

OBITUARIES

Margaret Mary Lewis

May 16, 1935 ~ June 29, 2026

Margaret M. Lewis, age 91, of Kingsley, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving daughters.

She was born on May 16, 1935, to John B. and Alice Mary (Younglas) Ockert.

Margaret graduated from St. Mary's Hannah School in 1953. Following graduation, she worked as a bookkeeper for S.S. Kresge Co. for 10 years. She later joined Kingsley Insurance Co. and became an insurance agent, where she faithfully served her community for 29 years before retiring.

On October 24, 1959, Margaret married the love of her life, William "Bill" Lewis. Together they lovingly raised their four daughters.

Margaret was an active member of St. Mary's Hannah Catholic Church, where she sang in the church choir. She also dedicated countless hours to the Lions Club,

the Red Hatters, the Senior Center, blood drives, the Eagles, the Grange, and the Widows and Widowers group.

She was well known throughout the community for her tireless volunteer work, supporting countless charities, benefits, and fundraising events. She was often joined by her beloved "sister" (in-law), Donna Martin. Together, the pair became affectionately known as "Double Trouble" as you could rarely get by them without contributing to their mission of the day. They enthusiastically devoted decades to helping others while bringing smiles wherever they went.

Margaret found joy in playing cards, bingo, camping, and spending treasured time with family and friends. Her adventurous spirit took her on travels both near and far, including hiking glaciers in Alaska



and whitewater rafting in Idaho, Blue Ridge Mountains and many travels with family. She embraced life with enthusiasm and inspired those around her to do the same.

Margaret is survived by her four daughters and their spouses: Audrey (Fred) Hoyt, Renee (Henry) Jones, Linda (Kent) Stiner, and Catherine (Don) Smith; her brother, Gerald (Kathy) Ockert; her niece, Betty Walker; nine grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William "Bill" Lewis; her parents, John B. and Alice Mary Ockert; her siblings, Ethel Nickerson, Eleanor Bauer, Beatrice Weidner, Donaldine Nickerson, Marie Sedlacek, Leroy "Stub" Ockert, Clarence "Bud" Ockert, Robert "Bob" Ockert, Joseph "Jay" Ockert, Ralph Ockert, Fred "Fritz" Ockert, Geraldine Ockert, Gary Bauer, and Joyce Bauer; and two

beloved grandchildren.

Margaret's generous heart, unwavering faith, and lifelong commitment to serving others left a lasting impact on her family, friends, and community. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Hannah Catholic Church on Friday July 3rd, 2026, at Noon, with visitation from 10am-noon. Luncheon followed at St Mary's Hannah School. Burial followed the luncheon, at Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in Margaret's memory to St. Mary's Hannah Catholic Church or The Rock of Kingsley, organizations that reflect her lifelong faith and commitment to serving her community.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Jean Elaine Lantzer

January 12, 1932 ~ June 21, 2026

Jean Elaine Lantzer, 94, of Kalkaska, passed away on Sunday, June 21, 2026. She was born in Alma, Michigan on January 12, 1932, to the late Lester and Alice (Crane) Hulbert.

Jean was deeply devoted to her faith in God and her family. Her home and heart were always open to others. She had a tremendous gift for making people feel welcome and cared for, blessing each one in her family with abundant prayers and sending birthday cards covered with loving stickers. A faithful prayer warrior, Jean found great joy in attending Bible studies and lifting others up in prayer. She had a strong work ethic and worked hard to provide for her family. Jean's love extended beyond blood relations, and she embraced each of her children's spouses as her own.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children: Donna (Ron) VanderHulst, Lee Roy (Diane) Lantzer, Mary Ellen (Ron) Pereira,



Shirley Triplett, Cathy (Paul) Kissling, Patricia (Dean) Little, John (Amy) Lantzer and Amy Jo (Cliff) Graves; 23 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; brother Gordon (Nancy) Hulbert. She was preceded in death by her daughter Jean Evon

Lantzer, parents Lester and Alice Hulbert, son-in-law Vic Triplett and sister Patricia Hulbert.

