



Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr.

June 18, 1958 - December 5, 2025

Lewis W. "Louie" Erb, Jr., 67, of Wapakoneta, passed away Friday afternoon, December

5, 2025, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born June 18, 1958, in

Lima, the son of Lewis W., Sr. and Helen M. (Timmerman) Erb. His parents survive in

Wapakoneta. On April 22, 1978, he married his high school sweetheart, Cindy L. Hengstler, and she survives in Wapakoneta.

Other survivors include,

3 daughters, Desiree L. (Josh) Hole, Dublin, OH,

Erica L. (Doug Burke) Preston, Wapakoneta,

Mindy L. (Jarret) Webb, Wapakoneta;

8 grandchildren, Derek, Makenzi, Reagan Hole,

Paison, Emory, Oakley Preston,

Ayla, Mylan Webb;

5 siblings, Deb (Jim) Kaeck, Pam (Gary) Halfhill,

Mark (Cheryl) Erb, Mary (Jeff) Adkins,

Todd (Carol) Erb, all of Wapakoneta;

3 sisters-in-laws, Cathy (Steve) Oen, Wapakoneta,

Diana (Steve) Penhorwood, Celina,

Vicki (Larry) Winkler, Wapakoneta;

numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He was preceded in death by an infant granddaughter Kylie Lou Hole, and mother-in-law and father-in-law, Maryellen and Orval "Bud" Hengstler.

Louie died following a brave battle with cancer. Even until his last days, Louie was determined to give cancer the toughest battle ever. This was no surprise to his family and friends because Louie never stopped; he was a fierce competitor and an even harder worker. His work ethic started in his early years working by his father's side. There are stories of "Little Louie", barely old enough to zip his own coat, climbing in the truck with his father, Louie Sr., for a full day's work. From beginning to end, his Dad was his hero.

Louie started his own working career at B&M Packing followed by G.A. Wintzers & Sons before entering full time into the family business. When he fell in love with Cindy, he found someone who worked just as hard as him, and what a pair they made. For years they worked together running Erb Poultry Inc. and Erb BBQ and Catering. Most recently, Louie served as a maintenance supervisor with LFR Properties and a bus driver with Wapakoneta City Schools.

Louie was the proud father of three daughters. There was always a running joke as to which daughter was his favorite, but the truth was that Louie loved them all fiercely. He was the perfect "girl" dad. He was slow to anger, easy to forgive and there was no problem too big for him to fix. Being present was always important to Louie. He rarely missed a game or event for his children and he continued that tradition with his grandchildren. Louie could never say no to his grandchildren and constantly stopped his own projects to tackle one of theirs.

Louie's desire to help was not limited to his grandchildren; Cindy always knew

her projects would be paused if Louie needed to help someone else. When he wasn't fixing something with his dear cousin and friend, "Brother Barry" or spending time with his family, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping and snowmobiling. He was a kind friend to so many and will certainly be missed.

Louie's family would like to thank the staff at The James Cancer Center and Mercy Health - St. Rita's Medical Center for the kind and compassionate treatment they provided.

Condolences may be expressed at www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com. A Celebration of Louie's Life will be at 11:00 a.m., Friday, December 12, 2025, at the Eley

Funeral Home & Crematory, St. Rt. 501, Wapakoneta, with Pastor Kevin Hall officiating.

Burial is to follow in the Greenlawn Cemetery, Wapakoneta. The family will receive

friends 3-7 p.m., Thursday, December 11, and 10-11 a.m., Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Wapak Girls Soccer Program.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Cemetery

Presar Road
Wapakoneta, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 11. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Ave.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com>

Visitation

DEC 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Hwy
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-7676
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/>

Celebration of Life

DEC 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory

1102 Lincoln Hwy

Wapakoneta, OH 45895

(419) 738-7676

eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com

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Tribute Wall

TM

“ I remember snowmobiling at his and Aunt Cindy's house growing up and eating homemade bean soup afterwards in their garage. A favorite memory was when I went to college, he sent me some of that soup which I was extremely grateful for as young, college student! I'll cherish those memories. Keeping my aunt, cousins, grand-cousins, grandparents, and family in my prayers. We is very loved and missed.

Tiffanie McNamee - December 12, 2025 at 08:26 PM

AI

“ RIP LOUIE, your Finnish sister will always remember you!



Aija - December 12, 2025 at 07:44 AM

PT

“ Gary and I, along with my parents Fred & Carol, extend our deepest sympathies to Louie's family. His integrity and strong moral character are reflected in his children and grandchildren—what a great legacy to have instilled!

Pamela Tenwalde - December 11, 2025 at 03:52 PM



“ Growing up we were one big family. The Erbs, Hengstlers, Ballwegs & Zinks. We did everything together, we were always at each other's house we called all the parents mom & dad. We took snowmobile & sledding weekends where we put all of us in two hotel rooms. All the girls would go on shopping trips. We cut enough firewood each year to heat all the homes. We ate Erb's BBQ chicken, Bob's beef stew cooked over the open fire, Mary Anns polish cabbage rolls & Judi's chili after Wapak homecoming FB games. Then Little Louie & Cindy bought a very old house at the top of Wheeler Lane. I remember the night we walked through it with my dad (Bob Zink) and Louie & Cindy were so excited to imagine their first home, the home they would raise three beautiful girls in. I loved working side-by-side with my dad on this project. I fondly remember drawing out the plans for the stairways... which are still standing strong & sturdy. Cindy and I cut roof rafters as the guys hoisted them and nailed them in place. As time passed some went onto work, some went to college, we all had families of our own. But when we saw each other, it was as no time passed we were all still family. Little Louie always called me "Sis" and I always loved that.

