

# OBITUARIES

## Webster "Pat" Lee Patterson Jr.

August 16, 1943 ~ December 23, 2025

Webster "Pat" Lee Patterson Jr., 82, of Kalkaska, passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025. He was born on August 16, 1943, in Port Huron, Michigan, to the late Webster and Ruth (Muhlitrer) Patterson. Webster was a devoted family man who was married to the love of his life, Margaret, for 58 years, until her passing in 2023. He was always there for his family and took great joy in watching his children and grandchildren participate in sports. He enjoyed fishing, camping with Jim and Linda Flory, golfing—where he was well known for hitting the long ball—riding his Harley, and Saturday game nights, especially playing dominoes. He also enjoyed refereeing kids' hockey games alongside his grandson. Webster was well loved by his coworkers and considered a great friend to many. Webster worked



for MichCon for 30 plus years and later for Dan McCormick Ford in Kalkaska, where he drove dealership trades. He will be lovingly remembered by his sons, Jeff (Teresa) Patterson and Brian Patterson; his grandchildren, Ryan and Heather; his great-grandchildren, Isabella, Zayden, and Hunter; and his siblings, JoAnn (Tim) Linehan and Dorsey (Jeanette) Patterson. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Margaret, and his daughter, Debra Patterson. A funeral service took place on Friday, January 2, 2026, at Kalkaska Funeral Home at 1:00 pm with a visitation beginning at 11am until the time of service. Burial will take place in the spring at Evergreen Cemetery in Kalkaska. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

## Brendon Allen-Prophet Toomsen

December 14, 1999 ~ December 13, 2025

Brendon Allen-Prophet Toomsen, age 25, passed away on December 13, 2025, one day before his 26th birthday. Born on December 14, 1999, Brendon was the beloved son of Dennis and Tiffany (Browning) Toomsen. Brendon was a funny, lively young man whose presence could light up a room. Was even known to light up a few fields. He had a deep love for cooking and took pride in sharing meals with those he cared about. He found peace and joy in the outdoors, especially while fishing and hunting morel mushrooms, passions that reflected his appreciation for simple moments and time spent with family and friends. Above all else, Brendon loved his family. He was a devoted father to his son, Elliot, with his estranged wife Tamyra. Elliot was the light of



Brendon's life. He is also survived by his grandparents Keith and Bev Linzemann and Teresa (Randy) Severance. Brothers, Bryce, Bristen, Derek, Khloen and Josh; and his sisters, Khloey and Adrianna; along with many extended family members and friends who will forever cherish his memory. Brendon was preceded in death by his father, Dennis Toomsen; his great-grandmother, Ruth; and his grandfathers Mark and Larry. Though his life was far too short, Brendon leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unforgettable memories. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him. Memorial plans are being made and will be announced by the family.

## Michael Dominic Tornow

August 28, 1949 ~ December 27, 2025

Michael Dominic Tornow, 76, of Fife Lake, Michigan passed away peacefully at home after a life marked by service and dedication to his family and community. He was born on August 28, 1949, in Adrian, Michigan.



of the Downtown Development Association, contributing to community planning and local improvement efforts. He was a longtime member of the American Legion in Fife Lake.

The oldest of five in a military family, Mike was an independent man who had many adventures. He was proud of his ability to easily connect with other people, and he made many friends around the world.

Mike served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. His military service included time on the ground in Vietnam, as well as duty aboard the USS America, where he supported blue-water operations throughout the conflict.

In his adult life, Mike devoted many years to coaching youth swimming. He led the Cruisers Swim Team, based at the Kaliseum in Kalkaska, MI, where he taught young athletes the skills and discipline required to become competitive swimmers.

Mike was also active in local civic affairs. He served on the Fife Lake Village Council and was a member

Michael is survived by his three daughters, Amelia (Josh) Schuring, Bridget Tornow, and Camille (Andrew) VanSolkema; by his grandchildren, Anja, Roman, and Amari, who brought him great pride; and by his siblings, Donn Tornow, Susan (Ed) Clegg, Mariana (Chris) Sanford, and John (NanHe) Tornow. He's preceded in death by his parents, Don and Elizabeth ("Betty") Tornow.

Mike was an artist and a philosophical thinker. He loved nature and the peaceful beauty found by living a slow and simple life. He died gently in the town he loved, in the house he loved, listening to his records, holding the hands of his family. His family's love is his greatest legacy.

A memorial was held for Michael at the Fife Lake American Legion on Saturday, January 3, 2026 at 11:00 A.M.

