



Cleon Wade Moss

January 6, 1931 - March 26, 2026

Cleon Wade Moss, age 95, of Hessel, Michigan, passed away peacefully on March 26, 2026, at Ball Hospice House of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He was reunited with his beloved wife of 68 years, Ann (McFadden) Moss.

Born in January 1931 in Youngstown, Ohio, Cleon was the son of Elmer and Ruby (Perkins) Moss. He graduated from South High School and spent his summers in Hessel, where he met Ann. Their love story blossomed during those early years, culminating in marriage in the summer of 1951 in Youngstown, Ohio. Cleon proudly served in the United States Naval Reserves for twelve years until 1960, and in 1956, he and Ann moved to Hessel, where he built their cherished family home.

Cleon began working at Hudson's Hardware, where he worked for 21 years. He later joined Straits Building Center in St. Ignace, retiring after 10 years at the age of 62. Known as a handyman throughout the community, he became the go-to person for fixing everything from washers and dryers to lawn mowers and small appliances. His family never had to worry about a broken item; Cleon was always there to lend a helping hand. Even after retirement, he continued to contribute to his community by working at the Hessel Marina, Wee-Bit-of-Heaven Resort, and fixing appliances for those in the community.

A dedicated volunteer firefighter for the Clark Township Fire Department for 43 years, Cleon was actively involved in Hessel Presbyterian Church. His love for bowling was evident as he participated in the St. Ignace Bowling League for many years. An avid outdoorsman, Cleon cherished fishing, boating, and hunting, taking pride in teaching his children and grandchildren how to fish. Each moment spent outdoors was filled with laughter and the sharing of life lessons, as he created lasting memories, sharing stories and imparting wisdom.

Cleon was also an antique car enthusiast, traveling to car shows with his beloved red 1951 Willys Jeepster. As a loyal Michigan State fan, he enjoyed playful banter with his son and found joy in watching his favorite game shows, including The Price Is Right, Wheel of Fortune, and Jeopardy, often accompanied by popcorn and sherbet ice cream. He adored his dogs and loved teaching them tricks, bringing joy and laughter into their home.

A ray of sunshine to his family and friends, Cleon had an infectious ability to make people laugh and celebrate life in every moment. He took immense joy in checking in on his grandchildren, sharing pictures, and celebrating their milestones, big and small. His unwavering support instilled a strong sense of belonging and pride in his loved ones. Cleon passed on his skills in carpentry, woodworking, basketry, and fishing while instilling values of patience, kindness, and a strong work ethic. He loved teaching others how to fix things and had a kind heart, frequently found lending a hand, delivering birthday cards, and offering words of encouragement.

Cleon never slowed down and always made his family feel special and loved. Time for bike rides, picnics, boating, fishing, and big hugs was always available with him. He deeply valued his community, church, and family, and his spirit will forever be cherished in the hearts of those he touched.

Cleon is survived by his daughter, Carol (Steven) Straka of Lake, Michigan; son, Brian (Kathy) Moss of Hessel; grandchildren, Paul (Doris) Straka, Stephanie (Byron) Osborn, Brian W. Moss, Justin (Justine) Moss, and Stacey (Brandon) Goings; great-grandchildren, Kirsten, Jason (Hannah), Anna, Ashley, Paul Jr., Kingsley, Natalie, Braden, Allie, and Aiden; great-great-grandchildren, Emmalynn, Collins, and Jacob Wade; and his sister, Donna (Roy) Haren of Youngstown.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Wanda Moss; his brother, Elmer (Helen) Moss; and his beloved wife, Ann.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in the summer of 2026.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Clark Township Fire Department, P.O. Box 367 Cedarville, MI 49719, Hessel Presbyterian Church, 3122 Cedar St. Hessel, MI 49745, or Ball Hospice House, 308 W 12th Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Cleon's legacy of generosity, love, and joy will always be remembered and cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing.

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

Tribute Wall

PG

“ As one of our Boy Scout leaders, Cleon accompanied the troop on many camping trips: canoe trips to Search Bay and Government Island, trips up McKay Creek and Prentiss Creek. I recall mornings as the scouts jealously watched Cleon carefully tend his frying pan over a bed of coals. He flipped perfectly browned pancakes one after another after we had consumed our own breakfasts of runny eggs and rubbery bacon flash fried over roaring fires in our Boy Scout mess kits. Thank you, Cleon, for your service to the community and especially to the local Boy Scout troop.

Pete Griffin - April 03 at 01:33 PM

SO

He very much enjoyed his time as a Boy Scout Leader and had many stories to tell. Thank you for sharing your story❤️

Stephanie Osborn - April 03 at 06:50 PM

LJ

“ Cleon was a very kind man. He always made time to say hello! I am so glad I knew him. My sincere condolences to the family.

Linda Johnson - April 03 at 10:22 AM

SD

“ I remember him at the hardware store and church He and Ann was sweethearts. They always kind and helpful to everyone

Sheila Dalton - April 02 at 03:08 PM