



## Dexter Benecke

August 5, 1942 - May 27, 2020

Dexter Lynn Benecke, 77 of Ridgeville Corners, Ohio died peacefully on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at CHP Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice surrounded by his family. He was born August 5, 1942 in Ridgeville Corners to the late Delmar and Marie (Michaelis) Benecke.

Dex was a 1960 graduate of Ridgeville High School and graduated from International Business College in Fort Wayne. On May 7, 1966, he married Janis (Fredrick) Benecke at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners and she preceded him in death on July 12, 2018.

In 1967, he started Benecke Trucking. In 1983, Dex and wife Janis, along with Tony and Sandy Rollins formed SanJan Inc. In 1987, Dexter became a partner in Viking Trucking. In 2005, Benecke Trucking Inc. and Viking Trucking Inc. merged under one name Viking Trucking Inc. Also, in 1987, Dexter started D&D Enterprises and Freedom Ridge Companies, with business partner Dave VonDeylen. In 1973, he purchased Alex Products, which was an aluminum vent supplier located in Alexander, N.C. He named the company Alex Products after its previous location. The company moved to Ridgeville Corners.

Dexter was the recipient of the 2017 Community & Economic Development Citizen of the Year Award. He served as vice chairman and director of the

board at Farmers and Merchants BanCorp Inc. He proudly served on the Ridgeville Fire Department for 53 years, with 20 years as chief. He has been involved in many other community organizations as well including the Henry County Fire Investigators, Henry County Chiefs Association, Henry County CIC, Local Emergency Planning Committee, and a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and currently attended St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Archbold. Dexter enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren at Bird Lake in Michigan and attending their activities. He also enjoyed traveling to Florida in the winter months.

He is survived by his children, Michelle Detwiler of Defiance, Jeffrey (Jo Ann) Benecke and Daniel (Gina) Benecke, both of Ridgeville Corners; grandchildren, James (Meghan) Rodriguez, Jennifer (Alex) Leddy, Jessica and Jasmine Rodriguez , Matthew and Nicholas Benecke, Autumn, Ellison, and Kayla Benecke; and siblings, Neal (Margaret) Benecke, and Beverly (Dennis) Meyer. He was also preceded in death by an infant daughter, Melissa.

A private funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 4 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church. Please visit the church website <https://the-welcome-place.org/> and scroll down to access the YouTube or Facebook links to view the service remotely. Live stream only available on Facebook.

A public funeral procession will take place in the rear parking lot of Northwest State Community College starting at 12:30 p.m. and proceed to St. Peter's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Ridgeville Corners, where a Firefighter's Last Call Service and Life Flight flyover will take place at 1 p.m. with social distancing in mind.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Ridgeville Fire and Rescue or CHP Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice and can be mailed to Rodenberger-Gray

Funeral Home 1010 Westmoreland Ave. Napoleon, OH 43545. Online  
condolences may be left on [www.rodembergergray.com](http://www.rodembergergray.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery

CO RD X  
Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUN 4. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery  
CO RD X  
Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555

# Tribute Wall

DR

“ We are sorry to hear of Dex's passing. He was a pillar of the Ridgeville community.

*Doug & Aris Rychener*

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**Doug & Aris Rychener** - June 04, 2020 at 08:26 PM

DA

“ My sincere condolences to his brother Neal, & Margaret 🙏

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**Deb Armstrong** - June 02, 2020 at 06:33 PM

DT

“ When Dexter was a freshman at Ridgeville High School, he was a student in my freshman English class. He was the kind of student that any teacher would appreciate having in class. I also remember that when he was in the second grade he was in my sister's class and during that year she was married, and I subbed for her for a week. When she came back, Dexter told her that he got his numbers better when I was teaching. That was kind of him on my part but I was rather surprised that my sister shared it. I also remember his responding to my call for help when my husband needed to go to be taken to the hospital. It's always good to see a former student do so much good in the community. My sincere sympathy to his family.

