



Kathryn Asenath Denny
June 27, 1930-January 3, 2021

Kathryn “Kay” Asenath Denny, was born on June 27, 1930 in Northport. She was the daughter of George and Anna (Baxter) Craker and was the youngest of nine children.

On August 2, 1952 at St. Francis Church in Traverse City, Kay married John Clifford Denny. Soon after being married they moved to Grand Rapids where they lived for almost a decade and her son, Greg, and daughter, Robin, were born. In the early 1960s, the family moved to Rockford, Illinois, where her husband founded the John Denny Company. It was there that their daughter Colleen was born. For the next forty years they lived in Rockford, but spent time in the summer in Omena at a home built on Craker family property, and in the winter at a condominium in Tucson, Arizona. After John’s retirement they moved back permanently to Leelanau County to a home they had built on Ingalls Bay. There Kay was surrounded by water, woods, wildlife and flowers which she loved, and family. The traditions of Craker reunions, Christmases and 4th of July celebrations at their house continued with brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends. She was the glue that held the family together and was devoted to that family and friends.

Kay’s family has been a part of Omena from the beginning. Her great-grandfather, George A. Craker, was one of the earliest settlers of Omena, and one who’s descendants have remained a part of Omena down through the ages. Young George left his home in Spring Prairies, Wisconsin in 1850 or 51 when he was just 17 years old after the death of his mother. He had just the shirt on his back, a spare red flannel shirt, and 50 cents in his pocket. He made his way 40 miles to Lake Michigan, where he caught a ride on the steamer ship named “Liberty”, and headed for his sister Ann’s home on Old Mission

Peninsula. His sister was Ann Craker Morgan, wife of Jesse, a teamster driver for Rev. Dougherty, the missionary who had started a mission there for Indians. Ann worked for Peter Dougherty at his Indian Mission and Indian School and lived at the mission.

Rev. Dougherty was always short of workers, and George was immediately hired to work at the Old Mission farm, teaching the Indian boys at the mission how to farm and use tools. A short time later, Dougherty moved the mission to Omena, and George went with them. George became very involved in the church and the church Sunday School early in his life, and taught Sunday School until his death.

George's son, William A. Craker, Kay's grandfather, then stepped into his father's shoes, keeping the Sunday School active until his death in 1957. He was the last white man in the area to be able to speak the Indian language fluently, and translated sermons and lessons to the Indian membership of the church. He was a farmer, and later Superintendent of the Leelanau County Poor Farm and home, later known as the Infirmary.

One of William Craker's children was George Leonard Craker, born in 1889. George and his wife Ann Jane Baxter Craker were the parents of at least 6 sons and 3 daughters, the youngest of which was Kay. So she had a great many relatives as well as family friends in the area.

Kay loved to write poetry and wrote thousands of greeting cards for friends and family. She was a reader, and could carry on a conversation with anyone. And her natural beauty, fashion sense and style reminded one of the glamorous life from a bygone era. Kay had a strong faith and lived with equal amounts of love and pain, joy and sadness. It was this faith that helped her manage her physical health problems along with the loss of her husband and two of her children, Colleen in 2012 and Robin in 2017, with quiet strength and grace.

Kathryn Asenath Denny, 90, of Omena, passed away at her home on January 3, 2021 surrounded by family. Hillcrest cemetery, where she was buried, has a large section devoted to the Craker family, and Craker Road, where many of the Crakers had farms, is named after the family.

Tributearchive.com, findagrave.com, 'Omena, a Place in Time' by Amanda Holmes, "A History of Leelanau Township"



Christine Marie Shomin Loredo
Sept 28, 1968- December 2, 2021

Christine Marie Loreda, was born Sep. 28, 1968 in Northport the daughter of Frank and Vivian (Yannott) Shomin. She married Alberto Loreda and together they had 5 children: Siouxsie, Robert, Krystal, Alexandrio, and Dallas. She was a dedicated wife, mother, auntie, sister and friend.

Christine laughed a lot, smiled a lot, and was the life of the party. She was a ray of sunshine and lit up every room that she walked into.

Christine passed away on Dec. 2, 2021 when she was 53 yers old at the Munson Hospice House after a two year battle with a debilitating disease. She is survived by her husband, Alberto Loreda, her children, her siblings, Cody, Leonard, Therese, Judy, Pete, Elizabeth, Lillian and Francis; and her grandchildren, Michael, Liyah, Julian, Damien, Mia, Milani, Mateo and Nevaeh.

Leelanau Enterprise, Tribute archive.com.



