



Linda S. Agosa
October 12, 1959-February 15, 2025

Linda Sue Agosa was born on October 12, 1959, in Fairview, MI, to Milton and Shirley (Trader) Wiedbrauck. She had two siblings, Kathy (Steve) Hawley and Jack Wiedbrauck.

In 1990, she married the love of her life, Wayne Allen Agosa, who preceded her in death on May 22, 2023.

Linda and Wayne tackled the world, and it's challenges, together as a team. Wayne was her favorite person, her best friend, and soul mate. She is survived by her loving children, Marcus Agosa, Ronald (Ruthann) Agosa, Michael (Kristi) Agosa, Angela (Tony) Agosa-Markowski, Cheyenne Case, Shyla (Shane) Leareaux, Dakota (Abi) Agosa, Claudia Agosa, Grace Oskaboose, and Anthony Oskaboose; and 23 grandchildren.

Linda had a heart as big as the world. Her life was centered around family, and her home was always filled with love, laughter, and the warmth of children-both her own and those she cared for through her 30 years as a foster parent and social worker. She dedicated herself to the well-being of countless children, becoming a mother figure to many. Linda dedicated her life to helping others, to caring for the sick and sheltering the lost. Her compassion, strength, and steady support made everyone feel safe and understood. She always made you feel loved, unconditionally.

Linda was also known for her delicious home-cooked meals, each dish made with love. Her 'Grandma's Spaghetti,' homemade chip dip, lasagna, cabbage soup, and chili were family favorites. Her Christmas cookies, peanut butter balls, and peanut brittle were cherished traditions her children and grandchildren looked forward to every year. Making everything from scratch, Linda cooked with love.

Linda passed away peacefully at home in Peshawbestown, on Saturday, February 15, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.



June Louise Bailey
June 6, 1954-September 20- 2025

June Louise Bailey was born June 6, 1954 in Frankfort the daughter of Henry and Betty Bailey. She had seven siblings: Joseph “Buddy” (Judy) Raphael, Hank (Amy) Bailey, Randall Bailey, Phyllis (Jim) Carr, Pauline (Tim) Koon, Cynthia (Michael Dargis) Bailey, Scott (Rebecca) Bailey, whom she adored, as well as a sister-in-law, Marty Bailey, special friend, Linda Dargis Giroux, and many loving nieces and nephews. June also loved her three-legged dog Twilight, as well as all animals, dearly.

June moved to Pshawbestown, and became a proud citizen of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, reflecting her Indigenous heritage and connection to community and culture June was known for her vibrant personality and many passions. She had a green thumb and one of the plants she cared for is going on 50 years old due to her attentive care. She had a passion for rock hunting and could be found walking the shores of Lake Michigan in search of Petoskey stones when she had finished her day of work at the Nature Gems Gift Shop in Northport. At the end of the day, she enjoyed time on the beach with a cold Budweiser.

June became an accomplished seamstress; taught by her mother, Betty. She would craft her own amazing Halloween costumes. She enjoyed dressing up as Dolly Parton for events at the Cabbage Shed in Elberta. June won several costume contests in her lifetime. She loved music and dancing and especially enjoyed going to see country music legends in concert. June’s many friends will tell you that she was the life of the party.

June Louise Bailey, passed away on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at the age of 71, at Medilodge of Traverse City.



Stanley James Bigjoe
April 1, 1940-5 September 5, 2025

Stanley Bigjoe was born April , 1940 in Lake City, Michigan, the son of Fred and Rose (Pontiac) Bigjoe. He had five siblings, Willard Bigjoe, Douglas Bigjoe, Barbara John, Lyle Pontiac, and Patricia Guess. He spent many years living in Cadillac, Grand Rapids, Mt. Pleasant and Howard City, enjoying casinos, pow wows, riding around, going out to eat and watching old movies. Locals remember him picking cherries for them in Omena. He had three children, Jacqueline Daniels, David Merrill Sr., Bethel Merrill, and many loving grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Stanley passed away on September 5, 2025, at the age of 85 in Peshawbestown, Michigan. His funeral service was held on Thursday, Oct. 2 at the Northport Indian Mission Church, Pastor Wava Hofmann officiating. A parting message reads, "As we bid Stanley farewell, let us not mourn the absence of his physical form, but rather celebrate the essence of his spirit that lingers in the spaces between moments. For Stanley is not truly gone, but merely transformed, his energy intertwined with the fabric of the universe itself, forever dancing among the stars."



