

OBITUARIES

John G Tarrant

March 29, 1931 ~ October 9, 2025

John Griffith Tarrant passed away peacefully on October 9, 2025 at Meadow Brook with his family by his side. He was born in Saginaw, MI on March 29, 1931 to William and Blanche (Griffith) Tarrant. He grew up in Saginaw and graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 1949. He joined the Army in 1951 during the Korean War and served honorably as a 1st Lieutenant. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves as a Captain until 1964. In 1953, he enrolled at Michigan State University on the GI Bill. That's where he met the love of his life, Mary Lou Hawley. They were married on September 3, 1955 and lived in married housing until John graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism.

Following graduation, he was hired at a weekly newspaper in St. Louis, Michigan. He honed his skills at that paper serving in multiple roles, and learned a lot about the business. He left that job in 1958 when he was hired to sell advertising at the Grand Rapids Herald. During his career of 68 years in the newspaper business, John served in many different capacities but his true passion was always the weekly community newspaper. In his later career, he was the publisher of a large group of weekly newspapers in the downriver area of Detroit – the largest of these was the Wyandotte News Herald.

He managed that group of newspapers until 1987 when he decided he wanted an even bigger challenge – to own and operate his own newspaper. He found a group of weekly newspapers for sale in Bellaire, MI. He convinced his wife, two daughters and son-in-law to move up north and join him in this family venture. At that time the group consisted of the Antrim County News, Leader and Kalkaskian and the Penny Stretcher. As the years went by, he added the Torch and Torch Printing in Central Lake and The Town Meeting in Elk Rapids.



John decided later he wanted to retire so the family sold the business to a large newspaper group. The new company, more interested in increasing profits and cutting expenses, shut down the papers. Filling the void, John started The Bellaire Review in 2003 which became The Antrim Review. Always keeping in mind his belief that people can get their national and state news from anywhere but local community news comes from your local newspaper.

John loved northern Michigan. He served on the board of the Bellaire Chamber of Commerce for many years and was a long-time member of the Bellaire Rotary Club. He also served on many other various boards in the area.

He enjoyed traveling with his wife, working in his yard, reading, writing and spending time with his family at their cottage on Lake Huron.

John was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Ellsworth and William; sisters Florence and Arlene and his wife of 66 years, Mary Lou.

He will be greatly missed by his two daughters Patricia (Jeffrey) Hallberg and Jacqueline Tarrant; two granddaughters Whitney (Nick Faust) Hallberg, Kristen (Darrek) Meadows and his great-granddaughter Violet Meadows.

A Service honoring his memory was held at 1:00 pm Monday, Oct. 20 at Church in the Hills, 6401 Shanty Creek Rd., Bellaire, Pastor David Ramage officiating. Visitation began at 11:30 am. A luncheon followed immediately after the service.

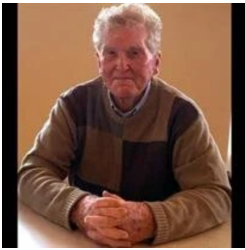
If interested in honoring John's memory, the family asks that you make a donation to The American Heart Association or The Glaucoma Foundation.

Arrangements were in the care of the Bellaire Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

Donald Ray Sherman

August 3, 1933 ~ October 18, 2025

Donald R. Sherman, 92, was welcomed home by the Lord on Saturday, October 18, 2025, when he passed away peacefully in the presence of his wife and daughters. Born in Lansing, Michigan on August 3, 1933, Don was the loving son of William T. (Shorty) Sherman and Marguerite A. Rose Sherman. The family moved to Kalkaska, Michigan in 1943 where Don enjoyed swimming, fishing, and hunting. He became catcher on the Kalkaska Blazer Baseball team, graduating from Kalkaska High School in 1951. Don served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War as a Staff Sargent and Radio Operator in Colorado Springs, Colorado from 1953-1955. In 1953 Don married the love of his life, Beatrice L. Hager Sherman on June 5, 1953, in Junction City, Kansas. Upon completion of his service, Don and Bea came back to Kalkaska where he became a leading member of the community. Throughout the years Don was a member of the Rotary Club, where he served as Club President, the Kalkaska County Industrial Development Corporation, the Kalkaska Chamber of Commerce, where he was awarded "Citizen of the Year" with his wife Bea. Along with being an active member of the Kalkaska Church of Christ and the Sebring Christian Church where he served as an Elder and leader for a combined total of 50 years, Don served on the Foundation Board at Northwestern Michigan College. He was also active at Great Lakes Christian College where he served as Trustee and Board President for a total of 20



