



## John "Bill" William Markstrom

April 14, 1929 - January 27, 2026

John "Bill" William Markstrom, age 96, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, died on January 27, 2026, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born on April 14, 1929, in Cedarville, Michigan, to August and Edla Marie (Osterlund) Markstrom.

Bill was born and raised on the family farm on Swede Road in Cedarville and graduated from Cedarville High School in 1947. He worked for Chrysler in Detroit, Michigan, before being drafted into the United States Army, where he served in Korea in 1950. On June 11, 1955, Bill married Joanne Huyck. He later attended Michigan Technological University, pursuing studies in mechanical engineering. Bill spent his career as a union carpenter and foreman, working on notable projects including Sault Area High School and the Norris Center. A master woodworker, he constructed his own home and built furniture for many family members, leaving behind tangible reminders of his skill and care.

Bill was a lifelong and active member of the Lutheran Church, serving as a Deacon and singing in the choir. He was also a member of the Elks Lodge #552.

Bill had a lifelong love of sports, including softball and basketball, but his greatest passion was golf, which he discovered in his forties. He joined

several leagues and continued playing well into his nineties. Bill also loved dancing with his wife and spent twenty-four winters in Florida with Joanne after his retirement. He enjoyed bowling, hunting, and fishing, often spending entire days out on the boat.

Bill is survived by his wife of over seventy years of marriage, Joanne; children, Diane (Frank) Handziak, David Markstrom, Robert (Amy) Markstrom, and Steven (Pam) Markstrom; grandchildren, Jason Markstrom, Allyson (Andy) Lancour, Andy (Tiffany) Markstrom, Emily (Joel Johnson) Markstrom, Garrett (Martina) Markstrom, Kaela Markstrom, and Matthew (Arianne) Stephens; great-grandchildren, Tucker Polini-Lancour, Quinn Lancour, Kenna J. Lancour, Madison Stephens, Grant Stephens, Reagan Stephens, McKinley Stephens, Caroline Markstrom; siblings, Ray Markstrom and Jim (Janet) Markstrom; sister-in-law, Mae Markstrom; and many nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, August and Edla Marie; sisters, Jennie Markstrom and Betty (Herman) Izzard; brothers, Charlie Markstrom and Louis (Shirley) Markstrom; sister-in-law, Ruth Markstrom; and great-granddaughter, Briar Markstrom.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, at the Faith Lutheran Church, 1600 Park St., Sault Ste. Marie. The Memorial Service will follow at 11:00 AM.

Memorial contributions in Bill's honor may be made to Ball Hospice, 308 W. 12th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 and the Faith Lutheran Church, 1600 Park Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Bill's final resting place will be at Fairview Cemetery, in Pickford, Michigan, with the burial to be held in the summer of 2026.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

24485 S Fairview Rd  
Pickford, MI 49774

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

FEB 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Faith Lutheran Church  
1600 Park St.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

## Memorial Service

FEB 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Faith Lutheran Church  
1600 Park St.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

# Tribute Wall

GM

“ Prayers for my brothers family  
Love Brother  
G. Raymond Markstrom

G. Raymond Markstrom - January 30 at 04:56 PM

LP

“ Prayers for Markstrom family  
From  
Allen and Linda Perry  
Raymond Markstrom

linda Perry - January 30 at 04:17 PM

JM

“ Janet M. purchased the Basket of Memories for  
the family of John "Bill" William Markstrom.



Janet M. - January 30 at 03:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of John "Bill" William Markstrom.



January 30 at 12:30 PM

RB

“ Russell and Kim Brungraber planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Bill" William Markstrom.

Russell and Kim Brungraber - January 30 at 12:30 PM

JS

“ I've known all the Markstrom kids but didn't realize they were all from the same family. What a talented man who had some equally talented children. I'm sorry for your loss, and I hope you have inherited your father's longevity genes.

Jessica Stanaway - January 29 at 11:13 AM

TZ

“ What I remember. He was a savage euchre player at our January get togethers. Lots of fun. Always had a story to tell. Liked to refer to us Southerners as the Trolls. If you're a Yooper you understand. Still remember him showing off the family's tin lizzie parked in his brother's garage. Wood worker - made a back scratcher out a piece of wood when my wife complained about an itch. But the real thrill for me was when he and Joann took us and the Kramers out on the Sea Nymph and we went through the Soo Locks. All of those thousands of gallons of water moving us in his 18 foot red runabout. We were the only boat in the lock. People on the observation deck couldnt see us but could only hear our singing. Shortly thereafter they stopped letting boats of that size use the lock. I guess we ruined for everyone because we were loaded and had too good of a time. Bill was always a great host. I never knew his name was John. And the Cedarville parade when his mother was the Grand Marshall .....memories like that never go away

Tom Zmuda, Troll Friend

thomas zmuda - January 29 at 08:27 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John "Bill" William Markstrom.*



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January 28 at 07:05 PM



“ *David & family, my condolences on your father's passing. You are in my prayers during this difficult time.*

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**Eugene Groesbeck** - January 28 at 07:04 PM



*I only met him once in appleton. Very nice guy, his family as well. Very nice people for sure.*

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**Wallace bosly** - January 29 at 01:01 PM