



Dale Francis Belonga

August 11, 1938 - May 2, 2026

Dale Francis Belonga, age 87, of St. Ignace, Michigan, died on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at home with his family surrounding him. He was born on August 11, 1938, in Moran, Michigan, to Phillip and Esther (Becker) Belonga.

Dale grew up in St. Ignace and graduated from LaSalle High School. After graduation, he began working and later attempted to enlist in the military but was unfortunately declined due to a heart murmur. He went on to work for the City of St. Ignace Department of Public Works and later transitioned to the water department after the City of St. Ignace acquired it. Dale dedicated 40½ years to the City before retiring. During this time, Dale met Delina Rose Proton in Engadine, Michigan, and the two were married on November 12, 1960, in Naubinway, Michigan. They made their home in St. Ignace.

Dale was a member of the Straits Area Sportsman Club.

Dale enjoyed fishing, riding his side-by-side, and going for drives with his dog, Rusty, by his side. He especially enjoyed spending time at his cabin in Rexton, Michigan, and camping with Delina.

Dale is survived by his sons, Clifford Belonga of St. Ignace and Bill (Nisa) Belonga of Rexton; grandchildren, Peyton, Dennis, Billy and Hana; and sisters, Patricia Martin and Judy (John) Winandy.

Dale was preceded in death by his wife, Delina; parents, Phillip and Esther; daughter-in-law, Wendy Belonga; and siblings, Nedra (Daniel) Hough, Phylis (Don) King, Ronald (Lillian) Belonga, Billy Belonga, Janice (Alan) Werkheiser, Joan Adams, and Michael Belonga.

A memorial gathering will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM at Family Life Funeral Homes, 999 S. State Street St. Ignace, MI 49781. The memorial service will follow immediately at 11:00 AM.

Dale's final resting place will be at Lakeside Cemetery in St. Ignace, Michigan.

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

Cemetery Details

Lakeside Cemetery

St. Ignace, MI 49781

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAY 21. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - St. Ignace
999 South State Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-7711
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Service

MAY 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - St. Ignace
999 South State Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-7711
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall

TA

“ When I was 21 years old, approximately 55 years ago, I was fortunate enough to meet Dale through our mutual friend, Paul Krause, At that point in time, I knew nothing about hunting and Dale and Paul taught me the rules of hunting in the woods. Every year, for approximately 10 years, Dale always made me feel more than welcome to stay at his camp in Cut River, Dale had a keen sense of humor that he could tease me in a way that I would never take offense to. One particular instance Dale bet me that he could shoot the eye out of a light and unbeknownst to me the light switch was just below his arm and after firing the muzzle loader, he pushed the light switch down, making me believe that he had actually shot the light out! LOL! Another time, he and I were walking into the woods, and I paid close attention to my compass and when we decided to return out of the woods, we started walking in a direction that I thought was right sSo I mentioned it to him, and he said, "ok, let's go the direction you would want to go". As we proceeded, he was walking ahead of me into a swamp cracking the ice and I would fall through causing my boots to fill with water. Finally, Dale said, "Well, maybe we should try my way" and we proceeded to walk out of the swamp up the ridge and out to the road!, Who was I to tell Dale how to navigate the woods? He taught me that all ridges ran East and West and if you followed the ridge, you would eventually come out to a road. Another lesson learned! I regret that I never, in my later years, got back up to see Dale so that I could let him know what a mentor he was to me and reminisce with him about the good old days that we had in the woods. Rest in peace, dear friend. Tim Alexander

Tim Alexander - May 20 at 09:18 PM

CV

“ Cassandra Vernier planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale Francis Belonga.

Cassandra Vernier - May 20 at 08:21 AM

CV

“ Cassandra Vernier purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Dale Francis Belonga.



Cassandra Vernier - May 20 at 08:21 AM

RS

“ Roxanne and Clark Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale Francis Belonga.

Roxanne and Clark Smith - May 09 at 05:59 PM

RS

“ Roxanne and Clark Smith purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dale Francis Belonga.



Roxanne and Clark Smith - May 09 at 05:59 PM

MP

“ Dale and Delina were two of the most generous and kind people I have ever met. Prayers to Clifford, Billy and family.

Marsha Perilloux - May 05 at 09:23 PM

KG

“ I was so surprised to see this guy has passed. I always loved talking to him when ever I run into him and his little riding companion. Dale was such a great guy and story teller. RIP Dale, you will e missed.

Kelly Grogan - May 05 at 05:10 PM