



Joseph N. "Joe" Offenbecher

September 10, 1925 - January 27, 2026

Joseph N. "Joe" Offenbecher, age 100, World War II veteran of Westchester passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. He was born September 10, 1925 in Chicago, the son of John and Mary (Kray) Offenbecher. Joe married Margaret Coghlan on June 26, 1954. She preceded him in death on October 4, 2008.

Joe was a World War II Army Veteran enlisted grade T-5 1014th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company. He served in Europe constructing bridges and performing occupation duties. He took leave to observe some of the Nuremberg war crime trials and in Austria he saw Bob Hope. After serving, he returned to the states and completed his B.S. at the University of Kansas.

Over his lifetime he enjoyed road trips, bowling, the Cubs, was a member of the Elks and actively involved in St. John UCC.

For 21 years, he was the account manager for Ford Motor Credit. Joe looked forward to retirement in 1986: enjoying traveling the world, delivering Meals on Wheels, golfing, gardening and birdwatching. He especially loved winters at "Good Life" in Mesa, AZ.

Surviving are two sons and two daughters, Paul, (Donna) Offenbecher of Urbana, Jean, (Peter) Hill of Georgia, Alan, (Kristen Beth) Offenbecher of

Plainfield, and Linda Offenbecher of Westchester and one son-in-law David Grant of Kankakee; eight grandchildren, Beth, Jeff, Amanda, Julia, Gregory, Michael, Samuel, and Zoe; two great-grandchildren, Payton and Samantha; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife, Margaret, Joe was preceded in death by one daughter, Patricia Grant, and one sister Mary Grierson.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the 12 Noon funeral service on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at St. John UCC in Kankakee. Interment will follow at Mound Grove Gardens in Kankakee.

Joe was very positive, thoughtful and philanthropic.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Kankakee Valley Theatre Association, Honor Flight Chicago, and St. John United Church of Christ.

Cemetery Details

Mound Grove Gardens of Memory

1000 N Greenwood
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 21. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John United Church of Christ
1045 W. River
Kankakee, IL 60901

Funeral Service

FEB 21. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John United Church of Christ
1045 W. River
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

WM

“ *My very deepest sympathy to my old buddy Paul and to all of the family. I was blessed having my WW2 hero dad until 100 as well.*

William Maass - May 16 at 05:09 AM

JE

“ *I'm sorry I missed knowing Mr. Offenbecher.....I went to grade school thru high school with his son Paul....I'm very sorry to hear of your loss Paul. I live in the Cissna Park area not far from you. Hope to see you sometime soon.*

Jim Enz - April 04 at 03:02 AM

WM

It would be great if you two got together

William Maass - May 16 at 05:10 AM

JT

“ *Jackie, Alicia and Trina purchased the Yellow Sunflowers (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of Joseph N. "Joe" Offenbecher.*



Jackie, Alicia and Trina - February 21 at 10:01 AM

MB

“ I remember meeting Joe right after he lost his leg to surgery in the hospital, I was his occupational therapist for the day. He was well into his 90s and he was the most kind, motivated, and strong patient I have ever worked with. He showed me that age isn't the factor in life that limits you- it's ourselves. If you want to do it- then there was a way and Joe was the perfect example of that. Sending hugs to the entire family and an extra hug to my friend Linda.

missy brottman - February 03 at 07:53 AM

LO

Thank you for sharing Missy. He was the perfect patient, positive mindset and an active participant . Like you said, age to him was just a number, not a limiting factor. Linda and family

Linda Offenbecher - February 05 at 12:28 PM

BM

“ My deepest condolences to the Offenbecher family. I knew most of his children and all were good people!

Berry McCracken - February 01 at 06:23 PM

LO

Thank you for your kind words. We are proud and honored to have such a Dad. Sincerely, Linda and family

Linda Offenbecher - February 02 at 11:49 AM

EL

“ I miss you already Joe. The chance to share your WWII experiences with you was amazing and I'll never forget it. You were an awesome neighbor and I thank God we knew one another these last 21 years.

Ed Lauderback - February 01 at 11:55 AM

LO

Thank you for your thoughtful sentiment and being a great neighbor and friend of Dad's. He looked forward to make calls to the "breakfast club" and visit everyone.

Sincerely, Linda and family

Linda Offenbecher - February 02 at 11:39 AM

EL



Ed Lauderback - February 02 at 12:08 PM

MM

“ *Michael Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Joseph N. "Joe" Offenbecher*



Michael Mitchell - January 31 at 10:38 AM

JH

Thank you Michael. Lighting a candle carries so much meaning. It is truly appreciated by our family. Jean O. Hill

Jean Hill - February 01 at 11:09 AM

GM

“ *I send my deepest condolences to the entire family of Joe. Growing up next door to Joe and Margaret and all the kids was truly happy times. Joe was the kindest man and a pleasure to talk to. Joe was always upbeat and in a good mood. May Joe rest in peace and know that he was loved by many, including myself.*

Gary T Mitchell - January 30 at 02:02 PM



Thank you Gary, for your kind words. It means so much to us. Jean O. Hill

Jean Hill - February 01 at 11:00 AM