Joseph Walter Novak
January 30, 1939- April 7, 2021

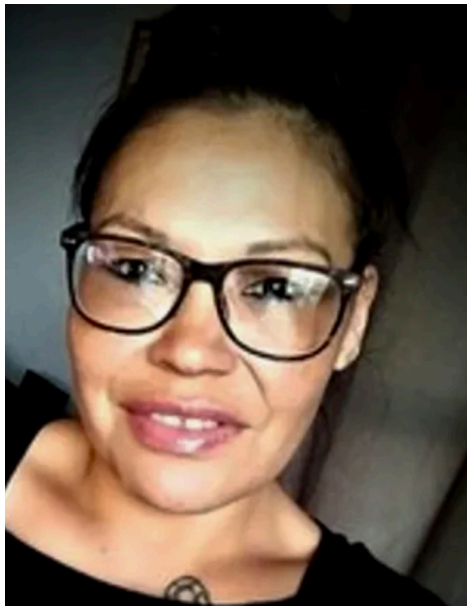
Joseph Novak was born on January 30, 1939 in Traverse City to Walter Michael and Roberta (Send) Novak. On November 22, 1962, he married Janet Louise Kinnucan in Lansing and they were married for 58 years. They had three children: Jane, Steve and Douglas. In his younger years Joe enjoyed sailing, officiating high school basketball and football and volunteering for the Historical Society. He also was a boy scout leader for many years and helped both of his sons achieve Eagle Scout. From his high school days to just before he died, Joe could be heard on his ham radio as W8TVT.

Joe was a graduate of Michigan State University and was a lifelong Spartan Fan. Following his retirement from the Michigan Department of Education where he was a Rehabilitation Counselor, he took a cross country road trip on his bicycle. He was an avid cyclist and did many other tours and rides.

Joe and Janet Novak owned the Tamarack Gallery building in Omena during the 1960's and used it as a summer retreat. In 1972 Joe and Janet sold it to David and Sally Viskochil, and it became an art gallery. They presently own the historic Craker home on Kalchik Road, where Janet's grandfather, Clifford Craker and her mother, Julia Craker Kinnucan were both born. It was originally the home of W.A. and Carrie Craker. With such historic roots in Omena, Janet and Joe have been good members of Omena Historical Society, and have made many important donations to the Putnam Cloud -Tower Museum.

Joseph Walter Novak, 82, of Traverse City passed away April 7, 2021 at his home.

Leelanau Enterprise, comments from Renolds-Jonkhoff.com, Joe's wife Janet Novak, relatives, and friends of the Novak's



Elaine Grace Silva
24 Dec 1978 - 15 Sep 2021

Elaine Silva was born December 24, 1978, in Northport, the daughter of Nicholas Wilson Jr. and Therese John. She had six siblings. As a Grand Traverse Band citizen, she participated in every indigenous event she could. Sometimes this took her far away from her roots in Cross Village, Michigan. She spent many volunteer hours with different organizations like the Sober Squad in Minnesota to Safe Haven in Michigan.

Closer to home, Elaine created indigenous art such as beading and sewing regalia for the Pow Wow. Everything she did, she did it with her heart, such as blessing two couples with the gift of family. She was an adventurous, free spirited, social butterfly, fluttering near and far, finding new places to see and new faces to meet. But she called Peshawbestown her home.

Elaine had 9 children: Gerardo, and Adrian Silva , Xavier, Dominic, and Frankie Schansema, Evelyn Gibson, Riley Shomin, Christa- Elena and Carter Boswell. She passed away at the age of 42, on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. Her untimely passing was due to drowning in Grand Traverse Bay. Here is a memorial site for those who have drowned in Lake Michigan.

<https://lakesidetribe.com/memorials/elaine-grace-silva-at-west-grand-traverse-bay/>.

Petosky News- Review, Find a Grave, Traverse city Record Eagle, The Ticker



Sandra Lee “Sandy” Bailey Turner
April 11, 1969- October 6, 2021

Sandra Lee Bailey was born April 11, 1959 in Frankfort, Michigan. She was the daughter of Anton and Alvina (Cobb) Bailey. Sandra had five sisters, Doris Lentz, Donna Day, Lori Bailey, Beth Champlain, and Peggy Jean VanFraley. In 1989 she married Billy Turner, and became the stepmother to his three children: Billy, Vicky, and Anthony. Eventually she had 19 step-grandchildren, 2 step-great-grandchildren, as well as many loving nieces, and nephews.

Sandy had a smile that would light up a room. She had a great sense of humor and loved a good joke, almost as much as she loved her “fur-baby,” a pug named Bandit, who she had for 12 years. Sandy loved yard sales and thrift stores. She would go shopping and try on goofy hats and take road trips with her family at a moment’s notice. But she also loved sitting quietly with her husband Billy holding hands.

Sandy lived in Peshawbestown, and was a long time member of the Northport Indian Mission Church. She had a deep faith in God and was a strong person. Sandy passed away Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at the age of 62 at Munson Medical Center.

