



## Danny L. O'Brien

May 8, 1946 - October 27, 2020

Danny O'Brien aged 74 of Scottville passed away on October 27, 2020 in Grand Rapids. He was born on May 8, 1946 in Jamestown, NY to Danny and Ruth (Nieder) O'Brien and grew up with his siblings in rural Chautauqua County. As a teenager, he loved spending time working on cars with his best friend, Ron Saxton, as well as participating in Future Farmers. The two of them had many adventures as teens and adults. After high school, Danny joined the United States Coast Guard as an engine-man on the USCGC Bramble during the Vietnam conflict. This further fueled his passion for mechanics. He went on to selflessly serve as Transportation Supervisor and Bus Mechanic for Mason County Eastern Schools until he retired in 2008.

While in the Coast Guard, Danny was stationed in Ludington where he met and married the love of his life, Jan Billings. They married on June 24, 1967 and started a family. Danny was temporarily stationed in Detroit, but eventually he and Jan settled back in the Scottville area to raise their family. Danny loved to go camping with his family and he made sure that his children visited all of the Great Lakes. He enjoyed spending time reading his Louis Lamoure novels and watching westerns and mysteries on television. He was a sweet man who always had a kind word and compassionate heart. He was willing to assist anyone who needed help. Being a kind and dependable father and grandfather was of utmost importance to Danny and he certainly did not disappoint when it came to wholeheartedly loving his family.

In addition to his wife of 53 years, Danny will be greatly missed by his children Shawn (Mary) O'Brien, Shannon (Matt) Miller, Donald O'Brien, Jeremy O'Brien, Joshua (Jenn) O'Brien, and Amanda (Scott) Cole; his grandchildren Emerald O'Brien, Catherine O'Brien, Jago O'Brien, Rodney (Rachel) Miller, Judith Miller, Isabell O'Brien, Gabriel Cole, Makayla Cole, and Callen Cole. He will also be missed by his mother-in-law, Betty Billings; his siblings Gary (Gretta) O'Brien, Bonnie Cobb, Thomas (Diane) O'Brien, and David (Diane) O'Brien; and sisters-in-laws Bev (Bob) Budzynski, and Judy Carstens; along with numerous nieces and nephews who held a special place in his heart.

Danny was preceded in death by his parents Danny and Ruth O'Brien; father-in-law George Billings; grandchildren Tristen Miller and Gage Cole; brothers-in-law Charles Cobb, Gary Billings, and Dick Carstens; and daughter in law Marcey O'Brien.

Danny's graduation of life service will be held at 2:00 PM on May 8, 2021 at Scottville Riverside Park with Pastor Rick Hodgeson officiating. Light refreshments will follow. Danny's family will be present to welcome friends and loved ones starting at 1:00 PM. Guests are respectfully asked to wear facial masks, socially distance and if able, to bring a lawn chair as this is an outdoor event.

As Danny had a deep love for the Lord and for his country, those who wish to remember him with a memorial donation are asked to please consider either the Scottville United Methodist Church or the Wounded Warrior Project.

# Cemetery Details

## Rickey Cemetery

2250 West Conrad Road  
Scottville, MI 49454

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Friends & Family

MAY 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Riverside Park  
800 South Scottville Road  
Scottville, MI 49454

## Celebration of Life Service

MAY 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Riverside Park  
800 South Scottville Road  
Scottville, MI 49454

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ I remember when he brutally molested me for a whole summer

Jack Mehoff - November 07, 2024 at 08:49 AM

JM

“ Jack Mehoff lit a candle in memory of Danny L. O'Brien



Jack Mehoff - November 07, 2024 at 08:47 AM

SS

“ I used to drive the Scottville Library's Bookmobile to Mason County Eastern Schools so the students had a chance to check out a book. Danny greeted us with a big smile every time we we were there. I can't remember what problem we had on one visit, but it involved something wrong with the bookmobile - maybe some kind of a belt gone wrong. Whatever it was, we couldn't leave, so Danny fixed it for us, and he seemed happy to do it. Judy Morton and I sure did appreciate it - and him.

