



John Leon Pavlik

May 25, 1938 - January 16, 2023

John Leon Pavlik, known to his fans as Rockabilly Legend, "Johnny Powers", of Harrison, MI, passed away on January 16th, 2023 at the age of 84 surrounded by his daughter, son in law, and grandchildren. Beloved husband of the late Delphine (Brzezinski) Pavlik. A loving father to Yvonne (Pavlik) Peltier and her husband Edward Kibner. Cherished grandfather of Evan Peltier, Kayla (Peltier) Bove, Genna Peltier, and their spouses Sarah Peltier, Anthony Bove, and Trevor Pickrell, respectively. Fun Papa John to his great grandchildren Jonah Peltier and Tyler Bove. Dear brother to Christine Stasik, Ginger Kennedy, Tom Pavlik, and Gary Brougham. Predeceased by parents, Stephen Pavlik, Virginia Zychski, and Lorraine Pavlik; sisters, Marie Michael and Gayle Brougham; and brothers, Stanley Pavlik and Fred Brougham.

Johnny was born May 25, 1938 in East Detroit, Michigan to Stephen Pavlik and Virginia Zychski. He said he had "music in his blood," his father playing the banjo while uncles played the accordion, fiddles & drums, filling family gatherings with Polkas. He started his singing career at the age of 15 in 1953, buying his first guitar from friend, Tony Lawson. He released his most popular song, Long Blond Hair, through Fox Records in 1955 and in 1959 was signed by Sam Phillips to Sun Records, the label that signed Elvis and other rockabilly greats. In 1960, he met Berry Gordy and became the first white male artist to sign with Motown Records - also making Johnny Powers the only artist signed on both Sun and Motown labels and he was later inducted

into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame.

Johnny met his wife, Delphine ("Del"), in 1960 and told her "I'm going to marry you" by the end of the first date. They married 4 months later on January 14th, 1961 and were married for nearly 54 years until her death in 2015. They welcomed their daughter, Yvonne, in 1964 and Johnny switched his energy to producing and writing rather than recording, which allowed him to spend more time with his family at their home in Utica, Michigan and going camping and fishing. But Johnny had "the bug" to get back on the stage, and he re-entered the music scene during the resurgence of Rockabilly in the 1980s, touring around the world for almost another 40 years in the UK, France, Spain, Hungary, Japan, Nashville and his last big show in Las Vegas in 2018. Performing on stage was one of his biggest passions, which he continued to do into his 80s.

Johnny and Del retired at their home in Harrison, MI which they transformed from the "ugly duckling on the lake" to a beautiful property. This property became his oasis where he loved to fish, drive his pontoon boat, snowmobile, and host family gatherings. He was a member of the Harrison Moose and the Eagles clubs where he valued his many friends. John always had a special place in his heart for his fans, friends, family....and merlot.

Please join us in celebrating his life on Sunday January 22nd, 2023.

A Memorial Gathering will take place at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd, Utica, MI 48317 from 2pm - 4pm and Memorial Service at 4pm. The family will be hosting a dinner after the Memorial Service for family and friends.

The family suggests donations to the Michael J. Fox Foundation, dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's Disease. It was a cause that became very important to him when his wife, Del, was diagnosed, and it was the charity he

chose for her funeral. He would have loved for his last efforts to be tied to the charity meant to fix the disease that took his wife from him too soon. Please share a memory with his family at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Recommended hotels:

La Quinta Inn 45311 Park Ave, Utica, MI 48315

Comfort Inn 11401 Hall Rd, Utica, MI 48317

Holiday Inn Express 45555 Utica Park Blvd, Utica, MI 48315

Hyatt Place 45400 Park Ave, Utica, MI 48315

Cemetery Details

Irwin Cremation Service

51528 Schoenherr Road
Shelby Township, MI 48315

Previous Events

Arrangements - Pending

JAN 19. 1:00 PM (CT)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home

Memorial Gathering

JAN 22. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Memorial Service

JAN 22. 4:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

MP

“ *The Silver Spur John you and Jack Scott entertained us for a lot of years there, Lost my car keys in your car 1 time listening to a demo you had recorded..you left for home with my keys in your back seat. You drove all the way back when you found them. Thankx' Johnny.. Monte Pepperell*

monte pepperell - June 30, 2025 at 02:32 PM

JR

“ *I am so sad Johnny has gone So many great memories of times we spent together while Johnny was in the UK and Europe. We became pals on his first visit here in July 1985, following our release on Rollercoaster of his first UK album. Several albums followed on CDs and vinyl, and it seems like we released everything he ever recorded ... throughout, he was always a pleasure to deal with and a great live entertainer, wowing the rockabilly crowds right from the start.*

I shall miss his great sense of humour and our discussions of the rights and wrongs of the music business, then and now.