Nicholas Ryan Bronk
May 14, 1989- January 10, 2025

Nicholas Ryan Bronk was born on May 14, 1989, in Centralia, Illinois, to Jeffrey and Sarah (Bradley) Bronke. He had three siblings: Nathan Bronke, Brandon Bronke, and Garrett Bronke (Abbie Roberts), who survive him.

Nick graduated from Le Roy High School in 2007, where he excelled as a wrestler and an all-star football player, contributing to his team's journey to the state runner-up title as a freshman. He was a Boy Scout in his youth, confirmed in the Catholic Church, and enjoyed learning practical skills, such as working on cars with his father-in-law and making maple syrup with both of his in-laws, Richard and Cheryl Huffman.

On July 13, 2013, at the Leland Lodge, he married Samantha T. Huffman. They had six beloved children: Riley, Victoria, Richard, Alexander, Isabella, and Aurora. Whether it was gaming with his sons, cooking with his daughters, or laughing late into the night with Samantha, he embraced every moment of fatherhood and marriage with joy and devotion. After long hours cooking delicious meals for others at work, Nick cherished returning home, where his wife Samantha always had a delicious home-cooked meal waiting for him.

Nick shared his enthusiasm for gaming with his sons, spending countless hours bonding over their Nintendo Switch. One of his favorite games to play with family members was League of Legends, which he loved for its strategy and camaraderie. Nick's sense of humor was one of his most endearing qualities, with a dad joke always ready to brighten someone's day. A gentle giant, he brought warmth and fun to gatherings, often

hosting friends with an easy-going charm that made everyone feel welcome.

Nick had a passion for music that transcended generations. A talented guitarist, he spent his younger years jamming with friends, teaching them to play classic rock songs like AC/DC's greatest hits. He could pick up any instrument and quickly turn it into music, showcasing his incredible natural talent.

Nick's thirst for knowledge was insatiable. He was an avid reader who loved learning about a wide variety of topics, especially everything about space. He adored Star Wars and took great pride in sharing a birthday with George Lucas. His curiosity and intelligence made him a captivating conversationalist, whether he was discussing history, theoretical physics, philosophy, or video games. He was an artist at heart, often drawing, painting, and crafting Warhammer miniatures with meticulous detail.

Nicholas Ryan Bronke, 35, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, January 10, 2025, at his home in Northport. Nick is survived by his parents, Jeffrey and Sarah Bronke; his loving wife of 11 years, Samantha; his cherished children, Riley, Victoria, Richard, Alexander, Isabella, and Aurora; his brothers, Nathan Bronke, Brandon Bronke, and Garrett Bronke (Abbie Roberts) ; his grandparents; his in-laws, Richard and Cheryl Huffman; his siblings-in-law, Tabitha (Ernie) Pearson, Jaron Huffman, and Dereck Huffman (Jessica Hollingsworth); and his nieces and nephews, Dawson and Asher Bronke, and Ella, Finn, and Maverick Pearson. He also leaves behind his loyal dog, Corbin.



Loi Ellen Yannett Chambers
August 30, 1957- May 27, 2025

Loi Ellen Yannett Chambers was born on August 30, 1957, in Grand Rapids, the daughter of George and Catherine (Baldwin) Yannett Sr. She had eight siblings, Don Yannett Sr. and George Yannett Jr. who predeceased her, and Richard Hart, Sandra Yannett, Florine Yannett, Gail (Mike) Woods, Shane Hart and Randy Hart.

Loi and her former husband, Clint A. Gilbert, described as the love of her life, had one daughter, LaShelle T. Gilbert and one granddaughter, Leona S. Begeman whom she was devoted to.

A proud veteran of the United States Army, she served overseas as a Medical Specialist rising to rank of Sergeant and was repeatedly recognized for her leadership, integrity, loyalty, and dedication to serve. She was a member of the Merne Soldier Association, and carried her dedication to service into every aspect of her life, always focusing on uplifting others and spreading positivity.

A woman of faith, she obtained her Ministry license in 1996. Loi genuinely cared about people and was known to help others anyway she could. A true people person, she had a gift for making those around her feel seen, heard, and supported. She had a wild sense of humor and was quick to laugh.

Loi enjoyed being creative and had a lifelong love of learning and research, especially her Native ancestry which she traced back to Chief Noonday. Throughout her 25+ years of employment with the GTB she was dedicated leader who tried to uplift others through mentorship. Her tenure as Division 4 manager and Assistant Health Administrator was invaluable in the enhancement of Tribal Health Services. A devoted mother and Nana, she was an inspiration to many, a good friend, and a beautiful soul.

Loi Ellen Chambers, 67, of Peshawbestown, passed away on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at Munson Medical Center, surrounded by the love of her family.



