



Joseph Oscar McKay Jr.

June 11, 1948 - April 9, 2026

Joseph Oscar McKay Jr., age 77, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026. He was born on June 11, 1948, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Joseph and Lois (Eagle) McKay.

As a child, Joe bravely battled polio, a challenge that left him with lifelong physical effects. Despite this, Joe defied expectations time and time again, living a full and meaningful life that inspired all who knew him. He worked for many years at the Sault Sheltered Workshop, where he took pride in his work before happily retiring.

Joe was known for his warm spirit, friendly nature, and the simple joys he embraced every day. He loved to dance, visit with family and friends, and play bingo. Many in the community will fondly remember Joe standing in front of the Avery Center, waving and sharing his big, unmistakable smile with everyone who passed by.

Joe is survived by his beloved sister, Judy (Jerry) McDonald; brother, Hugh (Betty) McKay; nieces and nephews, Lisa (Murray) Meehan, Bill (Theresa) Henderson, Jeremy McKay, Danny McKay, Jolene McKay, and Amy McKay; great-nieces and great-nephews, Chelsea Meehan, McKenzie Henderson, Chase Meehan, Garrett Henderson, Jared McKay, and Dylan McKay; and great-great-nieces, Gyselle, Sunny, and Evelyn.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Lois; brother, Terry McKay; sister-in-law, JoAnn McKay; stepfather, Bill Moiles; and brother-in-law, Larry Piche.

A Visitation will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026, at Holy Name of Mary Pro-Cathedral Church, 377 Maple St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783, from 9:00 AM -10:00 AM. The Mass of Christian Burial will follow immediately at 10:00 AM. A luncheon will follow at the Knights of Columbus, 2755 Ashmun St, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783.

Joe will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the joy of knowing him. His kindness and joyful spirit will live on in the hearts of many.

Memorial Contributions in Joe's honor may be made to the Ball Hospice House, 308 W 12th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

Obituary as submitted by family.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **24.** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Name of Mary Pro-Cathedral Catholic Church, Sault Sainte Marie
337 Maple St
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-3381

Mass of Christian Burial

APR **24.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Name of Mary Pro-Cathedral Catholic Church, Sault Sainte Marie
337 Maple St
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-3381

Tribute Wall

EK

“ I'll never forget asking Joe what Western he was watching, and he said, oh, the one with hoss, you know, bananas. I said, bananas. Joe, do you mean bonanza? Oh yeah , yeah , bonanza , he said we got laughs for years out of that! And our farewell each night from joe was later alligator and I would say , after while , crocodile with the great big smile and joe would say , oh I like that. He sat at my place so many times for dinner or coffee with my family and I remember dancing with him downstairs here at Avery i'm going to miss his smiling face so badly. So in farewell , joe , i'm going to use your favorite expletive, gee whitakers! Farewell, my friend.

Emma Killingbeck - April 22 at 12:27 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph Oscar McKay Jr..



April 20 at 10:35 PM