



## John LeBlanc

August 26, 1930 - May 4, 2014

John LeBlanc, 83, of Bloomington, died peacefully on Sunday, May 4, 2014. Born August 26, 1930 in Grayling, Michigan, son of Alice (LeBoeuf) and George LeBlanc. He was raised in Cheboygan, Michigan; he graduated from the University of Montreal in 1952. He married Dolores (Gouine) LeBlanc August 21, 1954. He served in the Army for two years in Korea as a staff sergeant. Upon completion of his service he taught grade levels spanning 8-12 in Garden City, Michigan from 1956-59. After moving to Racine, Wisconsin he served as a Math Consultant in the Racine School District until 1968. In addition, he completed his Masters and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin during this time. Simultaneously he began writing with Silver-Burdett, Inc. in 1964 where he was head author of a mathematics textbooks series for K-12. In 1968, he joined the Mathematics Education Department at Indiana University. In 1971 he was promoted to Assistant Professor and in 1974, promoted to Professor and named Chairman of the Mathematics Development Center, a National Science Foundation funded project. He retired as Professor Emeritus in Education in 1995. He edited the Arithmetic Teacher Journal, a publication of the National Council of Teachers of Math. He enjoyed his retirement fishing/boating in Tobinabee, Michigan, driving his golf cart

around The Villages, Florida and visiting with family in Zionsville, Indiana.

In addition to his wife of sixty years, John is survived by seven children, Jai Kaur LeBlanc, Patricia (Barry) Hicks, John (Polly) LeBlanc, Jean LeBlanc (Joseph Scalzo), David LeBlanc (Deborah Thom), Michele LeBlanc (Michael Feltner), and Lisa Bays (Thomas). In addition, he is survived by grandchildren HariShabd, Karta Purkh, Amardev, Laura (Bo), Matthew, Kerry, David, Sarah, Jennifer (Marc), Alyssa (Alex), Gwen, Madeleine, Maxwell, Christopher, Katherine and Lucy and great-grandchild Claire.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to The National Shrine of the Cross in the Woods 7078 M-68, Indian River, Michigan 49749 or the charity of one's choice in memory of John LeBlanc.

Family will receive friends from 2:30pm - 4:00pm Tuesday, May 6th at Allen Funeral Home with a memorial service at 4:00pm.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.allenfuneralhome.org](http://www.allenfuneralhome.org)

# Tribute Wall

GN

“ My brother who lives in Nashville, IN just let me know of Dr. LeBlanc's passing. I was sorry to hear the news and I have many fond memories of Dr. LeBlanc and his family while I was attending IU during 1969-1872. You and his family are in my thoughts. I had a 30 year career in mathematics education at Salisbury University and much of my success was built on the training received from Dr. LeBlanc. I feel I was very fortunate to study in his program and complete a doctorate user his guidance. I hope his final years were all he wanted them to be. I retired in 2003 and am enjoying my retirement.

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**Gerry Nardi Rossi** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

AN

“ Dolores and Family,  
I was so saddened to hear of John's passing. I spent four years, 1988-1992, working with John during my time as a doc student. As a new doc student, I remember thinking that John knew EVERYONE who was ANYONE in the field of mathematics education. He was such a wonderfully caring and sincere mentor. John was certainly the patriarch of the Math Ed Family at IU and will be sorely missed.

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**Ann Leitze** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

LI

“ Dear Delores and family, I was very saddened to hear about John. I have such fond memories of working with John. He gave me so many opportunities to learn and grow as an educator. He had a wonderful way of working with me as a student and a colleague, all at the same time.

*His sense of humor and love of fun also made John so great to work with. During my first weekend in Bloomington, I got to be part of a surprise birthday party for John. He and the rest of the family had just returned from a trip. It must have been a great surprise to have a rowdy band of people playing strange instruments and singing appear at his front door. He probably was tired and would have rather relaxed with his family, but he welcomed us all and took part in the craziness. This relaxed atmosphere that he created allowed us all to work hard and play hard in many different situations.*

*Of course, he was also demanding. He was quite a task master when I was writing my dissertation, even from his hospital bed. I can still remember visiting him in the hospital and him asking, “When I am going to see Chapter 4?” He was also very encouraging, and I will always remember his friendship and guidance.*

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**Linda Proudfit** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

JO

“ I have fond memories of John during my doctoral work in mathematics education at Indiana University from 1988-1992. Beyond interactions in the department and in a course, I remember our fun social events, including the White Elephant Holiday party each year.

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**Joanna Masingila** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

NO

“ Dear Delores and family:

*I am saddened by the news about John, but I am also heartened by all he did in his life. The most memorable and, to me, the most valuable trait of John was his wonderful sense of humor. I remember him always with a chuckle in his voice and a look on the positive sides of things. His sense of humor for me continued long after we had seen each other for years with his personal notes on your Christmas cards. I always looked forward to hearing from him. John was very kind to give me my first position in 1974 while still finishing my dissertation. My two years in Bloomington under John's leadership gave me the perspective of not taking things too seriously. How could I when working in an old sorority house with the cast of characters that John and Sandy had assembled. What a group. The experience was not only professionally rewarding, but socially enlivening. John did well in developing mathematical materials that were realistic and practical for teachers that addressed both the mathematics and the pedagogy. I continued to use these materials long after I left IU in my teaching and work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. John was always coming up with ideas and thinking of ways to improve the status quo. He would come to me or in meetings we had, "Have you thought about this?" or "Here is another way to approach the issue," or "I was thinking the other day." He was very creative and surrounded himself with creative people. The environment was fun to work in and John made sure that while working hard we spent time together having fun with each other. We went on picnics, played volleyball, celebrated birthdays, met in fun places for cross-site project meetings and celebrated spring with our film festival. John's love of life was catching to us all.*

