



## David "Whitey" Horka

July 31, 1937 - July 19, 2025

David "Whitey" Horka, age 87, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, died at his home on July 19, 2025. He was born on July 31, 1937, in Sault Ste. Marie to Lionel and Louise (Heyer) Horka.

Whitey grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault High School with the Class of 1956. After graduation, he continued to play softball and went on to be recognized as one of Michigan's top fastpitch softball hurlers of all time. His remarkable 30-year softball career earned him many accolades, including being named the Sault Ste. Marie Sportsperson of the Year in 1990. While serving his country in the United States Army, Whitey helped lead several Army teams to championships and was also named Most Valuable Player at the 1970 Class B State Tournament. He won many tournament titles throughout his career and was widely respected for his talent and sportsmanship. Though a torn ligament in his pitching arm forced him to retire at age 50, Whitey never stopped giving back, coaching for many years and sharing his love of softball and hockey with countless young players, including his beloved grandchildren.

Whitey loved the outdoors and could often be found riding his bicycle around town, blueberry picking, or hunting at the family camp in Cedarville, Michigan. Above all, he cherished time spent with his grandchildren, proudly teaching each one how to skate and throw a ball. Whitey will be remembered for his

dedication to his family, his community, and the sport he loved. His legacy of kindness, passion, and mentorship will live on in all who knew him.

Whitey is survived by his sons, Kent Horka of Sault Ste. Marie and Marc Horka of Livonia, Michigan; daughter, Trishann Cook of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Tara Horka, Evan Horka, Marc Horka II, Troy (Lillie) Horka, Kelsi Burse, Kevin (Jacqueline) Cook, Keaton (Justin Akers) Cook, Khloe Cruickshank, Justin Drouillard and Tasha Rogers; eleven great-grandchildren; sister, Marcia (Paul) Fabry; and very special lady friend, Della Chalmers.

Whitey was preceded in death by parents, Lionel and Louise; siblings, Jack Horka, Stanley Horka, Michael Horka and Lorraine Flynn; grandson, Kaden Cook; and great-grandson, Jayden Horka.

A Celebration of Life will be held on August 16, 2025, at 613 Cedar St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 at 2:00 PM.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

AUG 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Horka/Cook Residence  
613 Cedar St.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

# Tribute Wall



“ Uncle Whitey was my hero. He was known throughout the U.P. And Canada as a pitcher you never wanted to play against. He was a smart, fire baller and terrific fastball pitcher. i enjoyed watching mow down batters. Sad to say i ruined one of his many no hitters. With 2 out in 7th inning, i let an easy grounder go thru my legs which would have been the 3rd out to preserve the no hitter. He gave me the death stare after the next guy got a weak single. Rest in peace uncle Whitely. Love Kenny Horka Jr.

googey - July 25, 2025 at 12:30 PM



“ I had the pleasure of coaching softball at LSSU with Whitey adding his knowledge of softball pitching. He then helped me with the Brimley High School softball team as well. His knowledge and love of the game helped many young ladies in their game. I will remember him fondly as a friend. Pitch a no hitter in heaven Whitey!

Darla Krueger - July 24, 2025 at 08:30 AM



Thank you ❤️

Trishann Cook - July 24, 2025 at 09:36 AM



Trishann so sorry to hear about your dad you and your family are in. My thoughts and prayers

Steven Cruickshank - July 28, 2025 at 12:19 AM

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“ *My sincerest condolences to Whitey's extended family and friends. He was a person who was often with a big smile on his face. May your fond memories of him comfort you now and in the future.*

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**Fern** - July 23, 2025 at 09:09 AM

TC

*Thank you* ❤️

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**Trishann Cook** - July 24, 2025 at 09:37 AM