



Arlo David Hamel

February 25, 1957 - April 5, 2026

Arlo David Hamel, age 69, of Dafter, Michigan, died on April 5, 2026, at his home. He was born on February 25, 1957, in Sault Ste. Marie Michigan, to Arlo M. and Fern (Carrick) Hamel.

Arlo grew up in Cedarville and Taylor, Michigan, and attended Cedarville High School. He began working with his father at the young age of twelve. Over the years, he worked for his dad at Snows Dock in Cedarville. When his father sold the family business to him, he ran it for several years before retiring due to illness in his fifties.

Arlo was a proud member of the Trappers' Association. He had a deep love for the outdoors, especially trapping, a passion that began when his mother started taking him along to run trap lines when he was just two years old. He also enjoyed building traps and lures, as well as woodworking, camping, and hunting with friends and family. A natural storyteller, Arlo loved sharing stories and memories, often bringing laughter to those around him. He could almost always be found in the woods, doing what he loved most.

Arlo is survived by his wife, Vicki Hamel of Dafter; daughter, Christina (Dan) Burby of Reedsville, Wisconsin; sons, Richard Ward III of Pickford, Michigan, and Tim (Kimi) Ward of Hessel, Michigan; sister, Alana Kemper of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; brother-in-law, Rob Visnaw of Acworth, Georgia; numerous

grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins; best friends, Danny Gilbert of Detroit, Michigan, and Dutchy Chandonais of Lake Linden, Michigan; and dog, Haylie.

Arlo was preceded in death by his parents, Arlo M. and Fern; sisters, Gertrude Visnaw and Hamel and Rose Ann McMillian; brother-in-law, Mick Kemper; and mother and father-in-law, Barbara and John Durish.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon at Family Life Funeral Homes, 24549 S. M-129, Pickford, MI 49774. Burial will immediately follow.

Arlo's final resting place will be at Cedar Cemetery in Cedarville, Michigan.

Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Cemetery (aka Edgewood)

Clark Township Office
P.O. Box 367
Cedarville, MI 49719

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall

TV

“ Uncle Arlie,

My Dad was my world and my best friend. There were only two men that I ever saw his eyes light up when talking about them; you and your Dad, my great Grandpa Arlo. He admired you both so much. He taught me the same. After my Dad died, not a holiday went by that you didn't send me a message to make sure I was okay:) I remember starting to get really sad about my Dad (Kenneth Arlo Visnaw) and then every time, I'd see my phone light up with a message from you. Perfect timing every time. You were my angel during the worst time of my life. For almost 8 years, you never missed one. This past Easter I went to message you because I didn't see your message you ALWAYS sent and saw that you passed. I will never forget the love and kindness you showed me. My Mom said, that if my Dad knew you had done that every holiday, that would make him so proud and mean so much to him. My Mom doesn't say things like that. But she said that with heart and a tear in her eye. You made me feel special, just like my Dad did. I saw so much of my Dad in you. Men like you guys are rare. Just like your Dad, my great grandpa Arlo, you are a legend to me (and my Dad). A real true man, friend, hunter, trapper...and I couldn't be prouder to say you were my Uncle:) You were the only person besides my Dad who could tell a great story and make me laugh EXACTLY like my Dad did. I was never easily amused so someone had to be smart and funny to make me laugh. You and my Dad had a way of making me laugh that I have never seen in anyone else. You were both so smart and so funny! You were so much alike. I will miss seeing my phone light up every holiday. I'll miss you clarifying the joke I was trying to make (you and my Dad knew I couldn't tell a joke to save my life lol). I'll miss the friend you were to me. I will never forget you and I will continue to teach my son about the greatest men I ever knew; Grandpa Arlo, my Dad and Uncle Arlo. I will miss you so much. I know you are all up there making heaven laugh and and hunting. Can't wait to join you guys one day. Until then, I'll miss you everyday. Rest in peace Uncle Arlie. I love you.

Ps: thank you for leaving me with all the family secrets...I promised

to use them wisely lol and I will. Gonna miss u so much!☐

*Love Always,
Tiffany and Levi K. Visnaw*



Tiffany Visnaw - April 10 at 06:56 AM

TI

“ *Miss my dad so much already but we know ur watching over all of us and doing the best I can taking care of mom during this very hard time. Love you always and forever till I see you again dad xoxox*

Tim - April 10 at 12:23 AM

AK

“ *In loving memory of my brother, you are truly missed. I will especially miss our long talks, remembering stories from when we were kids. You may be gone but you will never be forgotten. My deepest sympathy to Vicki, Tim and family.
Love ~ Your sis, Alana Kemper*

Alana Kemper - April 09 at 11:16 PM