## Daniel Mark Rasch Sr.

April 2, 1953 ~ December 16, 2025

Daniel Mark Rasch Sr, age 72, passed away on December 16, 2025. Leaving behind a lifetime of cherished memories. Daniel was born on April 2, 1953 in Ferndale, Michigan to the late Carl and Hazel (Watkins) Rasch.



grandchildren making wonderful memories that will always be cherished. He found happiness watching westerns, fishing, hunting, as well as going on camping trips. Daniel is reunited with loved ones that have passed on before him. Daniel will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

Daniel had nine brothers and one sister. He moved to Illinois with his first wife and started a tree service company there. He had two children, Daniel Mark Jr. and Brandy Jane, who he loved dearly. Later he moved to Beaver Island where he met his late wife Donzel. He spent his final years spending time with his children and

Cremation has taking place as per his wishes. A celebration of life will be announced at a later time

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

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Richard Kevin Spires

April 19, 1957 ~ December 1, 2025

Richard (Rick) Spires 68, of Mancelona journeyed home on Monday, December 1, 2025 at Meadow Brook MCF following a long, hard 13 year battle with Frontotemporal Dementia.



Rick was born on April 19, 1957 in Kalkaska, MI to Leslie and Vivian (Stratton) Spires.

He was a 1975 graduate of Mancelona High School. He had worked many years in the automotive industry, followed by his “favorite job” -at Mancelona Public Schools (where he was known to many as “Uncle Rick”)-, and eventually retiring from Northwestern Michigan College.

Rick was passionate about life and made sure to live it to the fullest. He made everyone feel that they mattered. His smile, laugh and energy were contagious. He loved people and they were naturally drawn to his light which made him the center of attention in every situation. Family was important to him and it brought him great joy when he was able to provide a place for the family to circle the campers for weekends/holidays.

Rick was a memory making machine. If he wasn’t in the woods hunting, hiking, mushroom hunting, berry picking, fishing, camping, rock hunting, on a ballfield, or on a golf course, you could bet he’d turn up somewhere with somebody, getting into something. He would make memories alone, or with

whoever wanted to tag along. He wasted no time and made sure to have no regrets.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents. Brothers: Samuel (Helen) Spires, Leslie (Elaine) Spires Jr. Sister: Martina (Harry) Sutter.

Brother In-laws: Thomas Healey, and Harry Sutter.

Rick is survived by his wife of 37 years Jane. Sons: Richard (Audra)Spires Jr., Shawn Spires. Sisters: Zila (Tom) Healey, Gertrude (Ken) Westcott, Edna (Norm) Lanning, Sheryl (Dave) Miller, Bonnie (Orlo) Wildfong, and Jeanne (Eric) Hoogerhyde. Grandchildren: Mallorie Spires, Collin (Kadence) Spires. Bonus Grandchildren: Dustin Micheal, Darren Michael, Alyiah Grody. One Great Granddaughter: Josie Spires. Many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend their gratitude and appreciation to the staff at Meadow Brook for the excellent care he received during his stay. Even as his light was dimmed by the FTD he made his presence known by warming hearts with his infectious personality. -Your efforts truly went above and beyond.

Rick’s life will be celebrated on: April 19, 2026, 12-4pm at the Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd. Alden, MI 49612.

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

Jeffrey Logee

March 31, 1971 ~ December 19, 2025

Jeffrey Owen Logee, 54, of Alden, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 19, 2025. He was born on March 31, 1971, in Wooster, OH, the son of Owen and Barbara (Green) Logee.



Jeff graduated from Wooster High School and attended Bowling Green University for a short time. He lived in both the Bowling Green and Wooster areas for several years before moving to Alden, MI, nearly 15 years ago. He had spent many summers at the family cottage in Alden when he was younger. Jeff worked at several Truenorth gas stations in the area, and most recently served as the assistant manager at the store near the Grand Traverse Mall.

Staying true to his roots, Jeff was a proud supporter of the Ohio State Buckeyes, the Cleveland Indians (Guardians), and the Cleveland Browns. In addition to his hometown pride, Jeff was lucky to travel out West to ski in his younger days and was always proud of his travels down the Amazon River with his dad Owen.

He enjoyed fishing in Northern Michigan, especially at Lake of the Woods with his uncle Kim, where he felt he finally cracked the code to catching the big ones.

He also loved a good deal at the grocery store and liked to spend time cooking in the kitchen and sharing meals with those he loved. Jeff was quite a movie buff. He enjoyed 80's movies in particular and would share source and endlessly share movies with family. Jeff always had a soft spot in his heart for kids and loved being an uncle and watching his niece and nephew grow up.