Leelanau Enterprise and Tribune archives online



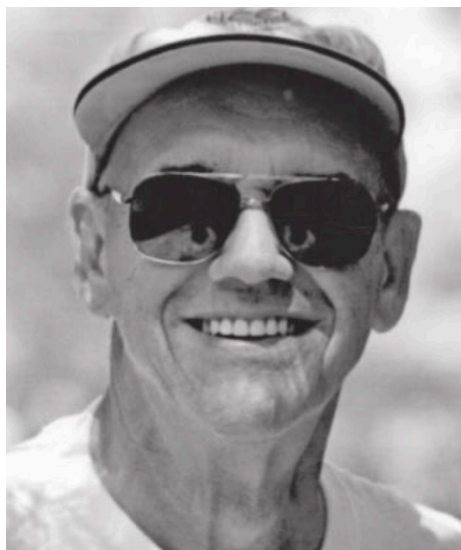
Jane Anita Schlueter Weaver
September 23, 1952-December 15, 2021

Jane was born in Leland in 1952 to Walter and Janette (McQueer) Schlueter. By the time she was 30, she was living in Rockford, MI. There she met, and in 1982, married Robert Weaver. They had three children, Rob Weaver, Heather Speaks, and Margo Weaver. Jane and Robert were married 39 years.

Jane with the Weaver Family Partnership owned the Cherry Basket Farm just north of Omena beginning in 1990, farming the acreage and using the barns for storage. They sold most of the Cherry Basket Orchards acreage to Cherry Basket Neighbors in 2002. The family partnership then started Omena Organics Company, farming the acreage at their farm on Overlook Road known as Sunshine Fruit Farm, as well as many other places to supply it, producing over 40 items which can be found in grocery stores everywhere.

Jane Anita Weaver, 69, was living in Northport in 2021 when she passed away at home. She was a loving mother and wife who will be missed “Always and Always” by her husband, children and two granddaughters.

Leelanau Enterprise, Find a grave.com, and friends of the Weavers



Herbert John "Bert" Wheeler
December 21, 1928- August 18, 2021

Bert Wheeler was born in Chicago in 1928, the son of Charles and Marie (Adams) Wheeler. Bert had a brother, Harry, and two sisters, Mary Ellen and Betty Jean. On July 29, 1950, in Chicago he married Betty A. (Graves) Wheeler. They were married for 70 years and had three children, Sue Moore, Jan Nyland, and Bob Wheeler. As the family grew, they had ten grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Although he spent his younger years working as a machinist in Des Plaines, Illinois, Bert had a long association with Omena through his father, Eugene Wheeler. Also Bert's great-uncle Leonard H. and his grandfather, C.E. Wheeler ran Sunset Lodge in Omena together for nearly half a century. But no one expected Bert to give up his life in the city, and try to make a living in Omena. However in 1972, when Ernie Barth decided to sell his store, Bert and Bette took over and renamed it "Berts Country Store". Bert was a trusting, caring, loving and fair man, which made him very popular in town. You knew that Bert liked you if he "razzed" you a bit. Bert could dish out the jokes and could take them too. He also was well known for his skills as a machinist and handyman and often could be found fixing items for the residents of Omena Point. Bert also was the cottage watcher for that community, patrolling Omena Point Road during the off season. He was a very prominent figure in the village.

While they enjoyed year around life in Omena, Bert and Bette found the pace of life in Omena exhausting. After six years they decided to sell the store and move on to other things. Bert had a life-time love of sports, whether playing or watching it. He played baseball and softball, and was an avid golfer. "Bert" John Wheeler passed away when he was 92 at Ritters Assisted Living.

Leelanau Enterprise, tribute archive.com, "Omena, a Place in Time" by Amanda Holmes



Delcie Dixon White
March 15, 1936-August 18, 2021

Delcie was born March 15, 1936 in Traverse City, Michigan. She was the youngest of six children, with five older brothers. Ivan, Ivan, Leroy, Chester and Lawrence Dixon. While attending high school in Muskegon, MI, she met and married her first husband, Ronald Knop. They both attended Western Michigan University earning their bachelor's degrees in education in 1961. They were married twenty years and had three children, Barbara LaBelle, Brian Knop, and Kelli Fitzgerald.

Following graduation from Western, Delcie taught elementary school in Wayne, Michigan. After Ronald earned his degree in Dentistry from the University of Michigan the family moved to Midland, Michigan where Delcie taught for Midland Public Schools. She always had a thirst for education and earned a master's degree in speech therapy and also a master's degree in learning disabilities, while continuing to teach. Delcie decided to tackle a new field in the 1970's when she trained for and became a myofunctional therapist. Although she experienced success in this field she returned to her true love, teaching. She remained with the school system until 1990, retiring as a speech therapist. During her career Delcie was not only a teacher but she was a friend and mentor to many because of her kind and loving nature.

Delcie met her second husband, Glenn White, a tax attorney for Dow Chemical Company, while living in Midland. They married in 1983 and were happily married for 25 years. Following their retirement, she and Glenn spent their time together at homes in Omena, Michigan and Marco Island, Florida, while traveling the world, as well as visiting their 5 children and 8 grandchildren, who she loved very much. Delci kept a gorgeous garden and was a generous host who loved social gatherings and people. Delcie passed away peacefully at the age of 85 on August 18, 2021 at the Clare in Chicago after living patiently with Alzheimer's for ten years.

reynolds-jonkoff.com, naplesnews.com, and comments from a friend