



James Kenneth Little

October 25, 1936 - May 16, 2025

James Kenneth Little Sr., lovingly known as Jim, passed away peacefully on May 16, 2025, at Medilodge in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, surrounded by his beloved family. He was born on October 25, 1936, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Kenneth and Mae (DeGraff) Little.

Jim spent his early years in Grand Rapids before embarking on a proud and honorable 20-year career in the United States Coast Guard. He served his country with distinction, with assignments in Michigan, Minnesota, the Philippines, Illinois, New York, and Alaska. Following his retirement in 1976, he made his home in Barbeau, Michigan, where he built the family home and began a second career as a partner in the family business, H.J. Ware, Inc.

It was in Barbeau, near Lookout #4, where he once guided ships, where Jim met the love of his life, Linda Mary Ware. He first saw her swimming in the river, and from that moment, their story began. Their love, rooted by the water, blossomed into a lifelong partnership marked by devotion, joy, and adventure.

Jim was a man of many interests and deep passions. He loved to travel, hunt, fish, read, and immerse himself in history. He especially enjoyed playing cards and telling stories - always with a warmth and humor that brought people together. His presence filled a room, and his stories often lingered long after the final card was played.

He was a proud grandfather to William (Elyse), Robert (Jessica), Elizabeth (Alex), Max, Sam, Jamie Jolie, Great-Grandchildren, Ryan, Eva, Nico and Mia.

Jim is survived by his cherished wife, Linda; their children, Jennifer (Jim), Elizabeth (Jeff), and Lainie; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Ware, Henry Ware, "Sandy" Ware, Robert (Debbie) Ware, Stephen Ware; sisters-in-law, Anne Marie Ware, Susan (Renee) Benoit; and his grandchildren.

Jim was preceded in death by his son, James Kenneth Little, Jr.; sister, Joan Williams; sisters-in-law, Diane Ware, Phyllis Ware, Mary Ware; brother-in-laws, Chuck Ranson and James Garth Ware M.D..

A Funeral Mass celebrating Jim's life will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Holy Family Parish, 4585 E 15 Mile Rd, Barbeau, MI 49710. A Celebration of Life will follow on Sunday, July 6, 2025, at the home of Jim and Jennifer Hinde, located at 15441 South Scenic Drive, Barbeau. All are welcome to attend any time between 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations in Jim's memory toward the refurbishment of Lookout #4, the place where his and Linda's story began.

Contributions can be made to the Neebish Island Historical Society (NIHS), 17592 S. Simonsen Rd., Neebish Island, Barbeau, MI 49710 or by visiting the following website <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/M3JFR7T593EVS> to support Shipmates of Lookout #4 in the St. Mary's River.

Each time we gaze across the river, we will remember Jim - his love for the water, his generous spirit, his unforgettable stories, and the light he brought into all our lives.

Family Life Funeral Homes Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Family Catholic Church
4585 E 15 Mile Road
Barbeau, MI 49710

Celebration of Life

JUL 6. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Jim & Jennifer Hinde
15441 South Scenic Drive
Barbeau, MI 49710

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Dear Linda, Sending my condolences on your loss. May you find comfort with your family & friends.
Catherine Belsito

Catherine Belsito - June 04, 2025 at 11:18 AM

LG

“ Dear Linda, I'm so sorry to hear that your beloved Jim passed on to the other side. My heart breaks for your loss dear friend. Always enjoyed seeing him when he stopped by the shop, he always had a positive spirit. Will be saying prayers for you to be covered with God's peace, love, and strength during this difficult time. XO



Lynn Gillies - May 29, 2025 at 09:00 AM

HB

“ Was so sad to hear of Jim's Passing. I met he and Linda at the workout center years ago and enjoyed visiting with him there. He always had a smile on his face and a story to tell. Rest in Peace Jim.

Helen Bush - May 24, 2025 at 04:47 AM