



Benjamin Ray Hilts

December 1, 1981 - December 3, 2016

Benjamin Ray Hilts, age 35, of DeTour Village, Michigan, died Saturday, December 3, 2016, as the result of an automobile accident. He was born December 1, 1981, in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Ben grew up in the Mt. Pleasant area. He graduated from Beal City High School in 2000 where he participated in football, baseball, and track. Ben worked at various jobs for several years while deciding what he enjoyed most. In the Mt. Pleasant area, he worked at Schyler Unlimited, Lawn Care, Weber's Saw Mill, Andre's Dairy Farm, Straus Masonry, A-1 Machine and Tool, Morbark, and Higgins and Associates. In 2004, he moved to the Eastern Upper Peninsula where he worked at Howe & Howe, Kelly Excavation, Island Masonry, and Davis Timber Products. In his spare time, partnered with his girlfriend, Tiffany, he helped start and run Tiffs Auto Body and HD Trucking before he partnered with Ron Papin and together, they owned and operated Grade A Logging in DeTour for the past six years.

Ben enjoyed hunting, year round fishing, snowmobiling, boating, golfing and camping. Ben loved tinkering in the garage, whether it be fixing boats for pleasure or machinery for work. He and Tiffany were most often found in the garage working together on one project or another. Most of all he enjoyed hanging with his wide circle of friends, some of whom he traveled with to places like Cancun, Jamaica, The Dominican Republic, and Vegas.

Ben is survived by his son, Bailey Benjamin Hilts of Mt. Pleasant; father, Ray Arnold Hilts of Drummond Island, Michigan; siblings, Jessica (Hilts) Bass of Towanda, Pennsylvania, Katie Hilts of Mt. Pleasant, and Jason (Tamra Martinez) Hilts of Shepherd, Michigan; nieces, Emma and Alyse Bass; fiancé, Tiffany Dumback of DeTour Village; uncle, Tim Grisdale of DeTour; great friends, Frank Dumback, Krystal, Jon, Trenton, and Eric Huyck, Nick and Mohnti Dumback, Ron Papin, Chris Bass, Buck Socia, Josh Baareman, Jason Baareman, Rod Munro, and Todd Postula; and his son's mother and stepfather, Amanda Anton and Jeff Stanton.

Ben was preceded in death by his mother, Jayne Elizabeth (Grisdale) Wilson; grandparents, Forest and Jerry Hilts and Leo and Ann Grisdale; nephew, Christopher Bass; niece, Mary Geraldine Bass; aunt, Kathy Guarisco; cousin, George Pifer; good friend, Jack Fussman; and his son's grandfather, Todd Anton; and Penni Dumback.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, December 6, from 5:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. and Wednesday, December 7, from 11:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129 in Pickford, Michigan.

Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, December 7, at 1:00 P.M. at R. Galer Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 6. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

DEC 7. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

DEC 7. 1:00 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



“ *Benjamin Ray Hilts*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Benjamin Ray Hilts*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Benjamin Ray Hilts*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *just wanted to say im so very sorry for your loss. ben was a good friend of my ex,mike sanderson,aka kernall. when you seen one of them you seen the other.great friends good times were had by all who knew ben. rip good buddy*



Robin Sanderson - December 08, 2016 at 09:35 AM

PA

“ Our hearts go out to Ben And Tiff's family our thoughts are with you. It is not easy losing someone you love but with the love and support from family and friends to help comfort helps. Ben was a great guy always fun times . We can not make the service and want to express that we are sorry for your loss from our family to yours.
Pat & Patti Kiczenski



Patti - December 07, 2016 at 06:43 AM

JA

“ Words seem inadequate to express the sorrow felt by the loss of Ben. I extend my deepest sympathy on the loss of this precious human being.

Ben was such a thoughtful, caring person. He would do anything to help someone in need. He will be sorely missed and never forgotten.

With much love and sympathy <3

Jaci - December 06, 2016 at 08:17 PM

JR

“ *Jaci Rairigh lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Hilts*



Jaci Rairigh - December 06, 2016 at 06:34 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 06, 2016 at 03:46 PM



“ *Sas Miller lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Hilts*



Sas Miller - December 06, 2016 at 03:15 PM



“ *Words cannot express the heaviness of our hearts. Ben was an awesome young man. He was always kind and always smiling when we would see him. We are so grateful to have known him. You are missed!*
Love Shannon and Scott Fountain.

shannon - December 06, 2016 at 02:56 PM



“ *george,sandy newell purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



george,sandy newell - December 06, 2016 at 02:18 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 06, 2016 at 12:09 PM



“ *So Sad, "R.I.P." Ben! Condolence's Tiffany & Ben's family,*

shirley - December 06, 2016 at 09:51 AM



“ *I wish I could say something to help you endure this. I can't come up with words. I have tried. I can't fathom your grief. But, I assure you I will do the best I'm humanly capable of; I will pray for you. Bill Hall*

william hall - December 06, 2016 at 09:48 AM



I'm so sorry to hear this. My heart aches for all in his family, and friends. Hoping you find Peace.