Jeff is survived by his parents, Owen (Jo) Logee of Shreve, OH, and Barbara Francis of Tega Cay, SC; two brothers, Matt Logee of Hilton Head, SC, and Grant Logee of Wooster, OH; three sisters, Elizabeth (Brett) Haen of Tega Cay, SC, Andrea Logee of Columbus, OH, and Sydney Logee of Lexington, KY; several aunts and uncles; as well as nieces, Lilah and Oriana and a nephew, Henry.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Emerson and Barbara Logee, and his maternal grandparents, Homer and Mary Green.

Jeff’s family will celebrate his life privately in the summer of 2026.

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

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Lewis Martin

December 19, 1948 ~ December 20, 2025

Lewis “Lew” Martin, age 77, passed away on December 20, leaving behind a lifetime of cherished memories, contagious laughter, and the kind of friendships that feel like family.



Born on December 19, 1948, in Wyandotte, Michigan, Lew had a rare and genuine gift because he made everyone feel at home. His door was always open, his heart even more so. Known for his warmth, quick wit, and easy smile, Lew was the person who brought people together and made moments memorable. His gatherings were legendary, filled with laughter, storytelling, and friendly competition especially when sports were involved.

A proud graduate of Lincoln Park High School, Class of 1967, Lew was a natural leader. He played both football and baseball and served as class president, roles that reflected his lifelong love of teamwork, camaraderie, and bringing people together.

Lew deeply cherished his family and friends, valuing time spent together above all else. A devoted sports fan, he passionately supported Detroit teams but found joy in watching almost any game, especially when shared with good company. He found happiness on the golf course, peace while fishing, and true contentment at his northern Michigan home, where he embraced the beauty of nature and the animals he so dearly loved.

Never one to miss a good party, Lew was well known for his love of karaoke, particularly his unforgettable rendition of “Pretty Woman.” With his own carefully

prepared set list in hand, he delighted in entertaining others, spreading joy, and making sure everyone felt included in the fun.

True to his wishes, Lew would want his life remembered as a celebration full of stories, music, laughter, and love. His legacy lives on through his wife and children, in the countless lives he touched, the friendships he nurtured, and the joyful moments he created. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Lew is survived by his wife of 47 years, Kitty (Catherine Hope) Martin; his children Laura (John) Freeman, Lewis Martin, Amanda (Mike) Anderson, and Brett (Maria) Martin; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He is also survived by his brothers Ken Martin and Ron Martin; his sister Janie Calpin; and many sisters- and brothers-in-law.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ira and Clara Martin; his brother, Don Martin; and his daughter-in-law, Michelle Martin.

A celebration of life was planned for Saturday, January 31 in the Detroit area. In lieu of flowers, please share your favorite Lew Martin story by sending them to rememberbiglew@gmail.com or donations may be made in his memory to Michigan Trout Unlimited, an organization that serves the Northern Michigan environment that he loved so dearly.

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

Additional Obituary on page 9

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= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

Growth, Meaning and Self-Mastery Part 2:  
The Bear and The Dragon

The commitment to personal growth will come with many thresholds to break through. There are two forces that live within us: The Bear and The Dragon.

These are not enemies to be destroyed. They are our teachers.

THE BEAR:

The Bear represents the outer-world challenges life throws at you:

- Sudden loss or changes in direction
- The ending of a relationship(s)
- Financial pressure or setbacks
- A world that shifts faster than you can comfortably adapt

The Bear asks you: “Do you really want to grow?”

Every time we climb to a new level in our personal development and go outside our comfort zone, we encounter a new and stronger Bear than the last one. Each Bear is a reminder that we are growing. Each Bear invites us to practice patience, courage and faith in the process of our own growth.

It’s not punishment. It’s preparation.

THE DRAGON:

The Dragon lives inside us. It represents the inner struggles we carry. This might show up as:

Unresolved pain or hidden grief from losses

Habits that show up as self-sabotage

Limiting beliefs that can whisper, “You’ll never be enough.”

The Dragon feeds on our fears, shame and tendencies to avoid difficult things. It whispers in an attempt to keep us small and safe. It will show up in the stories that we tell ourselves to shrink from joy or when we doubt our own self-worth.

If the Dragon is not tamed, it will be content to burn down the whole village.

Taming the Dragon is not about using force. It’s about bringing awareness and self-compassion to your journey. It’s choosing to stay present when everything in you wants to quit or run away.

You overcome the Dragon when you:

- Learn to keep showing up.
- Learn to keep breathing through the fire.