years. Don worked at Wayne Wire Cloth Products in Kalkaska as a Quality Control Manager, where he retired after 49 years. As well as being an avid outdoorsman Don was an avid golfer, having the pleasure of playing at many renowned golf courses around the U.S. He also sang in a Men's Gospel Quartet, starting in the 6th grade, making music with the same members for 80 years. In addition to his parents Don was preceded in death by his mother- and father-in-law Claire and Thomas Hager and by his son-in-law, Charles R. Sole. Along with his wife, Don is survived by his daughters Jennie M. (Tom) Bender of Grayson, Kentucky and Melissa C. Sole of Traverse City, MI; grandchildren Donald L. (Keila) Bender of Lexington, KY, Rebecca L. Bender of Grayson, KY, Charlie S. (Katy) Sole of South Boardman, MI, and Emily M. Sole (Franklin) Alls of Tampa, FL; and great-grandchildren Kaitlynn M. (Camren) Staton and Jakob A. Bender of Lexington, KY, Jayden C. Alls of Tampa, FL, and Charlie R. and Olivia A. Sole of South Boardman, MI. Don also leaves behind numerous extended family, friends, colleagues, and church family who mourn his passing. A funeral service was held at the Kalkaska Church of Christ on Friday, October 24 at 11:00am, with visitation at 10:00am. In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to Great Lakes Christian College, <https://www.glcc.edu/give/> General Fund in memory of Donald R. Sherman. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Donna L. Hillman

October 14, 1929 ~ October 8, 2025

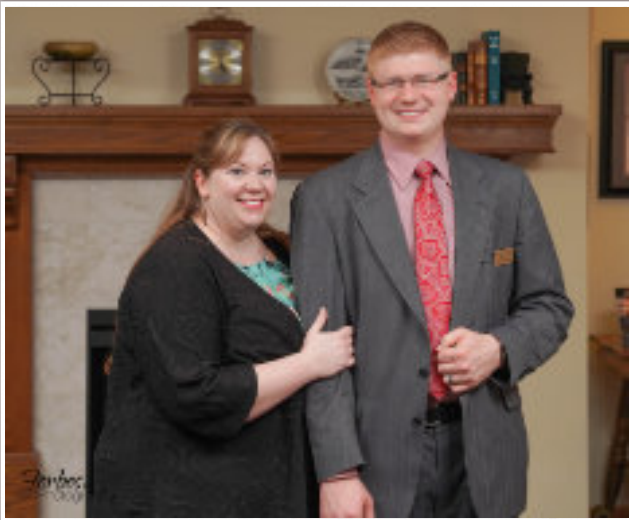
Donna Hillman, 95, of Kalkaska, passed away on October 8, 2025 at Kalkaska Eden Center. She was born on October 14, 1929 in Cadillac to the late Milton and Lillie (Gillow) Haines. Donna moved to Pontiac in 1948 where she met and married Maurice Hillman on February 26, 1949. They lived in Pontiac for 7 years where they were raising 4 children until moving to Drayton Plains. Donna was a Girl Scout Leader and waitress for many years. After moving to White Lake she was also a 4-H leader. Together the family moved to the Kalkaska area in spring of 1971. Donna decided to get her real estate license and worked as an agent for 30 plus years before retiring. Hobbies included euchre, bingo, and bowling. Donna was a devoted member of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church. She loved being with her family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Surviving Donna are her children, Geraldine DeMars and Ken (Jen) Hillman, daughter-in-law, Betty Hillman, all of Kalkaska; 10 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren; and an abundance of nieces and nephews. Preceding Donna in death is her husband of over 50 years, Maurice; her children, Patricia Lundsford and Greg Hillman; her siblings, Perry Haines, Willard Haines, Devere Haines; Charles Haines, Margaret Sylvia, Eva Haines, Gladys Budnick, Mary Alice Scott, Alveria Carey, Lois Servis and Lynn Schenk. Visitation was on Tuesday, October 14th from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial was on Wednesday at 11:00 am at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church. Burial at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Cemetery. Arrangements are made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

John 14:2 - In my Father's house, there are many mansions.
If it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.

