



Gary "Griff" Douglas Kempf

June 28, 1952 - April 24, 2025

Gary "Griff" Douglas Kempf, age 72, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, died on April 24, 2025. He was born on June 28, 1952, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Herman and Arbutus (Biron) Kempf.

To know Uncle Gary was knowing greatness, strength, tough love, and stubbornness.

Though it was rare, if ever, to hear "I love you" you could feel the love and care he had for you through his gestures and humor. His greatest joys in life were cooking large meals, working on vehicles with his nephew, Mason, and watching movies, especially Robin Hood: Men in Tights with his niece Jade, and westerns. Most of all, he enjoyed BS-ing with his friends and family, especially Pat, Struckey, and his brothers, Joe and Robert. When the house was full, his heart was full. He enjoyed life to the fullest and would drop everything for those he loved. The love he had for those around him was beyond any words, making sure everyone was always taken care of.

His biggest goal was making sure his nieces, nephews, brothers, and other family members were prepared for life's challenges. Whether it was picking them up from school, filling their bellies, or staying at the house with them so they were never alone. If it were up to him, he'd live forever surrounded by his friends and family, with a two-liter of Diet Coke, a pack of Marlboro Red

shorts, and an 80-inch TV in the living room.

His life made the ultimate impact on anyone who knew him, and life will never be the same without him. Though we all wish his life could have been longer, we are comforted knowing he will be greeted in the afterlife by his brother Herm who will no doubt be waiting with a cigarette and Miller High Life in hand.

The loss of Uncle Gary will leave a hole in all of our hearts, but we know he wouldn't want anyone to be sad or put their life on pause. He would want a large, home-cooked meal to be enjoyed by his closest family and friends at the house where his heart and soul was and will remain.

A traditional fire has been lit and will be in the Waazhiim (behind Niigaanagiizhik).

Per Gary's wishes, no additional services will be held.

A luncheon will be scheduled at a later date.

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

Obituary as submitted by family

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *My most sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Griff. His obituary beautifully captured his devotion to family, friends and home. Rest in peace Griff.*

Debra Baumler - April 26, 2025 at 03:03 PM

 Cheryl
Causley
Grahek

“ *Gary meant the world to us. RIP 🙏*



Cheryl Causley Grahek - April 26, 2025 at 11:22 AM



“ We as a family are heartbroken over the loss of Gary. How do I even describe what he meant to us? People would ask, is that your Dad, your uncle? He's our Gary. He was a part of our family. Honestly though, he was like Meghan and I's 2nd Dad. He was like a son to my grandparents (Ed & Donna Causley). Ironically, he passed on my grandpa's (Ed) birthday. He was like a brother and closest friend to my mom Cheryl Causley Grahek (Sheila & Bob too) since they were kids. Although, Sheila irked him to no end 😂 My mom though, was truly special to him. Growing up, Gary was always there. Spoiled us rotten. And to be honest, we didn't have much as kids, but Gary always made Christmas and Birthdays memorable. Whether it have been him coming down near Detroit where we live to stay with us, or when we would be in the Soo, Gary was there. He was there through every important milestone in our lives, and the tragedies too. We were there for many tragedies in his life also. He was always a steady presence; quiet but steady. He did so much for us and I hope that he knew how much we appreciated him and loved him. Gary was there for me when I was going to school at Lake State. I could always count on him. Whether fixing my car, taking me to appointments, giving advice...he was there. He even stored my belongings at his house when I moved back home to have my son. After that, he gave the greatest gift in being my son Presley's Godfather. No surprise that my son, and my sister's son loved Gary too! We won't ever forget his laugh, green apples & salt, taking us fishing, going to garage sales, all the candy, all that he's done for us, & just being the amazing person that he is. Gary was a selfless person, always giving to others. We wish that we could have been up there to the Soo in recent years. We are sending our heartfelt condolences to the rest of his family. He will Always be in our hearts 💕💕

~The Causley/Grahek Family



Allison Grahek - April 25, 2025 at 05:32 PM

BH

“ *I remember Gary from my yrs working at kewadin casino love when him and his brother Herman and Duane would hang out on my bar best times with them there always a laugh and always had my back with customers he will be greatly missed*

Bobbie Haines - April 25, 2025 at 02:28 PM