



Daniel Bernard DeMerse

March 19, 1949 - December 29, 2024

Daniel “Dan” Bernard DeMerse, age 75, of Marquette and Detour, Michigan, died on December 29, 2024, at his home. He was born on March 19, 1949, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Bernard and Olivia “Marie” (McCoy) DeMerse. Dan grew up on Sugar Island, Michigan, and attended Sault Area High School. He joined the United States Army and was stationed in Germany. Dan returned to Sault Ste. Marie and worked for a few years as a roofer. He then began his career on the Great Lakes Freighters “boats” for thirty-nine years, contributing immensely to the entire fleet as an Ordinary Seaman, Conveyor Man, Oiler, and ultimately Chief Engineer. He relished the opportunity to work on the boats in the fleet; however, his favorite boat was always the Charles M. Beeghly (now the M/V Hon. James Oberstar). He retired on April 1, 2015. Despite his retirement, Dan was the consummate worker, tinkering in his garage, his property on the Peshekee Grade, and of course anywhere someone needed a hand.

Dan was a member of the Wilderness Pentecostal Tabernacle Church of God in Detour, Michigan.

Dan enjoyed being outdoors in his favorite place at camp on the Peshekee Grade that he constructed by hand with his wife Robin, and later finished with Janet. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman.

Dan is survived by his wife, Janet; son, Shawn (Elizabeth) DeMerse of Celina, Texas; stepchildren, Crystal Zalewski and Jodi (Jeremy) Vredenburg, both of Detour, Michigan; granddaughter, Mykala; sisters, Juanita “Punky” (James)

Hill of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Nancy (Clyde) Ellison of Colorado, and Jane Boyer of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; a niece; and many nephews. Dan was preceded in death by his wife, Robin; parents, Bernard and Olivia; grandsons, Cameron and Connor DeMerse; and brother-in-law, Marvin Boyer. Visitation will be held on January 2, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Family Life Funeral Homes, 4951 S. M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Funeral service will follow at 1:00 PM.

Memorial Contributions may be made in Dan's honor to Wilderness Pentecostal Tabernacle Church of God, P.O. Box 6, Detour Village, Michigan and Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Dan's final resting place will be with his parents and wife, Robin, at Hillcrest Cemetery in Racoon, Michigan.

Burial will occur in the Spring of 2025.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.

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

Obituary as submitted by family.

Cemetery Details

Hill Crest Cemetery

M-28
Brimley, MI 49715

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Sault Ste. Marie
4951 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-4951
fifh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 2. 1:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Sault Ste. Marie
4951 S. M-129
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fifh@familylifefh.com
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Tribute Wall

PS

“ So many good memories. First of Dan & Robin, then later Dan & Janet. Riding our ORV's all over the western UP. Campfires at their camp, our camp, Herms & Lori's camp, Matt & Dee's camp and others. Many games of cribbage. 30 years of a wonderful friendship. Dan may be gone but he will never be forgotten. Love you buddy!
Pete & Jude

Pete & Jude Sibley - January 02, 2025 at 08:49 AM

DC

“ DeTour Drummond Community CU planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Bernard DeMerse.

DeTour Drummond Community CU - January 01, 2025 at 03:01 PM

DC

“ DeTour Drummond Community CU purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Daniel Bernard DeMerse.



DeTour Drummond Community CU - January 01, 2025 at 03:01 PM

GD

“ Dan, I never sailed with you but your legacy will remain onboard the boats you graced with your knowledge and expertise. Sail into heaven now Brother Dan and know God welcomes you!

Gary Dauw - January 01, 2025 at 02:02 PM



“ *White Poinsettia was purchased for the family of Daniel Bernard DeMerse.*



January 01, 2025 at 09:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Daniel Bernard DeMerse.

January 01, 2025 at 09:29 AM



“ Erik (Larry) and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Bernard DeMerse.

Erik (Larry) and family - January 01, 2025 at 08:33 AM



“ Erik (Larry) and family purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Daniel Bernard DeMerse.



Erik (Larry) and family - January 01, 2025 at 08:33 AM

TH

“ I am beyond sad to hear of Dan's passing (otherwise known is "Boatman Dan to so many of his Harvey friends/family 🤔) I met Dan about 20years ago while working at the Dry Dock and then the Bayou,He honestly was and always will be one of the kindest,funniest guys I've ever known and loved..He had a heart of gold and could say Anything to make you Crack up. I can hear his infectious laugh as I write this..😊 Oh Dan my dear friend my heart hurts knowing I'll never see you again, but I smile knowing you're back with your Robin who I know you missed beyond belief. It's Never goodbye, it's I'll see ya later..So until then my dear friend I'll see ya later..Heart and Soul,Always. ❤️ Sending lots of love and prayers to Dan's family and friends ❤️🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Tina Houle - December 31, 2024 at 10:33 PM

GJ

“ Danny and I worked together for years on various boats and yes his favorite was the Charles M. Beeghly it had so much space in the Boiler Engine room and was easy to work on. We enjoy working together. He made me laugh but the look on Danny's face you would think he was mad at the world but then he'd smile crack some jokes or pull some pranks. That's the Danny ill always remember.

Gary Jackson - December 31, 2024 at 04:47 PM

DL

“ Drew L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Bernard DeMerse.

Drew L. - December 31, 2024 at 04:24 PM