Visitations was held at Kalkaska Funeral Home on Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 4:00 - 8:00 pm, as well as 10:00 - 11:00 am on Friday, June 26, 2026. The funeral service took place at Kalkaska Funeral Home on Friday, June 26, 2026, at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Kalkaska Church of Christ or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Gerald Joseph Siecienski

March 8, 1936 ~ June 25, 2026

Gerald "Jerry" J. Siecienski, 90, of Kalkaska passed away on June 24, 2026, at KMHC - Eden Center. Jerry was born in Detroit to the late Joseph and Bernice Siecienski on March 8, 1936.



Usher and Minister to shut ins. Jerry was a charter member of the American Legion Post 480, Charter Member and Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 7419 and 4th degree Color Corps member of Assembly

499 of Traverse City.

Jerry attended St. Stanislaus School in Bay City and graduated from Bay City Central in 1953. He served his country as a member of the United States Navy from 1955-1959 serving aboard the battleship New Jersey and Carrier Forrestal as a boiler operator.

Jerry married Chloe Donnelly on June 22, 1963 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Detroit. He worked for Chrysler Corporation downstate and retired from Kalkaska Memorial Health Center with 21 years of service in 1996 as a maintenance supervisor. In his younger years he enjoyed hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and playing the clarinet.

Jerry is a member of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church. He served as Eucharist Minister,

Jerry is survived by his sister Barbara Tolley of Palm Harbor, Florida; 2 nephews, Robert Wardenski and Richard Ferrell; dear friend and neighbor Marilyn Morrison; and many friends.

Preceding Jerry in death is his wife Chloe; sister, Marlene Wardenski; and brother-in-law, Charles Tolley.

The funeral mass was on Thursday, July 2 at 11:00 AM at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church with the Rosary at 10:00 AM with the Knights of Columbus. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery with the military honors by the American Legion Post 480.

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

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KalkaskaFuneralHome.com

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

Northwest MI

V O I C E

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

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Michael Lee Beaver

August 23, 1955 ~ June 20, 2026

Michael Lee Beaver, 70, passed away on June 20, 2026. Born in Grayling, MI, on August 23, 1955, to Lloyd and Bernice Beaver (Thorington/Helsel), he graduated from Kalkaska High School and later moved to Romulus, Michigan. A devoted family man, Michael was known for his strong work ethic, exemplified by a devoted 25-year career at Halliburton, and his love for tinkering with mechanical projects. Michael had a lifelong love of motorcycles and cars, and took great pride in working on them. The open road and a well-tuned engine were sources of joy and freedom for him throughout his life.

A dedicated provider, he always made time to take care of his mother and took every opportunity to spoil his beloved grandkids. In his downtime, he could often be found relaxing to the sounds of classic rock, especially The Rolling Stones.



He is survived by his loving wife of many years, Peggy (Belcher) Beaver; son, Cameron (Tamra) Beaver; stepsons, Joshua Barger and Jacob Freeland; and grandchildren, Colten and Maxon Beaver and Ian Barger. He also leaves behind his brothers, Kenneth (Georgia) Beaver and Dennis Beaver. He is preceded in death by his beloved mother, Bernice Helsel, and his father Lloyd Beaver, as well as his loving stepfather, Francis "Sy" Helsel. Mike will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew him.

The funeral service was on Thursday, June 25th at 1:00 PM at Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home with visitation beginning at 11:00 AM. Burial was at Excelsior Twp. Cemetery immediately following.

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

WOLFE-O'NEILL FUNERAL HOME

Our Family Serving Yours



106 S. Cherry
Kalkaska

David W. O'Neill, Licensed Manager

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



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.

Richard L. Smith

December 3, 1935 ~ June 22, 2026

Richard "Rich" Lawrence Smith, age 90, passed away peacefully on June 22, 2026, in Williamsburg, Michigan. Born on December 3, 1935, in Albany, New York, to Chester and Carolyn (Jaquay) Smith, Rich lived a full and remarkable life dedicated to his family, faith, and career.

