



Joseph John Wollan

March 10, 1956 - December 17, 2025

Joseph John “Joe” Wollan, age 69, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, died on December 17, 2025, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan. He was born on March 10, 1956, in Ashland, Wisconsin, to Orval and Cecilia (Kohl) Wollan.

Joe grew up in Sault Ste. Marie where he graduated from Soo High School in 1975. He started his career working on oil rigs in Gaylord, Michigan. Later, he went on to work on the Great Lakes ships as a deckhand, second cook, and baker where Joe found his love of baking which led him to work as a Pastry Chef at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. In 1984, he began working with the State of Michigan as a Corrections Officer, where he remained until his retirement.

Joe was a member of St. Joseph’s and was very active in St. Mary’s Catholic Church while his children attended school there. He generously volunteered his time for spaghetti dinners and other school activities, always willing to help where needed.

Joe enjoyed fishing and hunting, country music, mechanics, baking, and cooking. In his younger years, he loved motorcycling. One of his greatest joys was watching basketball, especially cheering on his daughters, Helena and Katherine. He also enjoyed downhill skiing and spending time on the water

with his family, taking them boating, tubing, and jet skiing, creating many lasting memories together.

Joe is survived by his wife, Mary; daughters, Helena Cecilia Wollan of Nashville, Tennessee and Katherine Barbara Wollan of Sault Ste. Marie; siblings, Orval (Sharon) Wollan of Sault Ste. Marie, Charlene Nunnelee of Bakerfield, California, Linda (Larry) Watson of Mannford, Oklahoma, Tom Wollan of Sault Ste. Marie, and Cindy Bright of Sault Ste. Marie; nephews & nieces, Orval (Lizzie) Wollan, Ernie Bright, Karen (Bob) Johnston, Dana Scott, LaDonna Watson, Heidi Dragiewicz, Noah Dragiewicz, Nathan Dragiewicz, Matthew Dragiewicz, Michelle (Julien) Charriere, and Amanda Acerbi; great-nephews, Tyler, Ryan, Nicholas, Triton, Mason; brother-in-law, Greg (Betty) Dragiewicz; sisters-in-law, Marcia (Vern) Dumback, Becky Dragiewicz; and special friend, Lou Weinrick

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Orval and Cecilia; brothers, Larry Wollan and John Wollan; niece, Debbie Wollan; brothers-in-law, Thomas Dragiewicz, Bill Nunnelee, and Paul Weese.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, visitation from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, with the Memorial Service starting at 1:30 PM, at Family Life Funeral Homes, 4951 S. M-129 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

The family would like to send a special thank you to Dr. Thilak Chander & family, Dr. Glock, at MyMichigan Medical; and Nurse Dawn at Munson Medical, for your utmost compassion and care in Joe's final days.

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

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

DEC **30**. 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Sault Ste. Marie
4951 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-4951
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Service

DEC **30**. 1:30 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Schuh, Johnsen, and Steffey Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joseph John Wollan.*



The Schuh, Johnsen, and Steffey Family - December 29, 2025 at 04:35 PM

TF

“ *The Schuh, Johnsen, and Steffey Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph John Wollan.*

The Schuh, Johnsen, and Steffey Family - December 29, 2025 at 04:35 PM



“ *Mary(Drag), I am so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I have many fond memories of the times that we had back in the day. I was planning on making the memorial services, but the weather looks pretty bad to make the trip from Manistique. Please take care. Darl*

Darl McLean - December 29, 2025 at 12:02 AM

TS

“ *The Steffey's purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Joseph John Wollan.*



The Steffey's - December 28, 2025 at 05:15 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph John Wollan.



December 27, 2025 at 06:16 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph John Wollan.



December 27, 2025 at 04:57 PM



“ Darl McLean planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph John Wollan.

Darl McLean - December 27, 2025 at 04:57 PM



“ DNR Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Joseph John Wollan.



DNR Family - December 26, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joseph John Wollan.*



December 24, 2025 at 03:54 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph John Wollan.*



December 24, 2025 at 03:40 PM



“ *Mary (Drag) our hearts are with you and your family at this time. Always remember Psalm 34:18. “God is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those who are crushed in spirit”. I know it’s been a long time, but if you need anything, please let us know.*

Denny and Deanna - December 23, 2025 at 02:13 PM



“ *I was Joe's shift Capt. for a time at M.D.O.C. and Joe was great officer to work with. I am sorry for your loss. It is a privilege to have known him.*
E.Vink

Eric M Vink - December 23, 2025 at 10:42 AM

CM

“ Steve and I are very sorry for your loss. Sending prayers to Mary and the family.

Cathy Mason - December 23, 2025 at 10:04 AM

HM

“ Didn't really know Joe in high school but got to know him later when I worked at the Robin's Nest. He was always friendly and kind and a real good person. He later married Mary, Drag one of my sister's good friends. So sorry for his family's loss. RIP Joe.

Helen MacArthur - December 23, 2025 at 07:21 AM

JD

“ I worked with Joe at the MDOC and enjoyed working with him. He was very giving and understanding as I was a new female. I send my deepest sympathy to the family

Julie and Alan Dahlstrom - December 22, 2025 at 09:41 PM

AA

“ Joe became a fast friend when we moved to the neighborhood. He came to the rescue when our dock was struck loose, and had knowledge and experiences to share whenever we needed advice. He had a great laugh and sense of humor with stories that made sitting around the bonfire an experience. He is already! We will hold Mary, Helena, Katie and the family in our prayers.

Alex and Angie - December 22, 2025 at 05:14 PM