



Jon "Rock" Rickenberg

August 6, 1968 - January 23, 2026

Jon William Rickenberg, 57, of Liberty Center, Ohio, passed away peacefully at his residence on Friday, January 23, 2026. He was born on August 6, 1968, in Napoleon, Ohio, to the late Walter and Lula (Witte) Rickenberg.

Jon grew up in Napoleon, and was a 1987 graduate of Napoleon High School. He retired from Sauder Woodworking in Archbold, Ohio in 2025.

Jon had a passion for music, and was a talented, self taught musician. He loved playing guitar, enjoyed songwriting, and played in several bands. Jon also had a passion for traveling. He frequently traveled to the Sunshine state, and enjoyed spending time at Clearwater Beach with his sister Grace. Jon loved relaxing at beach bars while enjoying live music and beautiful sunsets. He enjoyed hiking and had a weekly routine of exploring the trails and sights of Oak Openings Metropark. Jon loved adventures and road trips, and recently traveled out west to enjoy many iconic sights in the national parks. While on his adventures, he loved taking the back roads to explore the local music and food scenes. Jon, also known as "Rock" to many of his friends, enjoyed visiting Put-In-Bay, and always looked forward to the annual German American Festival in Oregon. When he wasn't traveling or hiking, Jon enjoyed creating delicious meals at home. He inherited a love of cooking and baking from his mom, who was a wonderful cook.

Jon's compassion and genuine kindness was evident as he became the main caregiver for his father during Walter's last five years of life. He was a devoted son and brother throughout his life. He greatly valued his family and enjoyed

all the times gathering together.

Jon will be lovingly remembered by his siblings, Carol (Mike) Mackin, Mary Wilkins, Grace Fronce, Jane (Rick) Crawford, Beth (Chris) Moore, and Christa (Shelby) Dawson; nieces and nephews, Mary Nelson, John Mackin, John Wilkins, Tom Wilkins, Christi Wilkins, Ashley Shinnars, Jeff Crawford, Renee Hutchison, Joe Crawford, Dan Crawford, Ryan Moore, Collin Moore, Landon Moore, Will Dawson, and Macy Cordray; as well as many great nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Jon is preceded in death by his brother, David Rickenberg; and brothers-in-law, Stewart Wilkins and Tom Fronce. Everyone who knew Jon knew that he was an extremely kind, loving, and easy-going soul. He will be forever missed by his family and friends.

Friends and family are invited to a Celebration of Life gathering in loving memory of Jon. Join us to enjoy a spring day at Oak Openings Metropark Lodge, Whitehouse, Ohio and an afternoon filled with good memories, stories, and laughter on May 1, 2026, from 4pm until 8pm. In Lieu of flowers, memorials can be made out to the Toledo Metropark Foundation. Online condolences may also be left for the family at rodenbergergray.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAY 1. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Oak Openings Metropark Lodge
5230 Wilkins Road
Whitehouse, OH 43571

Tribute Wall

LK

“ Love and Hugs, Jeanne Keane purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Jon "Rock" Rickenberg.



Love and Hugs, Jeanne Keane - April 29 at 12:50 PM

GF

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Grace Fronce - March 02 at 09:57 AM

CR

“ I remember Jon as the little brother who was always ready to join in the fun with his older sister and her crazy friends. I'd like to think that Jon began his love of music in our little makeshift basement band called the Mebjecs! He was such a quiet and kind person. RIP Jon!

Carol Baker Ryan

Carol Ryan - February 02 at 12:59 PM



“ I feel so blessed to have known Jon. We were kids who grew up together in the same neighborhood, went to high school together, and most recently spent time with Rock on our annual guy trips/adventures over the past 7 years that took us to places like Belize, Colorado, Florida, etc. . Jon taught me so much without him even knowing it and I will forever do my best to “Live Life Like Rock” and appreciate each day, don’t take anything for granted, enjoy family and friends, and always take time to enjoy a little ice cream. RIP my friend.