A proud graduate of the University of Michigan in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Rich embarked on a career that spanned more than four decades. He began his professional journey at Sandia Air Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Later, he contributed his expertise at Scans Associates in Livonia, Michigan. Together with his beloved wife, Carol, Rich co-owned Hughes Electronics Products Corp., also based in Livonia. His dedication and hard work were evident throughout his career.

Rich was a devoted husband to Carol for 68 wonderful years until her passing in April 2026. Their bond was the cornerstone of their lives as they built a loving family together. Rich is survived by his children: Richard (Vicki) Smith Jr., Amandasue Butterfield, Kurt Smith, and Suzanne (Joseph) Moscynski. He also leaves behind his sister Joan; grandchildren Alicia, Jonathan, Jeremy, Jelana, Brianna, and Courtney; and great-grandchildren Braelyn, Izaiah, Zoey, Onyka, Mira, Kynzlie, Sophie, Liviana, Tristan, Korbyn, Wesson, Ayla, Josie, and Ellie Mae. Additionally, he is remembered fondly by many nieces and nephews.



Rich's life was enriched by his passions and hobbies. He enjoyed bowling and golf and had a deep interest in family history research. Rich had a strong passion for travel and adventure. One of his greatest joys was traveling the world with Carol by his side. Together, they explored all 50 states and six continents, creating countless memories along the way. Their journeys included over 25 ocean and riverboat cruises, reflecting their shared love of discovering new places and cultures. They especially cherished their winters spent in Hawaii and Albuquerque.

Rich dedicated much of his life to serving and enriching his community. For 15 years, he was a valued member of the Elk Rapids Planning Commission,

contributing to the growth and development of the area. His commitment extended to the Elk Rapids Golf Club, where he served as secretary and treasurer for over two decades. Rich also played an integral role in the Elk Rapids Harbor Days Committee for more than 20 years. In recognition of their dedication to this cherished local tradition, Rich and his wife Carol were honored as Grand Marshals for Harbor Days.

As a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Rich found strength and purpose through his faith.

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

Gary Allen Piatt

March 5, 1952 ~ June 29, 2026

Gary Allen Piatt, age 74, of South Boardman, Michigan, passed away peacefully on June 27, 2026.

Gary was born on March 5, 1952, in Jackson, Michigan, to Kenneth and Lucy (Slick) Piatt. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend whose kindness and generosity touched the lives of everyone who knew him.

On November 4, 1972, Gary married the love of his life, Deborah (Keller) Piatt in Waterloo, MI at the Waterloo Methodist Church. Together they shared 53 wonderful years of marriage, building a family centered on love, faith, and hard work.

Gary is survived by his loving wife, Deborah; his son, Kennith Piatt; and his daughter, Maureen Piatt.

He also leaves behind five cherished grandchildren: Rebekka Jones, Skylar Fore, Angelina Castillo, Kaegen Piatt, and Kolten Piatt; and two great-grandsons, Xavier Pombo and Major Winstead. He is also survived by his nephew, Rick (Christina) Barnes, who held a special place in Gary's heart and was loved as a son.

Gary is survived by his brothers, Mike Piatt, Dave White, and Frank White, along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Lucy Piatt; his sister, Joan Craft; and his sister-in-law, Christine Massie.

Gary grew up in Waterloo, MI, and



graduated from Chelsea High School in 1970. He proudly served his country in the Army National Guard before beginning a long career as a certified welder with Ross Tank, where he worked for 20 years. Gary and Debbi built their home and raised their family in Waterloo. In 1994, Gary and Debbi moved to South Boardman, Michigan. He later joined Howard's Collision, where he remained until his retirement in 2012.

In retirement, Gary found joy in woodworking, attending church at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Kalkaska, MI, and, above all, spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Whether building something with his hands or

sharing stories with his family, he found happiness in life's simple moments.

Gary will be remembered as a selfless man who never hesitated to lend a helping hand. He was known for his strong work ethic, quiet strength, unwavering faith, and willingness to help anyone in need. His love for his family and his generous spirit will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know him.

Gary will be cremated, and no additional services are planned at this time.

Though he will be deeply missed, Gary's legacy of love, compassion, and service will live on in the hearts of his family and friends forever. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.