



Darwin Leroy Jaenicke

June 22, 1931 - November 7, 2020

Darwin Leroy Jaenicke, 89, of Kankakee passed away November 7, 2020 at Amita St. Mary's Hospital. He was born June 22, 1931 in LaCrosse, WI to Witold and Norma (Spry) Jaenicke. April 1940 his family moved to Kankakee, IL and Darwin achieved membership into the National Honor Society and graduated from Kankakee High School in 1950. He then attended the University of Illinois. Darwin proudly served our country in the US Air Force from 1951 until 1955. He married JoAnn Blackmore in Kankakee December 29, 1951 and she passed away December 29, 2015.

Darwin was the owner and operator of Jaenicke's Root Beer Stand in Kankakee from 1955 to 1975 and the owner operator of D & J Motors from 1976 to 1980. He was an elected Township official for 45 years, a Trustee from 1964 to 1981, a member of Township officials of IL for 45 years and was the Kankakee Township Highway Road Commissioner from 1981 to 2009.

Darwin was always active in civic clubs; the Kankakee Jaycees, the Kankakee Lions Club, President of Kankakee Camera Club, President of Kankakee Coin Club, a lifetime member of Kankakee City Historical Society and a lifetime member of Kankakee Model Flyers. He dreamed of being a pilot and flying an airplane when he was a child and later obtained his private pilot's license in 1963 which allowed him to fly airplanes for 50 years. Darwin enjoyed Antique collecting and restoration, woodworking, reading, model building and flying radio-controlled planes. He was an avid car collector, and enjoyed traveling and photography.

Darwin is survived by his companion, Barbara Bogacz of Kankakee, a son, Dennis Jaenicke of Kankakee, 2 daughters; Barbara (James) Angel of Winter Park, FL, Linda (Eric) Boness of Kankakee, a daughter-in-law, Valerie Jaenicke of Kankakee, 3 grandchildren; Amanda Angel (Jesse) Pagan of Orlando, FL, J.B. (Kathryn) Angel of Orlando, FL, Emi Angel of Orlando, FL and 2 great grandchildren; Jameson and Eleanor. Also surviving is a brother, Alvin Jaenicke of Lompoc, CA and a sister, Ellen Wood of North Bend, NE and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Gordon and a son, James.

A visitation will be 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, November 14, 2020 at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee Chapel. Due to the recent Covid 19 restrictions guests will be ushered in small groups. Per CDC guidelines, masks and social distancing are required. A private memorial service will take place at a later date. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or Uplifted Care Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

Please sign his online guestbook at www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **14**. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel

1900 W. Court St.

Kankakee, IL 60901

(815) 932-2421

<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Darwin Leroy Jaenicke*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to Dennis and family. We are so very sorry to hear of your father's passing. May he rest in peace.*
Benny & Charlene Skeldon

Benny Skeldon - November 21, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ *Over the years Darwin & Joann made many trips to Florida. We had great times with visits & dinners out. Darwin's humor & stories were great entertainment. It was easy to be very fond of Darwin. He was a strong presence & will be greatly missed. Eternal love & peace to you Darwin. Alise Angel-Sarasota, Florida - Barbara Angel's sister-in-law.*

Alise Angel - November 17, 2020 at 06:23 AM



“ *Honored to have known Darwin. Prayers to the family.*

Tommy Kroll

Tommy Kroll - November 16, 2020 at 06:22 PM

JP

“ Please accept and extend my sympathy to the family of Darwin. I had the pleasure of working with Darwin as Township Highway Commissioner. His lively conversations during his visits to my office were priceless! Jim Piekarczyk, County Engineer (Retired)



Jim Piekarczyk - November 16, 2020 at 10:15 AM

CA

“ Good memories of “Mr. Jaenicke” during my high school years when I would find myself at the Jaenicke home often. He was always so kind to me, I remember him letting Linda and myself borrow a car more than once, of course Linda didn’t have her license yet, so he strictly instructed that I would not allow her to drive. Also, letting me drive a corvette back from California, what a guy to let a 16 year old girl do that, because he showed that trust in me, I respected him and did not want to let him down. Rest easy “Mr. J”