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**Dora Titgemeyer** - June 02, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear this. I'm a very old friend of his brother Neal. Please know you will be in my prayers.  
*Chris McDowell*

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**Christine McDowell Braxmaier** - June 02, 2020 at 07:59 AM

CD

“ *Dexter was a wonderful part of the Bird Lake community and will be missed. We send caring thoughts to his family and all he held dear. Constance and Jim Dutchess, Hy Vu Beach.*

Constance Dutchess - June 01, 2020 at 09:52 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Tribute Video*



Rodenberger Funeral Home - June 01, 2020 at 03:18 PM

SD



Shelley Detwiler - June 01, 2020 at 07:06 PM

DF

“ *DEAN & DOROTHY REED & FAMILY purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dexter Benecke.*



DEAN & DOROTHY REED & FAMILY - May 30, 2020 at 11:30 AM

JL

“ *Dexter was good people. Prayers for the family in this time. The good Lord received an angel.*

josh lero - May 29, 2020 at 05:24 PM

EI

“ *Employees of Stoneco, Inc. purchased the With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket for the family of Dexter Benecke.*



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**Employees of Stoneco, Inc.** - May 29, 2020 at 12:40 PM

HG

“ *To Dexter's Family, You have my Sympathy on his passing. I first met Dexter when his parents owned the Hardware store in Wauseon. I later moved to Napoleon and would see Neal at Snyder's.*

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**Hal Griffin** - May 29, 2020 at 10:48 AM

DM

“ *I am very sorry to hear of Dexter's passing. Dex and I were best buddies in the RHS Band and I have fond memories of many concerts and parades. In even earlier times we created some fun improvisations with puppets and marionettes on a stage in Dexter's family basement and later dramatic shows on a reel to reel tape recorder. I remember one along the lines of an invasion of aliens. Rest in peace friend. -Douglas Meyer, State College, PA*

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**Douglas Meyer** - May 29, 2020 at 07:21 AM

RR

“ I was saddened with the news of the loss of Dexter. I recall his commitment to the Ridgeville Fire Department and the many times of seeing his truck speeding to the station. His relentless desire to keep Ridgeville Corners strong and relevant was unmatched. I can also attest to his deep love for Bird Lake. Dexter wanted his family and friends to enjoy his haven and he enriched the lake community with many developments during his reign. A recent display of his love for his life partner is shown in the garden next to his lake home especially designed for his late wife Jan. I feel fortunate to have enjoyed many laughs and stories with Dexter. He is truly a hero to me and undoubtedly many others throughout his years with us. He will be greatly missed as a good and faith filled man.

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**Rick Roth** - May 28, 2020 at 05:59 PM

SC

“ Shelley, Dan, Gina, Jeff and Joanne and families:

*May your memories of Dexter and the love of family surround you and give you strength in the days ahead.*



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**Sue and Lee Christiansen** - May 28, 2020 at 05:07 PM

SC

“ From the first we met Dexter, he also made us feel very welcome in his home. On the couple of times we were able to make it to Bird Lake, he throughly enjoyed taking us for cruise on the lake.



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**Sue and Lee Christiansen** - May 28, 2020 at 04:46 PM

TL

“ It is with great sadness to learn of Dexters passing. I always enjoyed having the pleasure of visiting with Dexter when he would stop in the bakery. It was usually on Thursday afternoon when he was on his way to the lake. We would talk about lake life and the fire service as he was friends with my father in law who was Wauseon’s fire chief. Heaven is a better place with Dexter and he left a large footprint here. Sincere sympathy to his family.

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**Tim Lange** - May 28, 2020 at 04:13 PM

PH

“ I had the privilege of spending several minutes talking with Dexter last fall when the AHS & RHS Alumni Band met for the homecoming football game performance. Dexter played his saxophone in the band along with his sons and grandson. I was the Archbold band director when all three of his children were in the band. He was always very supportive and willing to help in any way possible to make all the students’ musical experience a positive one! I have nothing but the highest respect and appreciation for Dexter and his family and offer my sincerest sympathy to them in this difficult time.

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**Philip Hoverman** - May 28, 2020 at 03:52 PM

PO

“ *Dexter was one of the kindest sweetest men I have ever known. I am so sorry for your loss. Dexter has left an amazing legacy.*

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**Peggy Oyer** - May 28, 2020 at 03:34 PM

PH

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Philip Hoverman** - May 28, 2020 at 03:31 PM

JB

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Jo Ann Benecke** - May 28, 2020 at 03:04 PM