Gerald Jay Kiersey
May 25th, 1937-July 5th, 2025

Gerald “Gerry” Kiersey was born on May 25th, 1937 in Omena, Michigan. His parents were Donald and Eleanor (Erickson) Kiersey. He had 8 brothers and sisters, Opal, Denver, Donald, Hugh “Ole”, Robert, Ralph, Georgia “Kay”, and Beulah, all of whom preceded him in death. As a child, Gerald grew up on a farm at the corner of Overlook and Davis Road in Omena. Along with general farming, they raised cows, pigs, chickens, and horses. The boys were expected to do farm chores before they went to school in the morning, which meant they had to get up pretty early, but the farm also provided fun activities. Gerald’s brother Ole, in an interview, talked about he and his brothers swinging from loft to loft on the rope used to raise the hay into the loft at harvest time, and exercising the horses.

Gerald proudly served in the U.S Navy during Vietnam, and remained active veteran’s organizations, including American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America all of his life. On October 23rd, 1963, he married Karan Anderson of Grandville, Michigan, who preceded him in death in 2018. Together they had two sons, Douglas and Joseph, and over 80 nieces and nephews.

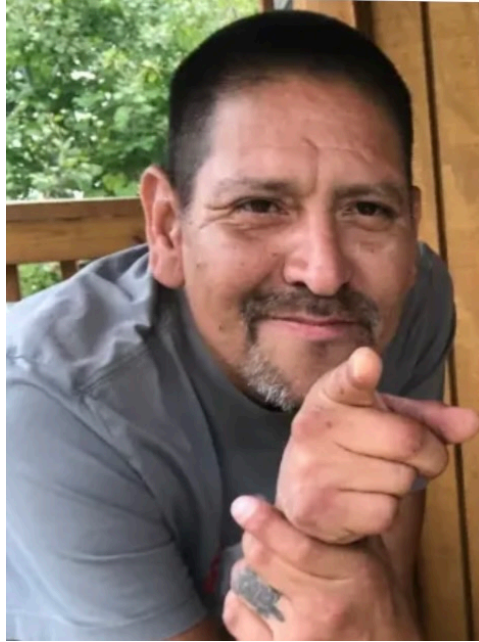
Gerald built a strong career in the machine shop and iron foundry industry. He worked for Traverse City Iron Works and later WW Grainger in Grand Rapids, eventually retiring in 2003. His work ethic was second to none, and he took great pride in a job well done.

After he retired, Gerry lived in a community called “Canadian Lakes”, a resort community in Mecosta County, Michigan, which is a community known for it’s

lakes, and also golf, and other activities. Gerald loved to play euchre, and once took home first prize in a tournament at the VFW Hall in Mecosta.

A devout Lutheran, Gerald lived his life with quiet strength, deep faith, and unwavering devotion to his family. For many years he and Karen were active in the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. He served as a volunteer providing much needed transportation through their volunteer Liberty Line service, providing necessary transportation which would otherwise have been unavailable. His friends there have many fond memories of him. His son, Joseph, wrote, "You gave so much to your friends and family, a kind word, a helping hand, love and support."

Gerald passed away peacefully at home in Petoskey, Michigan on July 5th, 2025 surrounded by his loving family.



Michael Lee Shaw
May 9, 1975-November 14, 2025

Michael Lee Shaw, “Brotha Mike” , was born in Lansing Mi on May 9th, 1975. His parents were Derrell Ray Shaw Sr. and Karla Ruth Shaw. Michael had four siblings: Kristopher Sands, Derrell Shaw (Duey Dawn Shaw), Twin Michelle Shaw (Cita), Kevin Shaw (Joelle).

He was a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and was affiliated with the Sioux Tribe from Rosebud South Dakota.

Michael had five children, who were described as “his world”: Kane Dyantae Pigeon, Michael Jordan Shaw, Kobe Ray Shaw, Karlee Michelle Shaw, and Diamond Marie Sams. He would do anything and everything for them. He also leaves behind the love of his life Shawn K Jones of Sutton’s Bay, and his aunt *Audrey Anderson* and multiple nieces and nephews. He was a described as devoted family man.

Michael was an avid NBA fan, especially a fan of of Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant, and this was reflected in naming two of his sons after them. Although born near Michigan State’s stadium, he became a huge University of Michigan Wolverine fan. He enjoyed country music, especially artists like Dwight Yoakam, Johnny Cash, and Chris Stapleton.

He was known for having a big heart and always being willing to help others. Skilled as a master mechanic, many people would call on him for car repairs. He loved grilling, hosting family and friends, and was competitive—especially at corn hole games.

