



John Stewart Paquette

July 31, 1938 - March 12, 2022

John Stewart "Stew" Paquette, Passed in peace Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the age of 83 in his Leesburg, FL residence.

Preceded in death by his adored wife of 48 years, Helen (Daigneau) Paquette, and his parents Anatole J. Paquette, Sr. and Charlotte (Beede) Paquette. Loving father to Jay Paquette; Kiz Gibson (Jim); Tia Carmichael (John); and Fay Paquette (Robin). Proud Grandfather, to Alex Hurst (Joanne); Dillon Gibson; Stewart Carmichael (Finance Meagan); Jamison Paquette; Madison Bennett (Braxton); Brianna Carmichael (Manuel); Jara Paquette; and Helen Paquette. Great Grandfather to Liam, Noah and Ellie Hurst; Zephyr Carmichael; Ridge and Haze Bennett. Further survived by brothers Anatole Paquette Jr., Thomas Paquette, and sisters Constance Madore, and Colleen Blood, nieces, nephews, and many other relatives.

Stew will be fondly remembered by family and friends as a beloved father, hardworking business owner in NH and FL, as well as a nationally recognized collector of antiques. Stewart spent his professional life honoring the legacy of his late father, AJ Paquette, with the company Paquette Paving Company Inc. Stew spent decades paving in the greater New England area before moving with his family to Central FL in 1974. The business was reestablished in Leesburg where he continued road building until he sold in 1998. He went from owning Paquette Paving to establishing himself in the Leesburg

community by promoting the remembrance and preservation of the International Harvester Farmall Tractors. In his "retirement years" he spent his time collecting and restoring rarities such as antique tractors, signs, and the like, which are on display at the 'Paquette's Historical Farmall Tractor Museum' in Leesburg, FL. In his 83 years, Stewart became owner to one of the largest collections of International Harvester machinery, dubbed "Stew's Stuff", in the nation/world, with a special affinity for the Farmall Tractor. Stew was a pillar in the International Harvester community for more than 20 years, for which he hosted an annual tractor event that attracted crowds from around the nation. Stewart was also coordinator to the "Running of the Red" traveling event that brought a caravan of tractors for miles to be marveled at The Villages town squares.

The legacy of Stewart Paquette continues in the hearts of all of those who were fortunate enough to know and love him. He will be remembered not only as an integral member of the IH community, but more importantly as a great man to all of his family and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at the Show Barn located at 615 S. Whitney Rd. Leesburg, FL 34748 on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 2:00PM. In lieu of flowers, please make remembrance in his name to Cornerstone Hospice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Stewart Paquette*



May 11, 2022 at 07:17 PM

VL

We knew Stew when he had his paving company in Meredith. We needed modifications done to our driveway access to our house for our son who was disabled and used a wheelchair. Stew came right over with his employees and equipment and made the necessary accessibility very expertly. He refused to take payment from us and said he wanted to make things easier for us and our son. He was a wonderful person.

Valerie Lemay - May 23, 2022 at 03:50 PM

MA

“ *Liberty monster truck owner Martin Wilbert out of Sumterville,Fl. I very well remember Stew!! We spoke on several occasions,super nice gentleman!! Very sorry to hear of his passing,I was at the big truck show Feb '22,heard he was gravely ill at that time. Very sorry for this news.*

Martin - January 12, 2023 at 11:38 PM

JK

“ To the Paquette family, I met Stewart once, as many probably did, at a pancake breakfast, he was in one of the show barns and it was so great to hear him tell stories of the tractors. His love of the collection was apparent. I also have know many of your family via Jennifer Sidelinger. I just want to say, my heart goes out to all of you. He was such a big presence and I know he will be missed. Hugs to the family. I am sorry I will not be available to attend his celebration of life, but I will be there in spirit with you all. Take care of each other.
Janet Kraft

Janet Kraft - March 28, 2022 at 12:07 PM

LL

“ When I started working for Stewart around 05 he had small collection of 8 Farmalls. I ran into him in Apopka at Ford car dealership. He was buying couple of pickups to send to NH. I had retired and moved to Leesburg. He asked me if I would come by and see his tractors and repair oil leak on one. Long story short we restored well over 100 tractors together. A good part time job for a retired guy that his hobby was restoring farm tractors also. We got along good. Always worked things out. He told me any deal has to be good for both parties. The International and Farmall community will truly miss him. I know I will. See you in heaven Lonny

Lonny Loudin - March 26, 2022 at 03:18 PM

FU

“ I met Stewart just a short 3 years ago when I asked him if he would mind restoring my childhood Farmall metal pedal tractor. He was such a nice man and meticulously turned my old, worn-out tractor into a priceless treasure. He was such a gentleman, even took his time take myself and my son on a personalized tour of his museum. He'll forever be in our memories. Please accept my condolences.

Fred Upton - March 18, 2022 at 08:14 AM

WC

“ My husband and I are from Vermont, we enjoyed our yearly visit with Stew and your open house,he will be missed.

William Cassidy - March 18, 2022 at 08:00 AM

OL

“ Mr. Paquette was not only a business associate to my daddy, but he became an extended family member and cherished friend. We will miss seeing Mr. Paquette and the tractors he would bring to the shop. His smile and laugh was always warming.

O'Toole Loretta - March 17, 2022 at 09:12 AM

JS

“ Stew included visiting us in Michigan when my late husband was ill; while attending the Mackinaw Bridge crossing and of course driving a red tractor over the bridge (as filmed by Small Town Big Deal. He left there and visited our farm in Gratiot County to see our IH equipment still in service while he shared his love of family and all the IH equipment and friends he had met over the years. Wonderful memories! A huge thank you for all the interest in love of agriculture he has inspired to thousands of people over the years. We will all miss him. My prayers to all those family and friends who loved and appreciated him,

Janet Swanson - March 15, 2022 at 09:51 PM

PW

“ Great guy,he will be missed.I have sewed many pairs of jeans for him.Always wanted a crease stitched down the front so they looked heavy starched. I will pray for family.

peggy weese - March 15, 2022 at 02:27 PM