



## Michael L. Lehto

February 6, 2018

Michael L. Lehto, 82 of St. Ignace passed away at 9:10 pm tuesday evening at Mackinac Straits Hospital. He was born December 30, 1935 in Aura, Michigan near L'Anse to John and Katherine (Sikarski) Lehto. Mike graduated from LaSalle High School and spent 11 years in the Marine Corp leaving with a rank of Major. He spent time in Okinawa, and Quantico, VA and Japan. After spending his time in service he received a Masters Degree in Education, and taught elementary education, and served the St. Ignace School District as Principal of the McCann School many years until retirement. Mr. Lehto, as the kids always knew him was a great teacher of physical education and respect, even in early elementary. He loved to Hunt and Fish, and passed that on to students. He was Commander of the ST. Ignace American Legion Post, and a special speaker with great influence at Memorial Day festivities, and many graveside services of his comrades. Mike was a very special person, and well respected by those who knew him.

He was a faithful member of Zion Lutheran Church in St. Ignace.

Mike married Barbara Anderson on October 15, 1960 in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and she survives. Also a loving family, daughter, Cynthia and Mike Schneider, New Milford, Conn; Lt. Col Ret Michael and Connie, Lehto, in Germany; Andrew and Nancy Lehto, Spokane, Washington, and 7 grandchildren. and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Katheine Babcock, and a niece Cassie.

At his request cremation has taken place. A Memorial service will be held on

Memorial Day weekend at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church with Rev. David Tielbar officiating. Military rites will be held at Gros Cap Cemetery. Dodson Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Those wishing to remember Mike may make donations to the St. Ignace Community Foundation; The Humane Society or the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Envelopes are available from Dodson Funeral Home, 240 Mcann Street, St. Ignace MI 49781.

Funeral services will be on Saturday, May 26 at Zion Lutheran Church at noon. with visitation from 10 am to service time. No military rites at cemetery, as everything will be at church. The St. Ignace American Legion will perform rites with the Viet Nam Honor Guard from Sault Ste Marie also presenting gun salute.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Michael L. Lehto*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Michael L. Lehto*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Michael L. Lehto*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Mike was someone I really looked up to growing up lgy. I am truely sorry for the your loss. Rest in peace Mr. Lehto...*

**Joseph J. Bellant** - February 18, 2018 at 07:07 PM



“ *I was saddened to learn. I remember his p.e. class..saying "you are the best"! So thankful for his years in the AMERICAN legion!*

**Kelly D. (Archambeau) Stanley** - February 13, 2018 at 01:28 AM

DT

“ Mike, Andy and Cindy,  
Sorry to hear about your dad. I have lots of good memories of your dad coaching and driving the bus for the wrestling tournaments. He impacted many people in St. Ignace area and had a great winning Spirit. He went to many services for the Veterans which meant a lot their families. He will be missed!

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**David Theut** - February 12, 2018 at 06:21 PM

MN

“ I was very saddened to hear of his passing. Mr. Lehto was my principle in 4th grade at McCann. Such wonderful man. I had the pleasure of running into him a few years ago at Lehto's pasties and he remembered me. His saying "You are the Best" will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Melanie Norburn** - February 12, 2018 at 09:04 AM

MS

“ We offer our sympathies to Barbara, the children, and their families. We heard so many stories about Mike from his late cousin, David Sikarskie (1937-1999), who was his sidekick in many childhood antics, as well as a hunting and fishing buddy. Mike was always full of stories, upbeat, and welcoming when we were able to stop for a quick visit in St. Ignace. Peace be with you.

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**Martha Banks Sikarskie Harding, Jay and Michelle Sikarskie** - February 10, 2018 at 10:55 AM

MS

“ Our hearts go out to you & all who were fortunate to know Mike...a true friend and guardian of integrity, his care for Barbara, his family, friends & others was unparalleled. He carries a backpack full of goodwill into eternity. Forevermore clear pools, white water, woodlands (a good hunting dog) and the whisper of wind in the trees will remind us of a great hunter and protector who helps watch over us all.....

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**Mike & Betty Springsteen** - February 09, 2018 at 04:47 AM

DS

“ RIP y friend.

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**david schlehuber** - February 09, 2018 at 04:35 AM

DG

“ Mike, Andy and Cindy my sincere condolence for you loss. I have fond memories of your dad. He will be missed dearly

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**Darlene Garen** - February 08, 2018 at 08:29 PM