



## Levanis "Lenny" T. Ernst

September 6, 1939 - November 11, 2015

Dateline Jasper, Indiana

Levanis "Lenny" T. Ernst, age 76 of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 2:05 p.m. on Wednesday (November 11, 2015) at home.

Lenny was born on September 6, 1939 in Jasper, Indiana to Theodore and Thresia (Arehart) Ernst. He married Barbara Smith on October 13, 1962 at St. Mary's Church in Huntingburg.

Lenny retired from the Jasper Corporation after more than 35 years of service. He then worked part time for St. Charles Medical Complex.

He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, the Jasper Moose, and Jasper Outdoor Recreation.

He served in the Indiana Army National Guard.

For many years he played "Santa" for many organizations and families.

He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and attending their sporting events.

Surviving,

Wife;

Barbara Ernst, Jasper, IN

One Daughter;

Lisa Ruhe and husband Mike, Jasper, IN

Two Sons;

Mark Ernst and wife Jill, Jasper, IN

Brian Ernst, Jasper, IN

Four Grandchildren;

Kirby, Kortney and Kendyl Ruhe, and Landon Ernst

Preceding him in death were three sisters, Carol Matheis, Dolores Flannagan and Claretta Ernst who died in infancy.

Funeral services for Lenny Ernst will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Monday (November 16, 2015) at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, IN, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper, Indiana.

Friends may call from 3:00-7:00 p.m. on Sunday (November 15, 2015) at the Becher-Kluesner North Chapel in Jasper, Indiana. The Jasper Moose will conduct a memorial service at 6:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph's Catholic Church or to a favorite charity.

Online condolences may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

1020 Kundek Street  
Jasper, IN 47546

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 15. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Becher & Kluesner Funeral Home - North  
3221 N. Newton Street  
Jasper, IN 47546  
(812) 482-4141  
[email@becherkluesner.com](mailto:email@becherkluesner.com)

## Mass

NOV 16. 9:30 AM (ET)

St Joseph Catholic Church  
1029 Kundek Street  
Jasper, IN 47546

# Tribute Wall



“ *Levanis "Lenny" T. Ernst*

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *Definitely the best Santa Ever ~ He is why myself & all my brothers & sisters believed in Santa growing up. I couldn't wait as a kid to see Santa walk thru the door. Then I couldn't wait as the adult Aunt to have him continue to bring the joy & laughter from all my nieces & nephews in our own home. Thru Lisa & I's basketball high school years sitting up in the stands cheering us Wildcats on. Then come along his own grandkids. He not only cheered on his own grandkids playing basketball but he cheered on his favorite officials. He always gave us candy when we walked in & he said you do a good job & you will get more afterward. Well we must have passed expectations as he would give us more candy after the game. One other comment I've always known him as Santa Claus, Nanny, or Lenny until recent years he shares the same real 1st name as my dad.*

*He has been greatly missed as Santa & now he will greatly missed at the basketball games. Love Duane & Tara*

**Duane & Tara** - December 01, 2015 at 03:04 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers to the family. Levanis was a classmate of mine.*

*Kathy Heichelbech Weinzapfel*

**Kathy Weinzapfel** - November 12, 2015 at 09:18 PM

J(

“ I have so many wonderful memories of growing up with Lenny. I remember all of us in the back seat of his car and traveling to the ice cream shop where Mark always ordered a "squirrel" instead of a swirl. Lenny laughed every time. I remember how Lenny could run across the backyard and scale the fence in one long jump. Of course, we still have the pictures of him coming to our house dressed as Santa. The one thing I will always remember will be his smile and sense of humor. He was never without either one. I am so glad that I got to grow up around such an amazing dad and person. He loved all the kids in the neighborhood and was always fun to be around. Barb, Brian, Lisa and Mark, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Jill Motluck (Seemann) - November 12, 2015 at 05:08 PM

MK

“ I remember when he played Santa over at Matheis. He always had a joke to tell. Always made me laugh. He was a great man. Marian Kippenbrock.

Marian Kippenbrock - November 12, 2015 at 04:50 PM

BR

“ I'm very sorry to hear the loss of Lenny, love and prayers go out to the family,,,,,Barbara Rasche



Barbara K Rasche - November 12, 2015 at 03:44 PM

KB

“ *My husband Mike enjoyed working with Lenny at the Jasper Corp. So sad to hear that he was in such pain. Prayers go out to all his family.*

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**Kathy Bachman** - November 12, 2015 at 01:45 PM