*One January (1976), John with George Immerzeel took Frank and me to the north woods of Michigan over a weekend to Aloha. I had never experienced ice fishing, snow shoeing, and surviving by a wood stove before. At the time I did not realize I would be moving to Wisconsin and now find all of these activities very common. The most fun came from the onslaught of stories told by John and George. This was one of those special times in a life time that I*

*continue to remember and draw upon. John exposed me to many things while in Bloomington those two years. An important lesson I learned from him was how to lead a project by bringing in good people, getting them to perform at their creative best, and above all to have fun.*

*You have my thoughts and prayers in celebration of John who was very wonderful and influential to me.*

*Norman Webb*

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**Norman Webb** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

JO

“ *Dear Aunt Dolores, cousins and LeBlanc family,*

*We send our love at this very hard time for you. We want to tell you that Uncle John was an incredibly gifted person who always made us feel like he really cared about us and always wanted to know what we were up to.*

*His passing brings back so many memories of our really great times we were able to share-especially when we had the chance to meet with you up in Indian River.*

*We wish we could be there with you today-but we are there in spirit. We were so fortunate to have Uncle John as a part of our lives!*

*Love Joe, Isabelle, Cara and Cole*

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**Joe Lozon** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

RO

“ My condolences to Dolores and the family. I experienced John as a caring, gentle spirit, with a genuine concern for each of his students no matter where they were in their educational journeys. He was one of the reasons that I chose IU for my PhD program, and I was not disappointed. He became both a mentor and a friend to me. He left a lasting positive mark on the IU program and the larger mathematics education community. He will be missed but remembered with fondness.

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Ron Milne - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

AL

“ I grew up on a small farm in Southern Indiana and began my education in a two-room schoolhouse. My father only finished the 8th grade.

*Education, nurtured by the right teachers at critical times, allowed me to achieve amazing things. One can succeed with a good education, some ability, lots of perseverance, and a little luck. One of my most “lucky” meetings occurred when I met Phil Peak, Frank Lester and John LeBlanc at Indiana University.*

*John was my first contact with mathematics education at the graduate level. I was getting my Masters in Mathematics, but I bumped into John at the Mathematics Methods Center. We talked for a while and I saw the ardor he had for students learning mathematics and mathematics education. He invited me to take a course with him and I was on my way to a PhD. John was the right teacher at a critical time. He literally changed my life, and the lives of the many I have taught.*

*I always will think of him with love, respect and gratitude.*

*Alan Zollman, Northern Illinois University*

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Alan Zollman - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

RS

“ Dear Dolores and family,

*Please know how important you, John and Murphy were to us and our "dog walkers". We shared many laughs, good times and sunshiny days and those memories will remain with us forever. As I remember, "Beanie"s first present was from you, welcoming her into the neighborhood. That was such a thoughtful gesture.*

*Dolores, this is such a difficult time for you. Our wish is that your children wrap their arms around you and that you reconnect with old friends of the past to help you carry on. May you find comfort in your good memories and peace in the days ahead.*

*Sending you love,*

*Ron and Sally*

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**Ron and Sally Primc** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

DJ

“ Aunt Dolores and Family

*So sorry to hear the news about Uncle John. I have very fond memories of how much fun I had with my Uncle John at family gatherings growing up. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Dave and Janet Hanson*

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**David and Janet Hanson** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

LI

“ *I took a graduate class with Dr. LeBlanc, and I will never forget him. He had a way of uniting the students so we could all learn from each other and have fun along the way. My sympathy for your loss.*

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**Linda Scott** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

AL

“ Dear Aunt Dolores and cousins,  
I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Uncle John. His obituary was wonderful - what a beautiful life he had! So many grandchildren and even a great grandchild.

*I have many fond memories of Uncle John, - snowmobiling on Mullet Lake, water fights, the "LeBlanc" sense of humor - with jokes that you weren't quite sure whether to laugh or just shake your head in bewilderment!*

*It's been so long since I have seen all my cousins in the family - but, I do think of you and especially now with losing your father will keep you all in my prayers. Aunt Dolores - you are in my prayers - daily.*

*I am unable to make the memorial service as the timing is too short of time for me to arrange this. I would love to be there and see all of you and celebrate Uncle Johns life with all of you.*

*With much love,  
Alice*

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**Alice Lozon-Conlin** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

TF

“ Dearest Aunt Delores and LeBlanc Family,  
Please accept our heartfelt sympathy as you move through this time of loss. Uncle John was always so gracious had a very genuine way of making one feel very special - he could effortlessly inquire about the very topic last shared even many years later.

*I know each of you will have memories of him to help you keep him dear and close in your hearts. I know I will.*

*Love, thoughts and prayers,  
John, Julie, Ian and William Addy*

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**The John Addy Family** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM