



John Thomas Goetz

January 28, 1962 - August 24, 2025

John Thomas Goetz, age 63, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones, on August 24, 2025, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born on January 28, 1962, to John (Jack) Edgerton and Alda Jean (McLean) Goetz.

John was a proud lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie. A graduate of Sault Area High School's Class of 1980, he went on to earn his bachelor's degree in business administration from Lake Superior State University.

John dedicated twenty-seven years of his life as a corrections officer, working tirelessly and sacrificing daily to provide a beautiful life for his family. His life was defined by a quiet strength, unwavering integrity, and an extraordinary work ethic. Though never one to seek the spotlight, his steadfast presence spoke louder than words, leaving a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

Outside of work, John found joy in the simple things like spending time with his family, working out at the gym, attending church, and cheering on his favorite teams: the Detroit Lions, Detroit Tigers, Detroit Red Wings, and the Michigan Wolverines.

His life leaves a legacy marked by humility, selflessness, faith, and above all, a deep love for his family and friends.

For forty years, John shared a loving marriage with his wife, Karen (Drake) Goetz. Together, they built a beautiful life and raised four children who were his greatest pride: Nicholas Goetz, Kaitlin (Roger) Ayers, Johnny Goetz, and Jacob Goetz. He also held a deep love for his siblings; sister, Marlene (John) Oberle; brothers, Darl (Marilyn) McLean, Harold (Susan) Goetz, and Stephen (Pat) Gable; as well as his cherished nieces, Crystal, Danielle, Elaine; nephew, Tommy; and great-nephews, Carter, Drake, and Jaxon.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John and Alda.

While we mourn his passing, we take comfort in knowing this is not goodbye, but a “see you later”. Through God’s promise of eternal life for all who follow Christ, we rest in the hope of being reunited with him one day.

John’s favorite verse was 2 Corinthians 5:17;

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.”— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Visitation will be held on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, 606 E 4th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 at 10:00 AM. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow promptly at 11:00 AM with a graveside service immediately after at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Raco, Michigan. A luncheon will be hosted at St. Joseph’s Church following the burial.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Ball Hospice House, 308 W 12th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl, Memphis, TN 38105 or St. Mary’s Catholic School, 360 Maple St, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, all organizations

near and dear to John's heart.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

M-28
Brimley, MI 49715

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
606 E. 4th Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
606 E. 4th Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Thomas Goetz.*



September 04, 2025 at 08:28 AM



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

September 04, 2025 at 08:28 AM



“ *Cal, Deb and Calvin Smith purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Thomas Goetz.*



Cal, Deb and Calvin Smith - September 02, 2025 at 07:01 AM



“ *Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8*

Lifting you in prayer always Goetz family.

Michelle L. - August 30, 2025 at 07:33 AM

DC

“ Karen, so sorry for your loss, my heart goes out to you and your family, sending love and prayers

Doiane Coleiro - August 29, 2025 at 08:26 AM

AH

“ My condolences to you Karen and your family
I just found this out.
RIP John Goetz.

Ann Hill - August 26, 2025 at 10:23 PM

MJ

Our condolences Karen for you and your family 🙏🙏🙏🌸🌸

Marjorie Johnston - August 27, 2025 at 11:20 AM

KS

“ Karl stevens purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Thomas Goetz.



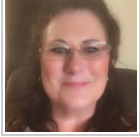
Karl stevens - August 26, 2025 at 05:42 PM

AP

“ Anne Papineau lit a candle in memory of John Thomas Goetz



Anne Papineau - August 26, 2025 at 04:31 PM



“ *Terri Rosebohm lit a candle in memory of John Thomas Goetz*



Terri Rosebohm - August 26, 2025 at 04:06 PM



Karen and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you all. May God Bless and comfort you.

gail williams - August 26, 2025 at 09:29 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. I had the opportunity to work with John for several years at the MDOC. John was always calm no matter the situation. He often spoke about his beautiful wife it was obvious that he adored her. John had such a calming presence, He was an amazing officer, he will be sadly missed.*

Celeste Gregg - August 26, 2025 at 03:54 PM