable going to miss him and the talks about Yellow and Roadway days sorry for your loss family John left a impression on me for ever RIP

Gary Schaefer - November 26, 2025 at 09:21 AM

TT

“ I was a vendor for Ryder and i met John when he started bringing us his equipment to repair. He and his friend Harold became a very integral part of our business, his knowledge of everything truck and trailer helped us to succeed. John's quick wit will also be missed
Rest in peace my friend
Terry Tucker (W&B Service)

Terry Tucker - November 26, 2025 at 06:27 AM

AD

“ My heart goes out to all of you. I met Mr.Lehsten, John, when I befriended his eldest, Amanda. I always thought their house was a fun place to be, he and his wife were always welcoming and his deep booming voice paired with his sharp and witty humor endeared him to me for many years after that. Rest easy.

Angie Dec - November 25, 2025 at 10:42 PM

TP

“ To say that John was larger than life is a under statement a very gentle man with a great sense of humor and understanding what other people were going through and always willing to help I had many nights at work I just wanted it to end soon and in walked John he always made things interesting I always looked forward to seeing him it is going to be odd not to see my friend always remember him and never forget him the world could use a few more just like him

Thom Pyles - November 25, 2025 at 02:34 PM

JA

I met Big John working for Ryder and Jeep accounts for Modular Deliveries. With his buddy Harald he and Harald worked hard with me ensuring the modular launch went smoothly and on going quality of parts. I cannot express how much respect and gratitude for his knowledge and caring for all his drivers and especially his friendship. I enjoyed our good and bad times and talking it over at Rudy's Hot Dog on Summit St. I will miss him greatly! If there is I can do to support his family let me know. Jeffery S. Albright.

jeffery S Albright - November 25, 2025 at 03:43 PM

MR

Hello I got a message the other day for my son Tommy that worked with John Tommy's a forklift operator over at the writer facility for SPD. I worked with John back in the day of overland parkway I was a long time ago we would reminisce over who we work for at the time and the things that you used to transpire God bless him. I enjoyed running back into him at the Ryder facility SPD on benore there and when I started working there I knew it would be all right that it became a small world and we met again besides all the other associates that were awesome to be with and work with. I've had a tough break where I'm almost paralyzed 41 years's of moving that freight box and steel around but I'll get over it. I'll never get over the friendship I had with John. God's speed and God bless John and his family. Also God bless all the Ryder personel. Ty Rambo 🙏🙏

Martin Rambush - November 26, 2025 at 09:47 AM