In time, you will discover a quiet strength that will outlast your fear. You will begin to live from purpose instead of pain.

EMBRACING THE JOURNEY:

Our growth is not about perfection. It’s about participation.

When we learn to meet the Bear with our courage and the Dragon with our self-compassion, it ceases to feel like a test or hardship and begins to transform into a training ground. You begin feeling more grounded, wise and deeply alive. This builds our resilience and our ability to face anything life brings. This is another way we win at life.

-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECPP

*Adam DeVaney is a clinical social worker and therapist with over a decade of experience working with clients with a diversity of challenges from addiction and anxiety to overcoming trauma and helping people to learn what it takes to live their best lives. Along with his wife, Mandi, he founded Life’s Work Clinic in Kalkaska, Michigan, and Life’s Work Coaching with a local and global footprint. Adam has dedicated his life to serving others and walking with them on their healing journeys.*



Additional Obituaries on pages 4, & 5

James "Jim" McClurg

March 30, 1932 ~ December 7, 2025

James Edson (Jim) McClurg passed away on December 7th 2025 at his beloved cabin on the north end of Torch Lake in Eastport, Michigan. Jim was born in Dearborn, Michigan in 1932 and was fortunate to live a full rich life for 93 years. His early years were divided by living and attending school during the fall and winter in Dearborn and spending spring and summer at the family cabin on Torch Lake.

As a boy Jim, his twin brother Bill, and the other kids on the Torch Lake beach entertained themselves with water skis, home-made diving helmets, paddle boards, water ski jumps, and diving towers. They canoed, rowed, and sailed all over the lake, including rowing a rowboat from Eastport to Elk Rapids (31 miles). They then turned around and rowed the 31 miles back. Their antics earned them a reputation and they were invited to put on the first community water ski show.

Jim was very athletic and he enjoyed many sports throughout his life. In high school he used a bamboo pole that he had cut from a grove in Florida so that he could compete in pole vault. He loved many sports including tennis, handball, racquetball, squash, skiing, hockey and softball. His

passion for sports included coaching high school swimming, tennis and diving. He enjoyed backpacking all of his adult life and instilled a love of the outdoors in his children and grandchildren.

Jim earned Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. In the 1960’s he spent a summer doing geology fieldwork in Mexico for Pemex, driving a 1945 army jeep across Mexico. He later taught the UM Geology Department’s summer field course in Boulder Colorado and later in Jackson Hole Wyoming. Jim fell in love with the West and in the early 1970’s made his home there. He spent the majority of his career at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, beginning in 1972 and retiring in 1997. Jim conducted research into the origins of coal, which included touring many of the swamps of the southeastern U.S. He published his findings and shared them with other interested researchers.

Jim enjoyed many aspects of being a college professor but his first love and true gift was teaching. Early in his career he produced and taught over 100 TV programs for both the U of M Television



Station and the National Education Television (NET) Science series “Through Children’s Eyes.” He made science interesting (doing things like drinking a glass of water while upside down to prove that gravity wasn’t necessary to swallow).

He received teaching awards everywhere he taught. At the University of Wyoming he won every teaching award offered, some a number of times. He was well known for his popular Introduction to Geology course, and was responsible for inspiring many students to pursue geology or science careers. After retirement he was recruited by the Wyoming Geological Survey to mentor new hires and to edit publications. Jim continued his love of teaching and was a sought after presenter, giving talks on history and geology in both Wyoming and Michigan.

He had a lifelong interest in building and woodworking. He constructed several additions to the cabin in Eastport enlarging it in order to make room for his growing family. He was eager to help anyone in need with home improvement projects. Always the teacher, he taught his children

how to fix and build things.

Jim’s biggest legacy may be his grandchildren and great grandchildren, and they loved him dearly. He was never too busy to spend time with them. No request went unanswered, no matter how trivial. He spent hours in his wood shop with them, helping them create projects. He and his wife, Pat, created a sense of home for his far flung family on the shores of Torch Lake, where they gather together every summer.

Jim is survived by his wife of 53 years Patricia (Pat) Hatch McClurg; children Jon (Caroline), Tom (Susan), and Karen Sheffres (Bob); grandchildren Sam (Liza), Ryan (Taylor), Jacob, Lauren, Audrey, Michael, Jackson (Eve), Benjamin; and great grandchild Ezra. His twin brother Bill and parents Howard and Louise McClurg preceded him in death.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Torch Lake Conservation Center, <https://conservetorch.org/donate/> , or Doctors Without Borders, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/get-involved/ways-to-give> .

Arrangements are in the care of the Central Lake Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.