



## Esther Marie Bigelow

January 16, 1931 - April 10, 2024

Esther Marie (Castle) Bigelow, age 93, of Naubinway, Michigan, died on April 10, 2024, in Petoskey, Michigan. She was born on January 16, 1931, in Pontiac, Michigan, to parents Earl and Hazel (LeVee) Castle.

Esther spent her youth in the small town of Beaverton, Michigan, where she attended the local high school. While working as a waitress for a local diner, she often served Clifford Bigelow. The two were smitten and before long, Clifford asked her out on a date. The couple married on April 19, 1949, and began their family. They moved all over the state of Michigan for Clifford's work in road construction before moving to Rexton to raise their children. After Clifford and his father purchased a commercial fishing business nearby, Esther and her family settled for good in Epoufette. Esther owned and operated the Bay View Inn Restaurant, formally known as the Blue Haven, for several years, however, her pride and joy was being a mother and later, grandmother to her grandbabies.

Esther was a proud member of the Rexton Christian Fellowship Church.

Esther was devout in her faith and lived by the Lord's teachings. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, and cared for others deeply. She enjoyed cooking home-cooked meals and spending time with her family. In her younger years, she enjoyed traveling to Florida and meeting with her sewing

circle in Rexton, Michigan, to sew and crochet.

Esther is survived by her children, Betsy (Harold) Bigelow and Hugh (Darcy) Bigelow of Epoufette; son-in-law, Allan Spencer Sr.; grandchildren, Hugh II, Lacey, Lynzee, Tim, Bobby, Danny, Alan, Justin, Melissa, Tashina, Jake, Casey and Kyle; as well as many more beloved great-great-grandchildren and family members.

Esther is preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Hazel; beloved husband, Clifford Sr.; children, Clifford Bigelow Jr., Laurie Spencer, Shelly Nowak, and Gertrude "Trudy" Croff, and her brothers.

A Funeral Service will be held on Monday, April 15, 2024, at the Rexton Christian Fellowship Church, N7970 Church St, Naubinway, Michigan. Visitation will begin at 10 AM followed by the Funeral Service at 11 AM with Pastor Tim Miller officiating.

A graveside service and burial will follow at Epoufette Cemetery with luncheon at the hall directly after.

# Cemetery Details

## Epoufette Cemetery

Naubinway, MI 49762

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Rexton Christian Fellowship Church  
N7970 Church St,  
Naubinway, MI 49762

## Funeral Service

APR 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Rexton Christian Fellowship Church  
N7970 Church St,  
Naubinway, MI 49762

*A graveside service and burial will follow at Epoufette Cemetery with luncheon at the hall directly after.*

# Tribute Wall

KV

“ So sorry for your loss! I am Kitrina (Castle) VanMeter. Daughter of Earl Junior Castle (Esther’s brother). Betsy and Hugh’s first cousin. We wanted to make a connection with you to relay this information to you. My brother and sisters (cousins) on the Castle side that are still alive are: Peggy (Castle) Findley of Kalkaska, MI, Shirley(Castle) Miller of South Boardman, MI, and Willian (Bill) Castle of Kalkaska, MI. (Earl Castle is dad) Of course, Frederick Castle, Jr. the son of Frederick Castle has already contacted you.

*I also wish to share a memory of times with your mom and dad. A few times during my childhood Aunt Esther and Uncle Cliff were able to manage to bring their entire family to our house in Pontiac, MI for a visit. Those visits were very happy times for us. None of our families had much money and were not able to travel much, so we barely knew our “up north” cousins. We also visited a few times to the “fishing” boat and house.*

*Aunt Esther seemed patient, always had a smile on her face and was gentle. She seemed to be at ease with all of us running around, and just being kids. Two special things happened when the cousins came to visit. We got to skip school, since it was practically a holiday, at least in our eyes. And the big event each visit was when uncle Cliff and aunt Esther gave us \$5.00 (big bucks at the time). We would walk up to the gas station, grocery store and buy penny candies. I am sure the owner of the store –I am sure was not amused to have all of us spending over an hour each visit to decide what we would each buy. Our few and far between visits were treasured.*

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**Kitrina Vanmeter** - April 15, 2024 at 03:00 PM

HB

*Thank you for sharing these special memories. Unfortunately we didn't get to know mom's side of the family very well but would love to get to know you all and hear more. She loved to be surrounded by family.*

Hugh Bigelow - April 17, 2024 at 09:18 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Esther Marie Bigelow.*



April 13, 2024 at 11:21 AM

LR

“ *Larry & Kelly Roth purchased the "Hummingbird" Glitter lantern for the family of Esther Marie Bigelow.*



Larry & Kelly Roth - April 12, 2024 at 04:34 PM

LR

“ *Larry & Kelly Roth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Esther Marie Bigelow.*

Larry & Kelly Roth - April 12, 2024 at 04:34 PM

FJ

“ Frederick j castle jr purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Esther Marie Bigelow.



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Frederick j castle jr - April 12, 2024 at 05:57 AM

FJ

“ Frederick j castle jr planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Esther Marie Bigelow.

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Frederick j castle jr - April 12, 2024 at 05:57 AM

SS

“ Steve &Julie Schmalzried purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Esther Marie Bigelow.



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Steve &Julie Schmalzried - April 11, 2024 at 10:19 PM

FJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Frederick j castle jr - April 11, 2024 at 08:01 PM

FJ

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



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Frederick j castle jr - April 11, 2024 at 08:00 PM

FJ

“ These pictures are of her mom her brothers  
and one of her father



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Frederick j castle jr - April 11, 2024 at 07:47 PM