Kelly Ernst - December 10, 2025 at 11:00 PM



“ I worked for Louie at Erb Poultry. I was young and he always told me you have to work harder than you play. He was a great boss and person and would do anything to help you out. The Lord has surely gained another great person I will have an ice cold Miller for you fine sir until we meet again rest high up top the mountain

Ryan Hanes - December 10, 2025 at 07:54 PM

MR

“ Mary, Jeff, Chloe, Jeffrey, Morgan, Steven, Owen, Tiffanie, and Rick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..

Mary, Jeff, Chloe, Jeffrey, Morgan, Steven, Owen, Tiffanie, and Rick - December 10, 2025 at 08:24 AM

SB

“ Starli and Don Bartlett purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..



Starli and Don Bartlett - December 10, 2025 at 08:04 AM

SB

“ Starli and Don Bartlett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..

Starli and Don Bartlett - December 10, 2025 at 08:04 AM

TF

“ The Jander Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..

The Jander Family - December 10, 2025 at 12:27 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..



December 10, 2025 at 12:27 AM



“ RIP Louie, condolences to your family!



Gina Schneider - Hager - December 09, 2025 at 09:22 PM



“ Wheeler Lane, Wapakoneta, the Erb families and us. A great place to grow up, and to see other families grow up also, such as Louie and Cindy's.

*...you know, we all get to be back together again someday.the Good News, death is defeated by resurrection. Hold onto each other, and God's Promises, and He will give you Peace.
Your family was always a blessing to me, and I love you all for it.*

Richard Swink - December 09, 2025 at 08:04 PM



“ Rick and Barb Swink and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..

Rick and Barb Swink and Family - December 09, 2025 at 07:52 PM

RF

“ Rick and Barb Swink and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..



Rick and Barb Swink and Family - December 09, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..



December 09, 2025 at 11:37 AM

PJ

“ Pam, Gary, Mark (both), Megan, & Justin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..

Pam, Gary, Mark (both), Megan, & Justin - December 09, 2025 at 11:16 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..



December 09, 2025 at 11:16 AM

MP

“ Mark P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..

Mark P. - December 09, 2025 at 10:26 AM

D&

“ Dotson Plumbing Heating &AC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..

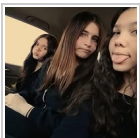
Dotson Plumbing Heating &AC - December 09, 2025 at 09:08 AM


D&

“ Dotson Plumbing Heating &AC purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..



Dotson Plumbing Heating &AC - December 09, 2025 at 09:08 AM



“ I ended up working with Louie driving bus the last couple of years. Before that, my two youngest had him for their bus  driver. My daughter, Katy, drove him completely nuts while riding on his bus but her and my son loved him. Oh the stories he would tell about her made me laugh because I knew she drove me crazy at home but I can imagine how he felt. Because he couldn't just get up and walk away, he had to try and hold his composure for the duration of the ride to and from school. 😂 Louie was a great man and his memories with his friends/family/coworkers live on.

Katherine Clayton - December 09, 2025 at 08:50 AM

TF

“ The Wickard Family purchased the Serene Retre at for the family of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..



The Wickard Family - December 09, 2025 at 08:24 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..



December 08, 2025 at 05:30 PM

CD

“ Cardinal Health Tax Department planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..

Cardinal Health Tax Department - December 08, 2025 at 04:40 PM

CD

“ Cardinal Health Tax Department purchased the E nchanted Cottage for the family of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr..



Cardinal Health Tax Department - December 08, 2025 at 04:40 PM

PB

“ I played football with Louie at WHS. Man was he fast!! And he was a great teammate as well. He was an Erb, that says it all. An awesome family all the way around. My condolences to his wife and daughters. And to the entire family as well. May God’s infinite grace and mercy be yours in the days ahead. His suffering is over and I’m sure he and his granddaughter are walking in lush meadows together. RIP Louie, you will be greatly missed.

Paul Bowersock - December 08, 2025 at 02:13 PM

MD

“ Our moms were friends so Louie and I had a lot of fun growing up together. Cindy, Louie and I all had horses and rode bareback in the winter to stay warm. Big Louie would drive us to Indian Lake for roller-skating. Nice people who treated me like family. My condolences to Cindy, family and friends. Mike Doseck.

Mike Doseck - December 08, 2025 at 01:35 PM

CL

“ My Husband and I liked Louie right from the start we lived in the Blume Building. We will remember him like he was kind person who could pick on you and laugh at you and it was all in fun. We will miss him so sorry for your loss RIP are friend.

Cathy Lange and Flip Lange - December 08, 2025 at 12:00 PM

PB

“ Louie was the quiet toughness that we all wanted to be and the father who was always present with his family. RIP Brother.

Preston Bartlett - December 08, 2025 at 10:00 AM

CB

“ *Craig Brown lit a candle in memory of Lewis W. "Louie" Erb Jr.*



Craig Brown - December 07, 2025 at 03:05 PM

MA

“ *To my brother Louie , you fought so hard , you are not in any more pain, you will be missed , love you forever, the best brother , Look after all of us from above, till we meet again , Love Mary*

Mary Adkins - December 07, 2025 at 09:04 AM