Cheryl Souligne Alessandri

Cheryl Alessandri - November 14, 2020 at 07:12 PM

CK

“ This year is one for all records , another of the generation that showed us how to live life to the best hsa passed. May all the family know we will miss our teachers . I was only one o his many to try and learn . Rest easy Darwin .
Charles L. Kapchinske

Charles L. Kapchinske - November 14, 2020 at 09:46 AM

SM

“ *My condolences to all of you. It has been a rough year with covid, the loss of Jim, and now your dad, Darwin. He always had something funny or nice to say to me. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Sheryl Mitchell - November 13, 2020 at 10:14 PM

MT

“ *What a guy! Hugs n prayers for God's peace and comfort.*



mary thommson - November 13, 2020 at 06:45 PM

JG

“ *Darwin would always stoo to visit at our store. Always had a very entertaining story. He was a great guy and always loved his family first. So sorry for your loss.*

Janet Girard-Giroux - November 11, 2020 at 10:44 PM

DL

“ *We so enjoyed our time together at Blues. He was quite a guy as we loved hearing his stories. God keep him in His loving care. Our deepest sympathy to his dear family. John and Deborah LeSage*

Deborah Lesage - November 11, 2020 at 02:25 PM

PZ

“ My sincere sympathy to the family. I remember your dad having a plane at Kankakee Airport (Koerner Aviation) and watching him either taking off or landing his plane. Our family too flew and there were always flying adventures and stories to share while hanging out in the office. He will be missed by many.

Paul Ziemer - November 11, 2020 at 10:12 AM

JE

“ My sympathy to all of Darwin's loved ones. Darwin will be missed very much. He was such a nice man and always so kind to me. I liked listening to the stories of the past that he'd tell over breakfast at Blues.

Julie Enright - November 10, 2020 at 08:21 PM

JE

“ Going to miss a long time friend. He was good company, very bright, and you could always learn something from Darwin. My sympathy to his loved ones.

Jerry Enright - November 10, 2020 at 08:18 PM

MG

“ Marci Gearhart lit a candle in memory of Darwin Leroy Jaenicke



Marci Gearhart - November 10, 2020 at 07:02 PM

MG

I'm very glad & honored to have known Darwin. We had many fine conversations when I would run in to him. He was a good man & will be missed. My thoughts, sympathy & prayers go out to his famy. ❤️🙏

Marci Gearhart - November 10, 2020 at 07:05 PM

TD

“ Condolences to the Jaenicke family. Wish I had the words to ease the pain you've had to endure this year. I'll always remember that Darwin always called me by last name..... never Tom!



Tom Dandelles - November 10, 2020 at 06:59 PM

HB

“ My brother Ron Bunte always remarked to me, many years later here in California, that Darwin was a good friend to him... from his days at Kankakee High School. I was seven years younger, so didn't know him that well, but wish the family well... and the A & W Root Beer Stand which he worked at with his parents and siblings was a gathering place for we Buntes, Ronald, Alice, Howard, and parents Edwin Bunte and Beatrice Bunte. Fine folks all of them... Howard Bunte

Howard N Bunte - November 10, 2020 at 02:34 PM

BB

“ Always enjoyed Darwin's company when we ate at Blues. So very sorry to lose him. He was a very special guy.

Bonnie & Dick Bergeron - November 10, 2020 at 01:32 PM

Steve
West

“ Steve West lit a candle in memory of Darwin
Leroy Jaenicke



Steve West - November 10, 2020 at 01:04 PM



“ Darwin was a wonderful man and so kind to us when we were kids.
My condolences to his family.

Bob Schneider - November 10, 2020 at 08:51 AM

MC

“ Darwin was a wonderful person and I was blessed to know him and
his wonderful family for a short but important time in my life. Darwin
will be missed. Sending his family hugs and prayers.

Mary Clark - November 09, 2020 at 03:31 PM