Peggy Bongard - December 06, 2016 at 04:19 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 06, 2016 at 09:18 AM

CB

“ No matter where we would run into Ben, he always had a handshake for Dennis & a big old bear hug for me, followed by asking about my "kids"! That was Ben, Just a kind, polite, warm, caring guy! He will be missed by so many. Our sympathy to all his family & friends. Rest in Peace, Ben!



~Cheryl & Dennis

Cheryl Bernard - December 06, 2016 at 08:33 AM

KC

“ Benjamin Ray Hilts (Daryl)
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day..
Unseen, Unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
I will miss you Daryl
Love you,
Ken Cole

Ken Cole - December 06, 2016 at 08:27 AM

BK

“ I remember a little boy and his family living down the road from us in Mt. Pleasant, Mi. A cute little guy and an image of his Dad Ray. That was Ben Hilts and as he grew up when I met up with Ben, he always had a hug for me. My hug to him in heaven ♡

Barbara N. Kowallic - December 06, 2016 at 08:24 AM

JS

“ *Jim and Angie Spencer purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



Jim and Angie Spencer - December 06, 2016 at 07:56 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 06, 2016 at 06:58 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 06, 2016 at 06:52 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 06, 2016 at 06:20 AM

NB

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers your way. Did not know Ben personally, but he was part of a wonderful family. I know he will be missed, but his memory will always be there. Nancy Baughman, Johnstown, Ohio

Nancy Baughman - December 06, 2016 at 05:13 AM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.



December 05, 2016 at 08:53 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.



December 05, 2016 at 08:28 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.



December 05, 2016 at 06:15 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 05, 2016 at 04:33 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 05, 2016 at 04:13 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 05, 2016 at 04:07 PM



“ *Evan and Carol Davis purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



Evan and Carol Davis - December 05, 2016 at 04:03 PM

CD

“ I remember Ben from my Agriculture classes at Beal ; So sorry to hear this news. My condolences to the family !
Curt DuVall

Curt DuVall - December 05, 2016 at 02:57 PM

HF

“ Higgins Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.



Higgins Family - December 05, 2016 at 01:22 PM

TF

“ We are so terribly saddened by this loss, but are grateful to have gotten to know Ben. He was a loyal person, a hard worker, and had a generous and kind heart that enriched the lives of those who knew him. Always had a smile on his face and something to say to brighten someone's day. Ben will be sorely missed--

The Waybrant family

The Waybrant family - December 05, 2016 at 12:18 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.



December 05, 2016 at 12:18 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 05, 2016 at 12:11 PM



“ *David & Shelly Card lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Hilts*



David & Shelly Card - December 05, 2016 at 10:50 AM



Ben will be missed dearly, sending prayers to his family and friends.

David & Shelly - December 05, 2016 at 10:54 AM



I didn't know Ben well but my heart aches for you Tiffany, and his Uncle Tim and entire family and the many special friends who are so devastated by his loss. My condolences and prayers go out to all of you.

Debbie Cross Desrochers - December 06, 2016 at 10:11 AM



“ *Everyone who met Ben will forever remember his genuine heart and giving spirit. He always had a kind word (and often a funny line) whenever we saw him. I hope he had even a hint of how many lives he touched in his short time.*

Love....Todd, Jen, Tucker and Jersey <3

Jen Postula - December 05, 2016 at 08:37 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benjamin Ray Hilts.*



December 05, 2016 at 06:27 AM



“ *I remember quite a few times of seeing Ben out, when we would play a gig somewhere, he always took time to give me a handshake or a fistbump. He was a great guy. To his family, my prayers and thoughts are with each one of you, and Thank you for this great man, and sharing him with us.*

Bobby Gutcher - December 04, 2016 at 11:51 PM



“ *Ben was a great man!!! He was so caring and funny!!! He has touched so many people lives in so many different ways! My prayers are with all of his family and friends! He will always be loved, missed and never forgotten*

Kali Shaw - December 04, 2016 at 11:16 PM



“ *Bryan & Joni Davis lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Ray Hilts*



Bryan & Joni Davis - December 04, 2016 at 10:50 PM

BR

What an Incredible man, such a loss, he was very caring, so sorry for his family and friends, Thanks for being a part of our lives!

Bryan - December 04, 2016 at 10:52 PM



“ *Ben was such an amazing guy with a heart that was always giving. He was special to us but especially my boys. He always took time to talk with them, and took a genuine interest in what they had going on. For that, and the goat, I will always be grateful. We were blessed to get to know him and be able to experience his love. He will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with his family as they go through this painful time. Thank you for sharing him with us.*

~Brooke, Scott, Cale and Evan Maciag

Brooke Maciag - December 04, 2016 at 08:54 PM