



Joel Paul Loy

August 12, 1949 - April 21, 2026

Joel Paul Loy, age 76, of Sugar Island, Michigan, died on April 21, 2026, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He was born on August 12, 1949, in Greenville, Ohio, to Paul and Geraldine (Hittle) Loy.

Joel grew up in Greenville and spent his summers on Sugar Island. He graduated from Greenville High School and went on to attend Wright State University, where he studied accounting.

In the early 1970's, Joel became a member of the Darke County Horseshoe Club, where he found a passion for the sport and camaraderie with fellow pitchers. In 1986, he joined the recovery community, where he forged countless friendships and, for the next 39 years, took an active role in helping others celebrate their triumphs and supporting them through life's difficult moments.

In 2008, Joel made his permanent home on Sugar Island, where he quickly became an active and cherished member of the community. Joel worked at the Soo Locks as part of the welcome and information staff, a role he truly loved. He especially enjoyed meeting and visiting with people from all walks of life, always making each visitor feel welcome. He also spent time helping with the Historic Homes of Water Street and the Kemp Industrial Museum, keeping the rich heritage of the Sault Sainte Marie area alive for all to enjoy.

Joel held a deep appreciation for Native culture and loved attending powwows, especially at Bay Mills and on Sugar Island. He had a strong enthusiasm for historical research and genealogy, always eager to learn more about the past and share that knowledge with others.

Joel is survived by his brother, Mark Loy and his wife, Marian, of Greenville; niece, Christine Loy and her husband, Kevin Brush of Greenville; nephew, Jason Loy and his fiancée Erin Bailey of Portland, Indiana; great-niece, Haley Loy; great-nephews, Jacob Loy and Ethan Loy; great-great nephew, Malakai Loy; special friend and caretaker, Kelly Parker; and close friend, Anny Hubbard.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents, Paul “PeeWee” and Geraldine “Gerry” Loy.

In keeping with Joel’s final wishes, there will be no formal services or memorialization in his name. His family would like to pass along his request that each of you please remember him in a manner that honors your relationship with him. Family will be present at the 29th Annual Sugar Island Powwow in July to celebrate his spirit’s journey alongside those he held dear in this community.

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

Obituary as submitted by family.

Tribute Wall

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“ Joel was a valued member of our team of docents at on Historic Water Street guiding visitors to the Kemp Industrial Museum. His knowledge and enthusiasm for the history of our area, particularly the native community and the shipping channels was much valued. Personally I always enjoyed a good chat with Joel and always learned something new. Joel will be missed by our whole team.

Ginny Cymbalist - April 29 at 03:01 PM

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“ One of his favorite things was providing gratuitous and creative evaluation of hockey referees and ineffective government officials.

Dave Bean - April 26 at 03:58 PM