



John Michael Causley

November 23, 1949 - June 30, 2025

John Michael Causley, age 75, of Hessel, Michigan, died on Monday, June 30, 2025, at his home. He was born on November 29, 1949, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to John and Lorraine (Perry) Causley.

John grew up in Hessel and remained deeply rooted in his community throughout his life. A proud member and leader of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, he served in numerous roles including past Tribal Board Member, Chairman of the Hessel Elder Committee (a special thank you to Perry, Betty, Mig), Appellate Reserve Elder Judge, and Chairman of the Pow Wow Committee. John was a survivor of the Holy Childhood Boarding School in Harbors Springs and he was a profound advocate to ensure healing with all the survivors and their families. His legacy of keeping his culture and tradition alive will remain with each person he touched.

One of his proudest endeavors to his family was helping establish the first Native American Golf Invitational over 40 years ago alongside his father, brother, and cousins—an event that continues to thrive today.

After attending business school in Lansing, John returned home and co-founded Westside Painting in the 1980s with his family. Painting wasn't just a job to him; it was a passion. He took pride in every project, always striving to do his best work.

John had a deep love for the outdoors. Whether he was hunting, fishing, or golfing, he found peace and joy in nature. Golfing, in particular, held a special place in his heart. Above all, John was a devoted family man who valued time with his loved ones. He was a member of Our Lady of Snows Catholic Church in Hessel.

Diagnosed in his late teens with Ankylosing Spondylitis, John faced many physical challenges but never let them define or limit him. His strength, determination, and spirit were an inspiration to all who knew him.

John is survived by his wife, Patricia Causley; children, John R. (Kristi) Causley, Lana (Steve) Causley-Smith, Theresa Causley, Lucinda (Richard) McFarland, Crystal Causley, Miranda Causley, Shalenia Causley, Michael Causley and Melissa (Dennis) LaPire; mothers of his children, Janice Jonas and Anna Corwin; siblings, Dalinda Causley, Jeff (Connie Benoit) Causley and Debra Causley; grandchildren, Sierra Krogh, Shannon Causley, Taylor Causley, Madison Causley, Nathaniel Causley, Jayce Causley, Ronald Paquin, Erica Emerson, Brittany Mallory, Morgan Marshall, Collin Marshall, Skylar Causley, Cassidy Reed, Bryson Causley, Tavis Causley, Axel Causley, Shawn Brewer, Cassandra LaPire, Isabella LaPire, Adrianna Causley, and Declan Causley; many great-grandchildren; and a lifelong friend who was more like a brother, Calvin Burnside.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John and Lorraine; brothers, James Causley, Jerry Causley, Daryll Causley, Donald Causley; and many aunts and uncles.

A Traditional Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at the Anaamianag Nopaming Tribal Center, 3355 North 3 Mile Rd. Hessel, MI 49745, at 11:00 AM. The Funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady of the Snows,

261 South Island View Rd. Hessel, at 2:00 PM with a luncheon to follow at the Hessel Tribal Center.

Family Life Funeral Homes, Pickford, Michigan assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Previous Events

Traditional Services/Viewing

JUL 2. 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Anaamianag Nopaming Tribal Center-Hessel
3355 N 3 Mile Rd
Hessel, MI 49745

Funeral Service

JUL 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of the Snows
261 S. Islandview Rd.
Hessel, MI 49745

Tribute Wall

MC

“ I miss u dad so much 🥺☹️ im keepin goin dad an keepin ur golf course in good shape griff an i i love u dad an fly high I'll see u again ill make u proud bub an Gaga said they love u papa so much tell gram an grandpa an uncles I miss an love yas u were my best friend an mentor I hope to be half the man you were you and Mom taught me so much throughout my life I love you my dad!! Rip my dad!! My guardian angel u will always be with me dad I love u an till we see each other again dad fly high 😞🥺😭😭🐻🕊️🕊️🕊️☐

michael causley - October 23, 2025 at 05:07 PM

JL

Hi how are you doing do you know Annette causley leisgang I'm not trying to be rude or anything here I'm just trying to figure out a way to reconnect with my family from the causley side of things I am Johnathan Allen Leisgang the grandson of Annette causley if you can help me connect the dots I really appreciate it I am sorry that you're missing your family member and I hope to engage in conversation with you if it's possible this is the only way I could figure out how to reach out

Johnathan Leisgang - April 08 at 10:43 PM

CF

“ I loved working with John and his family and friends in establishing the Band of Mackinac and Chippewa Indians back in the 90's and early 2000. I also helped them work on the first PowWow in recent history on Mackinac Island. They were all instrumental in helping me create the Tribal Crest that was used on their offices in Hessel/Cedarville area. John will always be in my heart. Sincerely,
Cheryl Riley Forester

Cheryl A Forester - July 28, 2025 at 12:18 PM



“ *Mr Causley what a amazing man , walking on is part of the journey , blessed are all that new him.*

Cora - July 13, 2025 at 11:39 AM



“ *Heard him speak in the long house in st ignace loved to listen. So sorry for the famalies loss. May he have a good journey to the spirit world*

Lori Ensign - July 03, 2025 at 09:48 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Michael Causley.*

July 02, 2025 at 11:26 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Michael Causley.*



July 02, 2025 at 08:25 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Michael Causley.*

July 02, 2025 at 08:25 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of John Michael Causley.



July 01, 2025 at 01:29 PM