Paul Nutter - January 31 at 10:37 AM

JW

“ I am still struggling with words on this, there were so many memories these last 40 years. I'll remember how important family was to Jon, how he always "showed up", his love of life and adventure, playing guitar and making up songs. I'll remember the smile that he shared graciously with the world. My thoughts are with family and his many friends. He will be missed and always remembered.

Jeff Warnke - January 29 at 10:01 AM

GF

Thank you Jeff for your kinds words. He treasured your friendship and often spoke of the good times he had with you and your wife. I'm glad you were a part of his life.

grace fronce - January 30 at 08:32 PM

MD

“ Growing up across the street from the Rickenberg household was an amazing childhood. Jon was use to having everyone one over and it didn't matter who was there, we played all day from noon until the street lights came on. There was always a seat at the dinner table for you after playing in the creek or out back in the playhouse. Jon worked the gas station when we played “traffic” in the driveways. Jon engineered the set up of the fisher price towns we would create in the neighborhood. He was always gentle and kind. Rest in peace. Hugs to family!

molly miller dickmann - January 26 at 05:37 PM

TS

Sending our heartfelt sympathy in the passing of Jon. The Snyder boys loved playing pool at the Rickenberg home with Jon as kids. The Rickenberg house was full of life and love, what a great legacy. RIP ❤️ Tom, Susie, Andy and Ben Snyder

tom snyder - January 27 at 09:31 AM



“ Jon was a friend and neighbor during my time in Napoleon, '80-'83. I spent a lot of time at the Rickenberg's, I saw a great American family. Jon was a good friend, music and sense of humor aligned. I'll spend some time drawing memories from that time. This is too young. I'm sorry for your loss. -JJ

JJ Ladd - January 25 at 08:46 PM

BM

Thanks for the kind thoughts JJ. Jon had some great times with you! There is a funny story that includes you carrying a little snake in your pocket. We will always have to cherish those fun memories. Thanks again. ❤️

Beth Moore - January 26 at 02:26 PM

GF

Thank you JJ, he often spoke of his time with you and his friends.

Grace Fronce - January 26 at 07:37 PM

TS

“ *I worked with Jon at Sauders..He was a sweet adorable man...He will never be forgotten* ❤️💫❤️💕💕

Tanya Schutt - January 25 at 06:46 PM

GF

Tanya, he talked fondly of his work friends. I'm glad you were a part of his life.

Grace Fronce - January 26 at 07:38 PM

RW

“ *In early 2000, we were looking for a guitar player and at some random music event I met some dude named Rock. Little did I know the incredible friendship we would have over the next few decades and the many adventures we shared with so many others. He was absolutely the best of us and showed me what was like to have a brother. Not sure why he had to rush on ahead of everyone, but I know he is sharing many a story and song. You were loved by many brother and you'll be missed by many more.*



Rob W - January 25 at 05:39 PM

GF

Rob, you and your friends made a difference in his life. He enjoyed spending time with you and the rest of your group!

Grace Fronce - January 26 at 07:43 PM

BD

“ *Sending sincere condolences!*

Bob & Pam Dawson - January 25 at 05:29 PM

GF

Thank you so much!

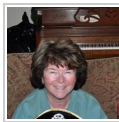
Grace Fronce - January 26 at 07:42 PM

MF

“ *My sincere condolences to Jon's family and friends. He was such a great guy who will be deeply missed by everyone including our Class of 1987. I'll miss hearing about all his adventures that he posted about.* ❤️



Melissa French - January 25 at 12:25 PM



Sorry for your loss. Hope you received my phone call last night. If there is anything and everything I could do, please let me know. Will make checkups on your house. My sincere prayers and condolences to you and Jon's siblings. R.I.P.

Jeanne Keane - January 26 at 02:47 PM

GF

Thank you, dear friend.

Grace Fronce - January 26 at 07:45 PM

KR

He had such a positive outlook on life. So kind hearted and was not judgmental to anyone he met. His smile could make any one happy and smile right back at him. He will be truly missed.

Kelli Rosonowski - January 26 at 09:18 PM

GF

Thank you, Kelli. Jon loved life and those who were around him. He is truly missed.

grace fronce - January 30 at 08:39 PM