Sandra Sheppardson

Sandra Sheppardson - June 20, 2021 at 01:02 PM

PA

“ Many condolences to the family. Danny was every bit as sweet as others have commented. I remember him from the very first day I climbed on to the school bus. He was in the front with another boy wiggling their feet....I had never been on a school bus and the picture still sticks in my mind. Danny was a solidly nice helpful guy. We graduated in 1965...and he was a great classmate and friend.-  
*Pat Wescott Peterson*

pat - May 04, 2021 at 11:39 PM



“ Loved One Vertical Blanket was purchased for the family of Danny L. O'Brien.



May 03, 2021 at 09:42 PM

MH

“ I worked several years with Danny at MCE. I can sincerely say that I have never met anyone who was as genuinely kind as Danny. I never heard him say a bad word about anyone or anything. (except one time when he was angry with the tax man :) Danny was a sweet, caring and just plain nice man who was always willing to help out. My condolences to Jan and his entire family.

Mary Jo Heyse - April 29, 2021 at 03:44 PM

ST

“ Sending my deepest sympathies to Danny's family. I went to school with Danny from kindergarten thru high school. Heaven has gained a great person! May GOD be with all!

Sherry Thompson - April 23, 2021 at 12:19 PM

BM

“ Danny was just and all around great person. I went to And graduated from MCE school years ago and Danny always said Hi when passing by. He will missed but never forgotten.

Barbara (Fiers) Moffitt - April 23, 2021 at 07:59 AM

VO

“ Danny was a sweet and gentle soul. Met him through his wife when we worked together at the hospital. Many Blessings Miss Jan. Contact Voula at vsepeda1942@gmail.com

Voula - April 22, 2021 at 05:54 PM

RI

“ Danny was the most gentle soul I've ever met. I've never known anyone that could read a whole 2 inch thick western or war novel in a single day. Danny was always the most devoted Father to his entire family. Another "Huge" aspect about Danny was that He was 100% , 24/7 "Devoted" Husband to His dear Wife Pastor Jan O'Brien for 53 AMAZING years, if you seen Danny you would also see Pastor Jan Proudly by how'd she say "My Big O Lugs Side". Well Danny my Great Friend it was a "True Honor To Call You My Friend" , I'll See You In Heaven and Again It Will Be An "HONOR" .  
Your Pastor, Rick Hodgeson

RickHodgeson - October 29, 2020 at 08:16 PM

JO



Joshua O'Brien - November 09, 2020 at 08:01 PM

BC

*Danny was my oldest brother. I saw him seldom in my adult years. I took 3 of my 1 week vacations to go to NY when he was there/my husband would say why do you go/they are not interested in you/I knew that to be true but I did observe and enjoy seeing his two older children and just listening to my brother's laugh and to see his big gapped tooth smile that radiated across his whole face /was a delight to me! I wrote a tribute to him- and it ended up being fifteen pages. I can not fit it all here! Growing up -he and I were the tender hearted people of the bunch. I want to share 3 things from childhood why I always loved my oldest Danny and always will! When he was six and I was three -the home was chaotic ! I was afraid and crying. He was the one sibling that called me - "Sister" when we were little- Danny came to me with his Teddy Bear and said"I am a big boy now and I want you to have my Teddy! I had Teddy until 7 years ago when a mishap occurred in my home! There in the country -no girls around-I would up in our tree houses but i was always afraid to come down/they would leave me but Danny would return and help his sister down. We got bow and arrows. I would hear-you are just a girl/favorite line of one sibling! Danny came over and he patiently taught his little sister how to shoot. Love you always Big Brother. Those little things were the biggest things/I have carried them through time ! My oldest ,Danny. He was one of the most beautiful souls on earth throughout his life! He was smart, he was kind, and He knew how to love others! I knew he was always up there in Scottville and that seemed good enough! I send my love to Jan and all the children and grandchildren! I am crying so hard as I write this /I guess God has a bigger job for my brother- Danny In heaven! I hope he looks up my Charles! He needs a brother like Danny! "Sister"  
Bonnie Cobb*

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**Bonnie Cobb** - November 19, 2020 at 04:41 AM

WL

*I got to know Danny in 2002 when I ran a service route for 2 way radios. Every Thursday I stopped to see if they needed anything and Danny always had a big hello and a cup of coffee. He was a gentle soul with a positive attitude and I am proud to have known him.*

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**Walt Love** - December 01, 2020 at 07:58 AM