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## The Shuffleboard Guy

In early March, 2006, Bourbon, Indiana lost a friend and shuffleboard player. Jan Morlan passed away March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the age of 59, of natural causes. Jan was a Viet Nam veteran and had grown sons and siblings. Jan will be missed dearly by his family and his extended shuffleboard family. Even though I knew Jan hadn't been feeling the best for the past month, I was still shocked when I heard the news. I asked me oldest son, "Did you know Jan Morlan from the Legion? He died!" He says, "The shuffleboard guy!?! No way!"

Jan played shuffleboard a lot, mostly at the Legion and Journey's End, rarely anywhere else in recent years. He was a fixture at the Legion, always ready to step in and play whether it was with some of the younger, newer players or with and against the "pros" like Jim Long, Mike Koontz, Dennis Kinsey or Gary Anglin. He'd clean the gutters, wipe and spray the board (some would say over sprayed) and have it ready to play for when other players showed up at the end of the day for a game or two. He generously doubled with me in several tournaments when I first started playing and couldn't get a partner.



Jan Morlan with Mike Johnson



Photo taken February 18, 2005

Jan played league this year on the "Do Wells", captained by Terry & Pam Dowell in the Bourbon/Etna Green League. Another member of the team, Bud "Harry" Esterline, told me that Jan was really happy to be playing on such a good team this year. They finished 1st in season play but second in the tournament. He even enjoyed watching and supporting the team on the nights that he didn't get to play.

Last time I spoke to Jan other than just to say hello in passing was February 11th, 2006. Actually, it was more like the 12th as it was about 2:00 AM. As happened many times, Jan and I were the last ones to witness the end of the tournament. He stayed to see who won and I stay to record and report the events. This happened to be the Sweethearts tournament at the Warsaw Eagles and I gave him a ride home to Bourbon afterwards.

You say the usual things, like "take care", and "see you later", never realizing that it might be the last time you speak to someone. I'll miss Jan. Many is the time I walked in some where and asked "Where's Jan?". Now something will always be missing in those places. It will be Jan, father, brother, veteran and "the shuffleboard guy".

By Ann Harrell

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