Bye bye Johnny ... miss you more than I can say...

John

John Beecher, Rollercoaster Records - January 26, 2023 at 06:24 PM

IS

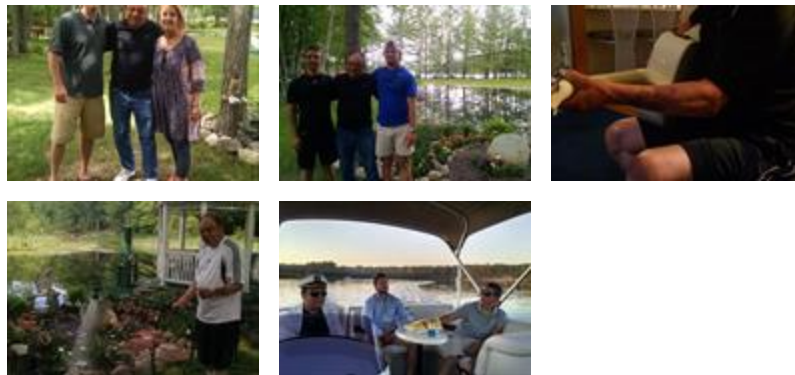
“ I remember John as having quite a nice sense of humor . He seemed to tease Del a lot. He was generous with taking us on a pontoon ride quite often when we went to visit. The bonfires at night were always fun. When we stayed overnight, he would tell us " stay out of my kitchen " because he was making breakfast for us. It was always good . I know he loved life and his music actually was his life. I guess that is all for now. Now he can be with Del and the angels.



Irene Sobolesky - January 25, 2023 at 06:18 PM



“ Uncle Johnny loved his wife, Aunt Del, and his only daughter, Yvonne so very much! He also loved music and enjoyed playing for his fans and family! Family reunions always had some great music, even Polka music! ❤️
Mr family will always have such great memories of Uncle Johnny!



Dawn Annette Camp - January 22, 2023 at 05:54 PM

JO

“ I met Johnny briefly during his first visit to Spain, in 1993, when he played at a Rock & Roll Festival as one of the headliners. I had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing him at the hotel where he stayed. I found him to be a extremely friendly and humble person, and I have never forgotten that day. I still keep his autographs and a priceless photo with him.

My very deepest condolences to all the family and friends at this very sad time.

I will always remember Johnny - and will of course keep on playing his magnificent records, as I have always done.

Thank you, Johnny, and rest in peace.

Josep.

Josep - January 22, 2023 at 01:53 PM

LY

“ Yvonne and Family,

John and Delphine were our best friends on Cranberry Lake. We have many great memories we could share. We spent a lot of fun times with them. Going to the movies, out to dinner, boating, playing cards and board games. While we never had the chance to see John in concert, we had the privilege of having him do personal concerts for us at his home, neighborhood lake parties, at the Moose and Eagles clubs and local watering holes.

When I first met John, I didn't know that much about Rockabilly music and how popular he was. One of my favorite memories was the night John and Delphine invited Bill and I to go to a concert at Soaring Eagle Casino. Little Richard, the Comets and Chuck Berry were performing. As we walked through the Casino, all of the sudden, people ran up and were so excited to see "Johnny Powers" in person and asked for autographs. I was in "awe" to be in his presence and said to him, I had no idea you were so popular. It was the best night!

He had a love for life, his family and his wonderful wife Delphine. I know and can feel with my heart and soul, that he is at peace, happy and back with his beloved wife.

Love Lynne

Lynne - January 21, 2023 at 11:38 AM

TR

“ *The Pickrells, Smiths, Easters & Rodgers purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of John Leon Pavlik.*



The Pickrells, Smiths, Easters & Rodgers - January 20, 2023
at 08:13 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Leon Pavlik.*



January 19, 2023 at 07:15 PM

BC

“ *I'm so sorry to hear this, this time, another SUN legend, Johnny Powers. This is so heartbreaking and scary!😭 All of my prayers, deepest sympathies and condolences go to all of his family, his corporate family, SUN Records, to his friends and to his fans. It was nice to being able to befriend him on FB since the last 10-15 years and to enjoy his music, and thanks very much to him for all of his contribution to the music industry, especially to the Rockabilly and Rock and Roll genres and with that, he will also be very sadly missed. Rest in peace and power, Johnny.😭💔🌹☐☐🙏🙏*

Bernadette Coombs - January 18, 2023 at 09:53 PM

BI

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Wall*



Bill - January 18, 2023 at 06:29 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of John Leon Pavlik.*



January 18, 2023 at 05:42 PM