Michael Lee Shaw (“Brotha Mike”) passed away at the age of 50 on Friday November 14th, 2025, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan surrounded by family and friends. The funeral service was held on Thursday, November 20th, 2025 at the Strongheart Center in Peshawbestown.



Eleanor "Ellie" Buell Stephenson
June 8th, 1928- July 30th, 2025

Eleanor Buell Stephenson, "Ellie" to her friends and family, was born in Detroit, Michigan to Catherine Wells and Joseph Lawrence Buell, Jr. on June 8th, 1928. Ellie went to school and graduated from Grosse Pointe Country Day School. After that she attended Smith College, a women's liberal arts college in Northampton, Massachusetts. She majored in Math, which was a bit unusual at the time.

On the 4th of July in 1946 she met the love of her life, John Howard "Jack" Stephenson, Jr., at the home of her grandparents. They built a wonderful life together, celebrating the day they met each year thereafter.

Ellie worked as Bank Librarian at National Bank of Detroit for a time after they married, until the family grew by two daughters, Cathy and Janet. She devoted her time and considerable energy over more than seventy years to various community and service organizations, primarily those supporting the less fortunate. They included Franklin Settlement, Tau Beta, Detroit Science Center, Junior Leagues of Detroit and Columbus, Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in Columbus, Ohio, Colonial Dames, Smith College, Five Colleges Book Exchange, Montshire Museum, Omena-Traverse Yacht Club, Omena Historical Society, and Harvest Hill Residents Association among others. Notably, long before the Americans with Disabilities Act, Ellie developed the first catalogue of accessibility within public buildings and areas in Detroit for distribution to those in need.

Ellie & Jack enjoyed traveling, including to many domestic and international destinations. However, Omena, Michigan, where they built a cottage in 1959, remains the heart of the Stephenson and Buell families. After several decades living in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, Ellie & Jack relocated to Norwich, Vermont following Jack's retirement. Jack died on March 24th, 2000 at the age of 78 in Hartford, Vermont.

Ellie subsequently moved to Lebanon, NH. She remained active and engaged, playing her favorite game, bridge. A voracious reader, Ellie had just finished her latest book when she died on July 30th, 2025 after a life full of adventures, service to others and her loving family. Ellie is preceded in death by her husband, Jack Stephenson, and a granddaughter, Madeline Kotlas. She is survived by her two daughters, Cathy and Janet, and granddaughter, Sydney Carlock-Bichler (Andy Bichler) as well as her much loved nephews and niece, all of whom will greatly miss her kindness, warmth, laughter and love.

OHS article written on May 7, 2021 by Cathy Stephenson about her dad,
John Howard Stephenson, Jr. US Army WWII

The day Pearl Harbor was attacked was John Howard "Jack" Stephenson's birthday. Jack enlisted while he was at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH (class of '44). Jack went through basic training at Camp Pendleton prior to joining the US Ski Troops, better known as the 10th Mountain Division. He was an avid skier at Dartmouth.

However, before he went overseas with the legendary 10th Mountain Division, Jack was tapped to join the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the U.S. intelligence agency during World War II and the forerunner of the modern CIA. He was stationed in Burma decoding in an effort to keep the Burma Trail open. When the war was winding down, he parachuted into Taiwan. The US needed to gather intelligence in Taiwan which was still in Japanese hands. So Jack was captured, as planned, to evaluate the situation and then report back.

One night a group of American and European prisoners were singing and the Japanese officer in charge of the prison, joined in the song. Turns out he had attended Yale and knew the songs. Jack stayed on in Taiwan until after the war was over to collect critical information. Upon his return home from the war, Jack subsequently returned to Dartmouth to finish his education, and ski his favorite slopes in Montreal and then graduated in 1946. One of the highlights of his life was his 50th Reunion in 1994, when the Dartmouth Class of 1944, which was the only class that never had a graduation (due to the war), was recognized and celebrated by the Class of 1994.

The Stephenson family first summered in Omena on Ingalls Bay in 1928 and returned from Kansas City, Missouri every summer until the war broke out, staying initially at the Morse cottage and then for many years at the Newton cottage (now owned by the Barbers). After the war, Jack finally returned, ultimately introducing his girlfriend, Ellie Buell to Omena in 1948. After they married, Jack & Ellie later vacationed at The House by the Side of the Road, now owned by Don & Betts Chisholm until they bought a lot on Ingalls Bay and

built their own cottage in 1959. My grandparents, Howdy & Katy Stephenson, would visit during summers and falls while they were living. Veterans Jack and Howdy (and Katy) are buried in Hillcrest Cemetery.