



Brian Alan Pepler

February 20, 1950 - April 3, 2026

Brian Alan Pepler, age 76, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed away peacefully on April 3, 2026, surrounded by family at home. He was born on February 20, 1950, in Lima, Ohio, to William and Lenora (Stilwell) Pepler.

Brian grew up in Ohio and Michigan, the son of a reporter-turned-lawyer father and an artist mother. After graduating from law school at Ohio Northern University, he returned to Sault Ste. Marie to join his father, William, and his sister, Diane, in private law practice. Over the course of his career, Brian also served in the public defender's office and was elected to multiple terms as Chippewa County Prosecutor. He was deeply committed to his community, lending his time and leadership to victim advocacy, mental health boards, senior programs, the Great Start program, and efforts to combat prescription drug abuse.

Brian will be remembered most by family and friends for his kindness to all, his pure joy of being in the woods, and his many passions, which he loved to share with others. He was a fixer of mechanical and wooden things as well as personal problems, injustices, and inequalities. He was an educator and mentor, willingly sharing his many passions and interests with others and guiding many younger people with a firm and loving hand. He was a "gatherer" of people, connecting with others every chance he had, including generations of fraternity brothers, Laker hockey players, and former school

friends.

Above all, Brian was a family man. He was a brother, uncle, loving partner, supportive father, and Papa Bear to the grandchildren he adored.

His legacy includes his devoted partner, Camela Yeck; son, Cory (Beth) Pepler of Mukwonago, Wisconsin; daughter, Niki (Brent) Rudolph of Mason, Michigan; step-son, Anthony (Lori) Fenlon of Rockford, Michigan; grandchildren, Zachary Pepler, Alex Pepler, Amelia Rudolph, Tess Rudolph, Riley Fenlon, and Zoe Fenlon; brother, William (Patricia) Pepler of Mackinaw City, Michigan; nieces, Kortney (Paul) Pepler and Kelsey Pepler; mother-in-law, Phyllis Yeck; sisters-in-law, Annette Eustice, Leah Kling, Lynne Yeck, Alice McPherson, Carole Yeck, and their families; many cousins; and many, many friends.

A Celebration of Brian's Life will be held in the Superior Room of the Cisler Center on the LSSU campus on Saturday, May 30, 2026. Visitation will be held at 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with the Memorial Service beginning at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Brian's honor may be made to the Diane Pepler Resource Center, P.O. Box 698, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 30. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Superior Room at Walker Cisler Student & Conference Center/Lake Superior State University
650 W. Easterday Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall

AT

“ *Amber, Carolyn, Deb, Julie, MaryJo, Tina purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Brian Alan Pepler.*



Amber, Carolyn, Deb, Julie, MaryJo, Tina - 3 hours ago

MA

“ I have so many stories of Brian and i will say he is one of the finest human beings I have ever been associated with in my life. He was honest and fair and never unassuming about anyone unless he met him or her. Brian was the president of the Blue Line Club when I played at Lake State and we started a great tradition at that time in 1983. he had his hunting property west of the Soo and a little cabin in the woods to get away. By the time we were done it was a home and a sauna and a place to just get away from anything and everything without a care in the world. Brian was always there to help and give advice if you asked or had a joke in hand as well. We couldn't wait to get to the cabin for Hearts and saunas and yes drinking and telling stories every year for many, many years. I loved that man and all he stood for. He was honest and fair and always listened to your side no matter what your beliefs were and that is rare. He defended me once and was thoughtful and truthful and very up front of my chances. Brian touched the lives of over 100 players over the years, and I would bet he would remember every one of them and I guarantee we all remember him. Brian always had a quiet calm about himself, and I bet that is why he was such a good lawyer. He would give anything to help another person whether it would be advice or money or a strong helping thought. He was smart and honest and open and a very good hearts player. he opened his home and is cabin and more importantly his heart to us young men when he could or when we asked and nobody could ask for more then that. Thank you Brian and my condolences to his family as he will be deeply missed. Thank you Brian for everything you have ever done and I will miss you my friend and may God have mercy on your soul and rest in peace. I cry because in my opinion we have lost a great human being that fought for truth and justice and the best for humanity. I love you buddy and will miss you! Forever your friend.

Mark Vichorek

Mark - April 28 at 12:05 AM

DB

“ I want to first say I wholeheartedly wish all his family my deepest condolences. Brian and I have lots of memories from me helping him do some carpentry projects to hanging out at deer camp. He is with the lord now , however I'm really going to miss him. He was the original world's most interesting man. Cami will know what that means. I will cherish every memory I have just like I've been doing because I still can't believe it. God bless Brian's family and friends help every single one of us to get through this hard time. Love you all.



Dain Brunet - April 16 at 03:25 PM

DM

“ To Brian's Family,

So sorry for your loss. I knew Brian and his dad through golfing. They used to play in our tournament at The Rock every year. Both were fine gentlemen and will be missed by the Sault community. RIP Brian.

Dave Miller
DeTour Village

David Miller - April 13 at 11:24 AM

WV

“ Brian was a great guy. I wish I could have spent more time with him. My condolences to Cam and his family.

Wayne Videtich - April 11 at 08:49 PM



“ *Brian was our voice of reason for Laker Hockey. Brian was also a great listener in that you knew he cared for you. When the season was over we all looked forward to spending time at the sacred grounds to heal anll of our minds from the grind of the season and spend time with him like he was our father. I know there have been many Laker tears shed but they are all memories of a great man that never looked for thanks and cared deeply for his Laker Family. I will miss you my friend but am a better man from you examples..*
Love, Mike D ❤️🚢_/_

Michael Decarle - April 11 at 07:26 PM

BH

“ *Bonnie Hewer lit a candle in memory of Brian Alan Peppler*



Bonnie Hewer - April 11 at 02:20 PM

JM

Camy So sorry for your loss, sending hugs. Judy(Piche) McDonald ❤️❤️

Judy (Piche) McDonald - April 11 at 06:10 PM

RC

“ *Very sorry for the family's loss, I was in Dianne's class.Remember his State Championship run in the 1/2 mile event. He set the State with a record time!*

Randy Clark - April 11 at 01:26 PM

CV

“ *Condolences to Brian's family. He was a great man with a kind soul. He truly cared about people.*

Christine VanSloten - April 11 at 10:57 AM

PA

My condolences to Brian's family. He was a kind and friendly guy. so sorry for your loss.

Pat Mankey Allen - April 12 at 08:52 AM

JR

I came to the Sault in 2011 as the new police chief. New to the area I had a lot to learn. Brian was one of the first to welcome me, help me adjust, and make me feel comfortable in the position. I considered him a colleague and a close friend. My condolences to his family.

John Riley - April 15 at 06:49 AM