



Lois Joan Swendsen

July 25, 1931 - July 27, 2025

Lois Joan (DeMerse) Swendsen, age 94, of Brimley, Michigan, passed away peacefully on July 27, 2025, in the Long-Term Care Unit at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Lois was born on July 25, 1931, in Raco, Michigan, to the late William “Jack” and Thelma (Parish) DeMerse.

Lois grew up in Dollar Settlement, Michigan, and was a graduate of Superior High School in Brimley. Lois enjoyed working as a telephone operator for Michigan Bell in Sault Ste. Marie and Detroit, Michigan. While in Detroit, Lois met her husband of forty-nine years while he was serving in the United States Coast Guard. Several years later they moved up north and made Dollar Settlement their home. In her later years, Lois could be found in the kitchen of Tinker’s Restaurant making delicious cakes and pies.

Lois was a devoted member of the Gospel Chapel Church in Dollar Settlement and was a woman of deep faith and strong values. She was also a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Lois had a lifelong love for gardening and canning, taking great joy in nurturing her garden. She and her fellow 1948 graduates kept in touch, enjoying enduring friendships for over seventy years. Lois enjoyed working on crossword puzzles, knitting, and making maple syrup. Her favorite thing was time spent with her family, especially in her last years all gathered around the

table for Sunday dinners.

Lois is survived by her daughter, Denice Kennedy of Brimley; sons, Keith (Mary) Swendsen of Brimley and Bill (Mary) Swendsen of Brooklyn, Michigan; grandchildren, Melissa (Nate) Case, Mikaela Swendsen, Keith (Randilynn) Swendsen, Darick (Ashley) Bowen, Amber Swendsen, and Krystal (Robert) Pirone; great-grandchildren, Wyatt, Hannah, Sadie, Trey, Kade, Diem, Alexis, Gavin, Taylor, Paige, and Ruthie; sister, Shirley Schwiderson; sister-in-law, Jean Bach; close nephew, Richard Clow; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Lois was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Claude (Dick) Swendsen; sister, Maxine Clow; parents-in-law, Birger and Virginia (Rice) Swendsen; in-laws, Robert and Dolores (Berry) Swendsen; brothers-in-laws, Earl Clow and John Schwiderson; and son-in-law, Ward Kennedy.

Lois will be remembered for her kindness, strength, and dedication to her family. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

There will be a Graveside Service on Friday, August 8, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Mission Hill Cemetery on W. Tower Rd. Brimley, MI 49715, officiated by Pastor Rodney Case. A Celebration of Life will follow at 2:00 PM at Bay Mills Township Hall, 14740 W. Lakeshore Dr. Brimley, MI 49715.

Memorial Contributions may be made in Lois's name to the Gospel Chapel Church, C/O Lynn Gillies, P.O. Box 625, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

Cemetery Details

Mission Hill Cemetery

Bay Mills, MI

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 8. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mission Hill Cemetery
Bay Mills Township
14740 W. Lakeshore Dr.
Brimley, MI 49715

Celebration of Life

AUG 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bay Mills Township Hall
14740 W. Lakeshore Dr.
Brimley, MI 49715

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lois Joan Swendsen.

August 07, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lois Joan Swendsen.



August 07, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ Scott, Grant, Emily & Salim, and Cole purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Lois Joan Swendsen.



Scott, Grant, Emily & Salim, and Cole - August 05, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lois Joan Swendsen.

August 04, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lois Joan Swendsen.*



August 04, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ *Sending love and prayers to all of you. I will always remember her kind smile.*
Jocey

Jocelyn Brommenschenkel - August 01, 2025 at 12:34 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear of Joan's passing. Sending my condolences to the Swendsen family.*
Luanne McCoy Rutt

Luanne Rutt - July 31, 2025 at 05:56 PM



“ *Denise, Keith, Billy and families*
I am so sorry to hear of Joan's passing....but 94 years. What a life.
Please know you are all in my thoughts. Kathy (Campbell)
McDowell

Kathy Campbell McDowell - July 31, 2025 at 04:38 PM