Guiding Families Through Difficult Times with Genuine Care and Compassion



KALKASKA FUNERAL HOME
AND CREMATION SERVICES
KalkaskaFuneralHome.com

MANAGER:
BRUCE A. ZENNER II
231-258-3346
152 S. Cedar St.,
Kalkaska

Yvonne Kay Peck

September 10, 1936 ~ October 10, 2025

Yvonne Kay Peck, 89, of Traverse City, passed away on October 10, 2025.



Born to Floyd and Nellie (née Tanner) Hamilton in Petoskey, Michigan, on September 10, 1936, she married Virgil Peck on September 27, 1952, in Kalkaska, Michigan. Yvonne was a stay-at-home mom when her children were growing up. Later, she was employed as a clerk and factory worker in the Kalkaska area.

Yvonne loved making quilts, a skill handed down from her mother. She embroidered beautifully and made each of her children an embroidered bed cover, taking many hours of careful work.

She enjoyed planning colorful flowerbeds in the summer, and

going to yard sales, thrift stores, and shopping were also her favorite pastimes.

Yvonne is survived by her husband, Virgil, of 73 years, her five children, Debbie Peck, Becky (Floyd) Posey, Virgie (Bret) Dawson, Wade (Sue) Peck, Tanya Peck, 11 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, in-laws, and sister Mona Mae Kiel.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, October 14, at the Kalkaska Funeral Home. Visitation at 11:00, service at Noon, burial following at the Oliver Township Cemetery.

Douglas James Hanks

October 6, 1958 ~ October 22, 2025

Douglas “Dug” James Hanks, 67, of Kalkaska, passed away on October 22, 2025. He was born on October 6, 1958, in Ferndale, Michigan, to James and Jane (Ratkowiak) Hanks. Affectionately known as “Dug,” he had a lifelong passion for working on engines—cars, motorcycles, quads, lawn equipment—anything with a motor. He was always tinkering. Dug lived life on his own terms and was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. In the late 1990s, Dug moved to Kalkaska, where he truly found his home and enjoyed



many happy years. He is survived by his mother, Jane Hanks; his children, Colleen (Robert) Charbonneau and Douglas (Alexis) Hanks II; his grandchildren, Cash Hanks, Weston Hanks, Charles Charbonneau, Lincoln Hanks, Douglas Hanks III, and Baby Hanks on the way; and his siblings, Diana Hanks, Phillip (Janet) Hanks, and Patricia (David) Matheny. He was preceded in death by his father, James Hanks. Private services will be held. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

James Timothy Kelly Sr.

April 1, 1959 ~ October 16, 2025

James Kelly passed away peacefully at his home on October 16, with loved ones at his side. In the weeks prior to his passing, Jim was surrounded with love from his family and friends. Born in 1959 to Earl and Kathleen Kelly, Jim was proud of his upbringing in the foothills of Appalachia. He loved sharing stories of his childhood with the people that he met on his journey through life. Jim was a skilled contractor who built and remodeled many homes throughout the country. He was a man who took deep pride in his work and believed that working hard was an essential part of life’s balance. He left his own special mark on every project that he touched and created lifelong friendships with many of his clients. Jim was a passionate hunter who loved spending time in the outdoors. He found such peace and comfort in the tranquility of nature. He saw so much beauty from the window of a hunting blind or the top of a tree stand. Jim would often take photos of these special moments to share with others. Above all, Jim was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He adored spending time with his



children and grandchildren. He will always be remembered by them as “Papaw.” Jim held the utmost respect for veterans, holding in highest regards the men and women who fought for the country that he loved. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in honor of Jim to The Wounded Warrior Project. Jim is survived by his wife, Deanna Marie Kelly, and his children, Angela (Aaron) Kelly Marvin, James (Victoria) Kelly Jr., April Kelly, Jeffory (Sara) Kelly, Jacob Kelly, Deni (TJ) Spires, Rachael (Matt) Briton, and his “Baby Girl,” Samantha Kelly, and his siblings Earl (Marsha) Kelly, Brenda (Mick) Gayheart, Kathy (Terry) Kooienga, and Michael (Eve) Kelly. Jim is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Kathleen Kelly; his brother Robert (Jeannie) Kelly; and his sister Joyce (Dave) Strobel. A private ceremony for immediate family was held Tuesday, October 21 at Garfield Township Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

