



Christopher Thomas Griffen

January 8, 1955 - June 20, 2026

Christopher Thomas Griffen, age 71, of Hessel, Michigan, died on June 20, 2026, at McLaren Northern Michigan, in Petoskey, Michigan, after complications from cancer treatment. He was born on January 8, 1955, in Detroit, Michigan, to Thomas and Violette (Argiroff) Griffen.

On August 27, 2015, Chris married the love of his life, Jennifer Flagel, in Hessel, beginning a marriage filled with love, laughter, and countless adventures together.

Chris enjoyed a distinguished career as a mechanical engineer, dedicating more than forty years to the automotive industry. Even in retirement, his passion for engineering and innovation never faded. He enjoyed working with computer-aided design (CAD) software and 3-D printing, always eager to create, improve, or solve a problem.

A true boating enthusiast, Chris took great pride in his boat and could often be found tinkering with it or making sure it was spotless and ready for the water. He also had a deep love for travel. Earlier in life, he explored many destinations, and later he and Jenny created cherished memories traveling across the country in their camper. The Upper Peninsula held a special place in Chris' heart, and he treasured the many hours he spent enjoying its beauty and peaceful surroundings.

Above all, Chris valued the time he spent with his family and friends. He will be remembered for his sharp mind, hardworking nature, and the joy he found in life's simple pleasures.

Chris is survived by his wife of ten years, Jennifer; children, Katie Griffen of Howell, Michigan, Erin (Chris) Bindschatel of Hessel, and Corey (Kandice) Killingbeck of St. Ignace, Michigan; siblings, Marlene Maltese of Charlevoix, Michigan, and Steven (Joan) Griffen of Sarasota, Florida; sisters-in-law, Kathy Flagel of Brimley, Michigan, Betty (Andy) Grootendorst of Coloma, Michigan, and Jean McCann of Elko, New York; grandchildren, Jordyn, Julius, Alivia, Aurora, Autumn, Jillian, Savannah, and Melody; and many nieces and nephews.

Chris was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Violette; and brother-in-law, Joe Maltese.

Per Chris' wishes, no services will be held.

Donations in Chris' honor may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741, or Clark Township EMS, 212 S. Meridian St., Cedarville, MI 49719.

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

Obituary as submitted by family.

Tribute Wall

AR

“ Allayna R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Thomas Griffen.

Allayna R. - 2 hours ago

SS

“ I will always remember the 1st day that I met Chris. My sister Kathy, brought him to my home in Port Huron so that I could meet him and to visit our grandmother that was in the hospital. The Visit at the hospital took a turn. They came back to my house where I had been caring for our Grandma. They told me that she had passed away during their visit. As you can imagine, I was a wreck and so was my sister. I will always remember how Chris's kind, calm, generous heart, got us through that day. He drove us where we needed to go. Helped us handle what we needed to handle. Helped us to find time to sit and think. To even find a little bit of time to laugh and find the joy in the love we had for her. He was a champion of compassion. Kathy and Chris later married and had the true joy of his life. His beautiful, daughter Katie. He won my heart from the very 1st day that I met him.

Suz strahan - 3 hours ago