



Marilyn Joan Burton

August 7, 1936 - April 3, 2026

Marilyn Joan Burton, age 89, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed away peacefully to heaven entering the arms of Jesus after a life well lived on April 3, 2026, at MyMichigan Medical Center - Sault.

Marilyn was born on August 7, 1936, in Sault Ste. Marie to Luke and Dorothy (Bliss) Flemal. She spent her life rooted in the community she loved, dedicating much of her time and energy to making it a better place for others.

Known for her wit, strong spirit, and unwavering dedication to her family, Marilyn was the matriarch of her family, a steady presence, and a source of strength, guidance, and love. She was famous for her “Grandma Bliss homemade buns” and her delicious chili, bringing warmth and comfort to every family gathering. She kept the family in line and always connected, often talking on the phone for hours to make sure everyone stayed in touch. Her quick sense of humor and sharp mind brought light to those around her, even during difficult times.

She was deeply involved in her community and took great pride in her public service. Marilyn was active in the Sault Housing Commission, the Chippewa County Historical Society, the War Memorial Hospital Board, St. Mary’s River B-PAC, and MAR-Shunk Enhancement. She also served as a city commissioner and remained actively involved in politics and public affairs

throughout her life.

Marilyn had a generous heart and deep compassion for others. She supported numerous fundraisers and organizations over the years and regularly sponsored children in other countries to ensure they had opportunities for a better life.

In her free time, Marilyn enjoyed antique collecting, rock hounding for agates, camping, blueberry picking, cooking, and working on crossword puzzles. She enjoyed genealogy, reading newspapers and books, staying up to date on local and national news, and sharing her thoughts through letters. She loved watching her favorite shows, including Matlock, Murder She Wrote, and Antiques Roadshow, and especially enjoyed spending time riding in her husband's old cars. For many years, Marilyn was a landlord, renting to many families and enjoying the opportunity to meet and connect with the people she welcomed into her homes. She managed the books for her husband's excavating company, Joe O. Burton Excavating, which he started in 1971, helping ensure the business thrived.

Marilyn and her husband, Joe Odell Burton, shared an extraordinary seventy-five years of marriage. She raised five boys and loved their wives and significant others as her own. She took pride in keeping up with her family and as many will fondly remember, always seemed to know the latest family happenings. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend who always put others first.

She treasured many friendships over the years and truly valued their conversations, laughter, and connections she shared with them.

Marilyn is survived by her loving husband, Joe; sons, Robert (Deanna) Burton, Stephen (Cathy) Burton, Daniel Burton, Bruce (Colleen) Burton, and Bettina

Burton; grandchildren, Aaron (Trisha), Wynter (Patrick), James (Monserrat), Alyssa (Tony), Tyler (Deanna), Nycole, David (Chelsea), Jessica (Matt), Andrea, Jordan (Dasha), Kyle, and Kaylin she also considered Adeline and Annabelle Murphy as her grandchildren; she loved all her grandchildren dearly. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren, Dean, Eva, Kent, Elijah, Avalyn, Jocelyn, Elayna, Amelia, Camille, Carter, James, and Kenna; brother, Robert (Brenda) Flemal; a very special niece, Deborah (Eric) Kimble; and nephews, Richard (Wendy) Flemal, Raymond (Terry) Flemal, and Robert S. Flemal all of whom she cherished and loved dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Luke Flemal and Dorothy Guerrero; son, Philip Burton; grandson, Shay; and brother, Robert (Dawn) Tupper.

Memorial Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 606 E 4th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 at 10:00 AM. The Memorial Mass will follow at 11:00 AM.

A special thank you to the staff at Medilodge and MyMichigan Hospitals in Sault Ste. Marie and Midland, Michigan, for your exceptional care.

Donations in Marilyn's memory may be made to the organization of your choice, as she generously supported so many causes.