WOLFE-O’NEILL FUNERAL HOME

Our Family Serving Yours



106 S. Cherry
Kalkaska

David W. O’Neill, Licensed Manager

231-258-5121

- Pre-Paid Funeral Arrangements
- Family Owned & Operated
- Marker & Monument Sales
- Cremation & Traditional Services



Thomas E. Fricke

October 3, 1935 ~ October 7, 2025

Tom passed away peacefully at his home on Torch Lake, with his wife of 42 years, Carol, by his side. The previous Saturday, they hosted the wedding of his granddaughter Chelsea to Garret Freborg. The entire family was in attendance, representing four generations, joyously celebrating the wedding and Tom’s 90th birthday.



second retirement in 2002.

Tom was active in the Episcopal Church, Rotary International (Paul Harris fellow), the Elks, and numerous non-profit organizations. He was an honorary Admiral in

the Nebraska Navy, a roller coaster enthusiast, and an ardent fan of the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Tom and his wife Carol traveled the world and settled down in their dream home on Torch Lake, MI. He loved the lake and their 3 beautiful Golden Retrievers.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents, brother Jack, and brother-in-law Jim. He is survived by his wife, Carol, sister Karen, sons John (Tammy), Mark (Vicki), and Steven (Tamara). Also surviving are 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

A memorial celebration will be planned for a later date. Memorial gifts should be directed to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 403 Traverse St., Elk Rapids, Michigan 49629.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O’Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Additional Obituaries on page 10

Northwest MI

VOICE

Fields Media, PO Box 28, Rapid City, MI 49676

Editor in Chief

Tina Norris Fields
231-322-2787 or 231-645-0244
tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Dominic Fortuna
Alison Neihardt
& Adam DeVaney

Out & About and Calendar:

Tina Norris Fields - tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com

Locally owned, managed, and staffed.

ADDITIONAL OBITUARIES

Michael "Mike" Connell

June 1, 1955 ~ October 20, 2025

Michael Bruce Connell, of Rapid City, Michigan, lost his battle with lung disease passing away October 20, 2025, at Munson Medical Center. He was 70 years old. Born June 1, 1955, in Windsor, Ontario, Mike was the youngest child of James and Ruth (Phillips) Connell and had “a wonderful childhood,” especially the summers spent at his Grandpa and Grandma Phillip’s cottage on Balsam Lake in Coboconk, Ontario.

Mike enjoyed playing hockey and curling and had been a member of both the Traverse City and Lewiston curling clubs. He was also a member of the senior golf league at Timber Wolf Golf Course. A man of many talents, over the years he worked as a groundskeeper, landscaper, in construction, as a general contractor and lastly, as the owner of the Pooch Palace dog kennel in Rapid City. An unbelievably kind and selfless man, Mike was always willing to help others.

In August 2013, Mike met the love of his life, Mary King, at “The Forks Landing” of the Boardman River while hosting a kayaking trip with the Traverse Area Paddle Club. They began dating that September and soon discovered they were kindred spirits bonding over their love of the outdoors, their shared sarcastic sense of



humor and lots of laughter. They enjoyed kayaking, hiking and did day-hikes on numerous trails across the United States and Canada over the past twelve years and had just returned from a month’s long journey through Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Maine. This trip began with a family reunion in Coboconk, that Mike started organizing a couple of years ago. He was so happy that he was able to make it there despite his health problems.

Preceded in death by his parents, aunts, uncles and beloved dog Max, Mike is survived by his brother David Connell and sister Carol (Gary) Eugenio, nieces, nephews, numerous cousins and friends. He also leaves Mary, her children and grandchildren. His strength and determination throughout his illness was inspirational. He will be missed greatly.

Memorial Contributions may be directed to the Salvation Army, the Ronald McDonald House or St. Jude Children’s Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. A Celebration of Life will take place in May 2026.

Arrangements are in the care of the Bellaire Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

Christine Marie Jones

December 4, 1961 ~ October 21 2025

Christine Marie Crugher, 63, of Fife Lake, passed away unexpectedly at her home on October 21, 2025. She was born on December 4, 1961, in Lansing, to Charles and Joyce Crugher.

