



John R. Bitner

July 3, 1965 - December 10, 2024

John R. Bitner, 59, of Elizabethtown, was called home to be with the Lord, passing away peacefully at home, December 10, 2024.

Born in Harrisburg, John was the son of the late Dennis E. Bitner and Barbara A. (Lawrence) Bitner.

John graduated from Elizabethtown Area High School in 1983 and went on to pursue a career in carpentry, which he continued for over three decades. His passion for his craft and dedication to his work earned him a well-respected place in the community.

A devoted family man, John was a life-time member of the Maytown Church of God and also enjoyed being part of the Milton Grove Sportsmen's Club. His love for the outdoors was evident in his frequent hunting trips to Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, and family vacations to Ocean City, Maryland. John cherished the time spent with family and friends, always staying connected and actively involved in the lives of those he loved. He was a friend to all.

John is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Janelle M. (Lesnefsky) Bitner; his children, Mitchell J. Bitner and Emily R. Bitner; his siblings, Shaun E. Bitner (Lori Kreider) and Christina L. Scheaffer (Scott); as well as several nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

A funeral service honoring John's life will be held at Community Bible Church, 331 Anderson Ferry Road, Marietta, PA 17547 on Friday, December 20, 2024 at 11 AM. Family and friends will be received at the Sheetz Funeral Home, 16 East Main Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552 on Thursday, December 19, 2024

from 5 PM to 7 PM and again on Friday at the church from 9:30 AM to 11 AM. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Maytown Church of God, PO Box 145, Maytown, PA 17550.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 19. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Sheetz Funeral Home
16 East Main Street
Mount Joy, PA

Visitation

DEC 20. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Community Bible Church
331 Anderson Ferry Road
Marietta, PA 17547

Funeral Service

DEC 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

Community Bible Church
331 Anderson Ferry Road
Marietta, PA 17547

Tribute Wall

KD

“ I noticed your sticker while having lunch at a bar in Ocean City. Thanks for being a smiling face over our meal. My condolences to the family, your loved one’s light carries on.

Kay Davis - August 03, 2025 at 03:28 PM

JR

“ I just learned of this today. I am still hurt and shocked about it. John, you were always a very very nice guy for as long as I known you which was basically my whole life since I attended church in maytown. You did so much for people and were so loved by many.

justin range - December 22, 2024 at 09:09 PM

BK

“ John was the greatest human being and contractor. He made both of our houses in Pa come alive. Jesus needed the best carpenter by his side to build the kingdom for us.

Brenda Kachel - December 20, 2024 at 02:33 PM

SR

“ Dick and I will miss our sweet friend, John, who has done so much to help us maintain our home, and also maintain our sweet friendship. We can picture John’s radiant face at finally seeing his Lord and Savior! But we will miss him.



Susan and Dick Rutt - December 19, 2024 at 02:11 PM

GV

“ Very very sorry to hear of John’s passing. I knew him as a man who did great work, but I also knew him as a really good man. May he rest in peace, may his memory be eternal.
George Vekios

GEORGE VEKIOS - December 18, 2024 at 07:09 PM

JS

“ John built our dream home years ago. He also built special ramps for our dog Winston. Jay, Paul and I just had breakfast with John right before Thanksgiving. It’s hard to believe he’s gone. John is with the lord. Our deepest condolences to John’s family. Fly High Our Friend from the Schwanger’s and my mom Kay Dysard.

Jay & Kathy Schwanger - December 18, 2024 at 04:35 PM

KG

“ My deepest condolences to all of John's family and friends.

Kim Garman - December 18, 2024 at 11:16 AM

ML

“ I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”
~Maya Angelou

It's obvious from the way I have seen John with his family and reading all of these beautiful memories shared on this page, that John brought a lot of love and joy to this world. My deepest sympathies to all who knew him, but especially to his close family members. Sending love from Colorado.

~Melissa Lesnefsky

Melissa Lesnefsky - December 17, 2024 at 07:29 PM

BS

“ My heart is shattered to hear this devastating news. John was such a friendly and kind soul, always brightening the day with his big heart and even bigger smile.

I will remember him fondly, and he will forever be thought of with a smile. Please know that you are in my thoughts during this incredibly difficult time.

Barb Shank - December 15, 2024 at 09:42 PM



“ John I am still in shock that you went on to be with God at such a young age! I will always remember all the fun times we had playing church volleyball and softball together! If there's one thing I learned is that the Bitner's were just as competitive as us Derr's. Thank you for the great work you did on our home, Steve and I really appreciated it! You've taken pride in everything you've done! Whenever you could help someone, you were there! That's the great person you have always been! We are all going to miss you very much! You are and always will be one of the best people I have ever known! To Jan, Mitchell, Emily, Tina, and Shaun, I am so sorry for your loss and my thoughts and prayers are with you all! Steve and Vicki Derr Williams

Vicki Williams - December 14, 2024 at 04:27 PM

JC

“ John will be greatly missed. His time on this earth was full of life. John was such a family loving, hard working, good man. He made everyone laugh and I will miss his stories! Our thoughts and prayers are with our Pennsy family during this difficult time and always. We love you! Jenny, Wil, James & Liana

Jennifer Casaine - December 14, 2024 at 09:20 AM

BB

“ John was a friend of many of us. Always trying to help where needed. I knew him from our times together watching our family members play field hockey at Mt. Calvary many years ago. John, you will be missed by many.

Barry Brosey 2024

Barry Brosey - December 13, 2024 at 01:53 PM

CB

“ I've known and served with John at Camp YoliJwa for years. Family you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. John will be missed by many that he has influenced over the years. Love you brother!

Corey Britcher - December 13, 2024 at 11:46 AM

RS

“ John, or Randy as I knew him, love God, his family, and others. He had a servant's heart. He will be missed by many.

Rodger Scheuing - December 13, 2024 at 11:38 AM

CS

“ I'm going to miss you so much! I will miss our long talks about when we were growing up and family history that were always very interesting. You were always pretty tough on me but it helped shape who I am today! I admit it wasn't always pleasant but since I was your only sister you wanted to make sure I made the right choices in life! Thank you! I never thought you would be gone this soon! I guess God was ready for you to be with him! You will be missed by so many family and friends! You were there for so many people it's now your time to be with God to rest in him! Have a good rest until I see you again..... I love you brother! Your sister always, Tina

Christina Scheaffer - December 13, 2024 at 02:04 AM

LS

It was an honor to know him through my brother (Keith Thomas). I also got to serve him ice cream at Zip'z. You will be greatly missed. Prayers to the whole family. You and Keith can catch up on all hunting stories.

Lovanne (Thomas) Smeal - December 13, 2024 at 06:59 PM

CS

Thank you Lovanne! Yes what a great time they must be having! They shared a lot of fun times during their school years and after! Such great memories! :) Prayers for your loss also! It was always a great time in Ocean City Maryland visiting you guys at Zip'z!

Christina Scheaffer - December 14, 2024 at 01:23 AM

JL

John your mom gave you my first name when you were little you were with me all the time and as you got older we still did things together never new you would go before I would we just plan for you to come hunting but the Lord had other plans. Im already overwhelmed not talking to you we called everyday to chat for the last 12 years about everything you were like a son to me now your gone along with Vance, Larry, and Jody. Ray is still here yet my two sisters are gone and my brother sure glad I have the Lord He gives me peace and I will see you all again

John Lawence - December 15, 2024 at 05:28 PM