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

Memorial Gathering

APR 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
1011 Minneapolis St
Marie, MI 49783

Memorial Mass

APR 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
1011 Minneapolis St
Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall

GC

“ A wonderful long-time friend from the early 1970s when we all started the EUP antique car club. Loads of great memories of a grand lady! My heart goes out to Joe and family at this time.
Ginny Cymbalist

Ginny Cymbalist - April 22 at 03:08 PM

LL

“ Test in peace my friend.

Linda Talentino Laford - April 12 at 07:25 PM

MF

“ Sending my deepest condolences to Joe & family. Marilyn was a very special person to our family in Canada. May your memory be a blessing to all who love & miss you. Love & Hugs Mary 🙏

Mary (Hunt) Filipetti - April 11 at 08:30 AM

MM

“ I was proud to call Marilyn and my friend and to know her. She was a good woman in every way she will be greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to know her. I am so sorry for her family and her loss to you. i will be praying for you all as you go through these days for you Joe. It'll be a new day of survival without your partner in life beside you, but you created great memories together. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Lovingly Marilyn Mackie.

Marilyn Mackie - April 10 at 05:14 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Marilyn Joan Burton.*



April 10 at 02:58 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marilyn Joan Burton.*



April 10 at 11:05 AM



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

April 10 at 11:05 AM



“ *I will surely miss Mrs. Burton, we had some great chats whenever we saw each other. She was a very caring. RIP, I will look for you in heaven.
My condolences to her husband Joe and her family.*

Ann Hill - April 09 at 10:41 AM

BF

“ *Barbara Farrar lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Joan Burton*



Barbara Farrar - April 07 at 09:32 PM

BF

I met Marilyn many years ago when I was working long term care and took care of her mother Dorothy Guerro . We have had lots of laughs. I got to see her about a year ago at her son's place. And was so happy that she remembered me. RIP Marilyn. You will always be in my heart and thought. I'm going to miss you. ❤️🥰

Barbara Farrar - April 07 at 09:34 PM

JM

“ *My favorite memory... Marilyn and Verna Lawrence stopped by a job site where I was 2 stories high on a ladder... she said “ enjoy as close to heaven as your ever gonna get”i replied.... “Does that mean I’m a ladder day saint?” I could hear her laugh from a block away as she drove down the street.... lol she is going to be missed!...*

johnno mcclellan - April 07 at 07:29 PM

DD

*So very sad to hear of the passing of Addie and Annie's "grandmother". We hope there are many happy memories to share in the days to come.
Debbie & Stafford Dunn*

Debbie Dunn - April 08 at 05:18 PM

CC

“ Christine Cadreau purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Marilyn Joan Burton.



Christine Cadreau - April 07 at 07:19 PM

CC

“ Marilyn was such a great and humerus friend, she will be greatly missed. She was one of first person I met in SSM after marrying my late hubby Bouncer Cadreau. My sincere condolences and hugs go to her Husband Joe and her remaining children, especially Robert and Deanna. She now laughing with Jesus and Phil and all of her old buddies. 💕🙏

Christine Cadreau - April 07 at 07:12 PM

BF

I met Marilyn many years ago when I was working long term care and took care of her mother Dorothy Guerro . We have had lots of laughs. I got to see her about a year ago at her son's place. And was so happy that she remembered me. RIP Marilyn. You will always be in my heart and thought. I'm going to miss you. ❤️🙏

Barbara Farrar - April 07 at 09:26 PM



“ In Heaven's Arms Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marilyn Joan Burton.



April 07 at 06:58 PM



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

April 07 at 06:58 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. and Mrs. Burton were my landlords for a few years until they sold their property. She was the kindest person and most caring as she had sent cards during my family losses and always was happy to chat when I saw her. The first year renting she invited us over to look at her Christmas tree ornaments. It was beautiful, she took the time to share a story about her oldest ornaments and so on. What a wonderful lady that I had the pleasure to know.

Albertinia Moran - April 07 at 06:04 PM