Christine lived a full and adventurous life, calling both Michigan and Tennessee home throughout the years. She is survived by her mother, Joyce Crugher; her brother, Jeff Crugher; her daughter, Jennifer (Jesse) Walter; and her grandchildren, Rayn and Theadora Carr. She is also survived by several loving aunts, uncles, nieces, and cousins who will forever cherish her memory. She was preceded in death by her father, Charles Crugher; her brother, Chris Crugher; and her sister, Brenda Rosa.



Christine worked as a bookkeeper for several construction businesses and also held roles in school and admissions before becoming disabled. She was known for her vibrant personality and wild, gypsy soul — always the life of the party. She loved music and dancing, fishing, and spending time in nature. Christine was also an ordained minister who joyfully performed both weddings and pet weddings for those she loved. Her laughter, warmth, and free spirit will be deeply missed by her family and many friends. A celebration of life will be held at a later date to honor her memory and the joy she brought to all who knew her.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

John Leslie Underhill

November 17, 1946 ~ October 10, 2025

John Leslie Underhill passed 10/10/2025 at the age of 78, in his Rapid City home, peacefully with his family by his side. John was a Navy veteran of 20 years and had additional federal government jobs serving our country.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, of 56 years, his brother Dave Underhill and his wife Lynn, his children Joan and husband Mike



Buchanan, and Denise and husband Brian Dull, his grandsons Jared Callahan and Alex Callahan, and great granddaughter Audriaunna Love. He was preceded in death by his parents Jack and Anne Underhill, brother Richard “Dick” Underhill, and granddaughters Laura Love and Stephanie Karppinen.

There will be no service.

Larry Jack Parker

September 22, 1946 ~ October 10, 2025

Larry Jack Parker Sr, 79, of Gaylord, passed away October 10, 2025 at MHC Otsego Memorial Hospital with his family by his side. Larry was born on September 22, 1946 in Kalkaska, the son of the late Jack and Ellen (Peck) Parker-Blanshan. Throughout his life, Larry worked as a welder in multiple industries. Larry married the love of his life, Mary M. McCauley on July 26, 1965 in Kalkaska. Larry loved fishing, hunting, hanging out with family, and was a jack of all trades. He built his home from the ground up, where he and his late wife, Mary, happily raised their 5 children. Larry is survived by



Larry J Parker Jr, of Mancelona, Tammy L Goletz of Gaylord, Brenda (Elwood) Fults of Gaylord & James (Nicole) Parker of Mancelona, 9 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and siblings Mike (Leeann) Parker of Johannesburg, & Bill Blanshan of Texas. He was preceded in death by his son, Kenneth E Parker, and late wife, Mary M Parker and several siblings. His family wishes to remember him privately.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Brandon Lee Williams

November 2, 1970 ~ October 16, 2025

Brandon L. Williams, 54, of Fife Lake, passed away suddenly on October 16, 2025 as a result of an auto accident. He was born on November 2, 1970 in Cadillac, to Larry and Cynthia (Longstreet) Williams.

Brandon joined the US Army and was a proud veteran serving from September 14, 1989 to March 1, 1997. During his time in the Army he learned Hawk Fire Control/CW Radar Repair and Avionic Communications Equipment. Brandon married Rochelle Sauvage on April 13, 1990 in Alabama. Brandon was employed by Summit Fire Prevention. When he wasn't at work he loved to spend time with his family and animals. His favorite hobby was going trail riding down two tracks in his Razor (side by side utility vehicle) with Rochelle. Brandon



and Rochelle also loved to travel to different states for vacations. He was also known for pranking his co-workers. Brandon was a wonderful husband, father, and a friend to all that knew him.

Brandon is survived by Rochelle, his wife of 35 years; children, Toni Williams and Thomas Williams all of Fife Lake; his parents, Larry Williams and Cynthia Williams; and many more family members.

The memorial service will be announced at a later time. Memorials maybe given to Brandon's family, Rochelle Williams, c/o Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, 106 S. Cherry St., Kalkaska, MI 49646

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Additional Obituaries on pages 4, & 5

Job Winslow Chapter
NSDAR



Upcoming events of the Job Winslow Chapter NSDAR

October 18, 2025 - Pumpkin decorating
(pumpkins go to veterans homes)

November 15, 2025 - Linda M. Woods
American Indian Walking Stick

If you have questions about the meetings or about the DAR, please contact Patricia Braun Media Chair at
pbraun503@yahoo.com