



## Mark Wayne Sheppard

December 27, 1959 - January 11, 2025

Mark Wayne Sheppard, age 65, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, died on January 11, 2025 at his home in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He was born on December 27, 1959, in Alexandria, Virginia to Wayne and Gloria Sheppard.

Mark grew up in Sault Ste Marie and graduated from Soo Area High School. Mark received training at the High School vocational center in auto mechanics. This training was invaluable and set the stage for his occupation for the rest of his life. He later established Quality Automotive until he retired and sold the business in 2023. He met Becky Weaver his lifelong companion and love of his life, they were married on May 2, 1987 .

Mark was a devout Jehovah's Witness since July 26, 1975 and loved to share the Bible's message of hope with everyone he met. He instilled his faith into his child. He cherished the resurrection hope and the message of God's Kingdom.

Mark loved the outdoors, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, diving, and biking.

Mark is survived by his wife, Becky Sheppard; his daughter, Jamie Sheppard of Sault Ste. Marie; brothers, Eric Sheppard of Morrisville, Vermont, and Scott (Wendy) Sheppard of Brutus, Michigan; aunts, Ann Niven, Linda (Scott) Dudas, Haleen Kovich and his uncle, Paul Kovich. Mark is also survived by

many cousins scattered throughout Canada and the United States.

Mark was preceded in death by his father and mother, Wayne and Gloria Sheppard; nephew, Grant Sheppard; aunts, Olga (Dean) Lever, Alice Kovich; and uncle, John Kovich.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on Saturday, January 18th, from 2:00 p.m. till 3:00 p.m. The memorial service will follow at 3:00 p.m. at Family Life Funeral Home, 4951 South M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. 49783.

Live stream information will be provided via Facebook on the day of services for those that cannot attend.

Mark's final resting place will be Oaklawn Chapel Gardens, 15264 M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

Obituary as submitted by family

# Cemetery Details

## Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

15264 S. M-129  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

JAN 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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

## Memorial Service

JAN 18. 3:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ So sorry to hear of Mark’s passing. I’ve been praying for his healing since learning of his diagnosis a while ago. Mark was a good friend and I leaned on his automotive knowledge many, many times while working on my cars. We had many great conversations about life, work, cars and hunting. I’m sure that some customers got their vehicles back later than they expected because I tied Mark up in conversation. I know he will be missed by many, and pray for comfort for his friends and family.

*Dan Bergsma, MSP Trooper, (Ret.)*

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**Dan Bergsma** - April 02, 2025 at 10:40 AM

KH

“ Krista, Sean, and Sara Hollenhorst purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mark Wayne Sheppard.



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**Krista, Sean, and Sara Hollenhorst** - January 26, 2025 at 12:20 PM

KH

“ Krista, Sean, and Sara Hollenhorst planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Wayne Sheppard.

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**Krista, Sean, and Sara Hollenhorst** - January 26, 2025 at 12:20 PM

BH

“ Becky, my condolences go out to you and your family.

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**Bonnie Hewer** - January 18, 2025 at 10:22 AM

BE

*Thank you*

**Becky** - January 20, 2025 at 06:49 AM

BH

“ *Bonnie Hewer lit a candle in memory of Mark Wayne Sheppard*



**Bonnie Hewer** - January 18, 2025 at 10:20 AM

PD

“ *Pat & Amy Dawson, we remember talking with Mark at last summers Regional Convention. I felt so grateful to see his example of faith and love in being in attendance despite how he was feeling. And his words to value each day we have and to be thankful.*

**Pat Dawson** - January 18, 2025 at 08:18 AM

BS

*Last year at the convention was a struggle for Mark to be there but he was determined to go. I appreciate your thoughts.*

**Becky Sheppard** - January 18, 2025 at 10:24 AM

DC

“ Proverbs 18:24 .... “there exists a friend sticking closer than a brother”

*Mark Shepherd was just that kind of friend. In 1979 when Mark and I both were 19 years old, we began a friendship, that I would for the next 40+ years. Although the last 30 years we lived in different parts of the country and frankly we didn't keep in touch as much as we should have, for me Mark was always in that handful of people that I could call truly a friend. Like all friendships, There's fun stories, and there's some sad ones in there too, none quite as sad as we are today. I'll look forward to seeing Mark in the New World, and working shoulder to shoulder together again like when we were young men. I wish there was something I could say to you Becky that would bring you comfort at a time that I know just has to be horrible for you. Please know that you and your daughter are in my prayers.*

*Your brother  
David Chynoweth*

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**David Chynoweth** - January 18, 2025 at 07:09 AM

BS

*Thank you Dave. This means a lot hearing this. Hope you're doing well. If you're ever in the area please stop in and see us.*

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**Becky Sheppard** - January 18, 2025 at 10:20 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mark Wayne Sheppard.*



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January 17, 2025 at 09:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mark Wayne Sheppard.

January 17, 2025 at 09:36 PM



“ We had a construction project taking place at our Kingdom Hall when Mark asked me if I could take his pickup to go get a part. I was shocked that he trusted me with his personal truck since I had never driven anything bigger than my little sedan at the time, and I was just a 21-year-old girl; but Mark didn't show an ounce of concern. Though hesitant, myself, I did it and survived. I love the confidence Mark instilled in others. He was a beautiful person who I look forward to seeing again ☐

**Ashley Mendoza** - January 17, 2025 at 03:31 PM



*Thank you Ashley. Mark always viewed you as his daughter.*

**Becky Sheppard** - January 18, 2025 at 10:26 AM

GM

“ I met Mark shortly after moving to the Soo in early 2008. I remember how he immediately impressed me as being this great big, bear of a family man, so full of love and warmth, and full of vigor and energy. Always quick with a smile, I liked him immediately.

Once I really got to know him, I pretty quickly came to realize just how special he was. He had so many interests and talents and I was amazed at how good he was at so many different things. I greatly admired him for it.

One day while out patrolling near the Sugar Island Ferry, I noticed someone in full scuba gear standing in the water at the kid's fishing pond. I thought it odd and went over to investigate. You can imagine my surprise when I approached and as this person turned around, and I saw that it was Mark, just standing there, in all his glory, grinning ear to ear with that radiant smile of his. I just looked at him and said “C'mon man! You scuba dive too?!”

For some reason this was the first memory that came to me when I heard of his passing. To say that I was heartsick when I heard the news is absolutely an understatement. I hadn't seen him in years since moving away but I never forgot him because he truly was one of those special people you only run into on rare occasions. There aren't many like him. He will be greatly missed. . .

George Mendoza  
Las Cruces, NM

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**George Mendoza** - January 17, 2025 at 12:58 PM

BS

Thank you George this means so much to hear.

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**Becky Sheppard** - January 17, 2025 at 01:56 PM

GM

*We love you guys Becky. Just know our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

**George Mendoza** - January 17, 2025 at 02:09 PM

GM

“ *George, Christine & Ashley Mendoza purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mark Wayne Sheppard.*



**George, Christine & Ashley Mendoza** - January 17, 2025 at 12:30 PM

GM

“ *George, Christine & Ashley Mendoza planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Wayne Sheppard.*

**George, Christine & Ashley Mendoza** - January 17, 2025 at 12:30 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mark Wayne Sheppard.*

January 15, 2025 at 04:44 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mark Wayne Sheppard.*



January 15, 2025 at 04:44 PM

BK

“ Bryan, Sherri, and Rose Kaywood purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Mark Wayne Sheppard.



Bryan, Sherri, and Rose Kaywood - January 15, 2025 at 11:50 AM

RK

“ I started working with Mark in the late 1980s. I learned a lot from him, on cars and guitar. I spent a few nights at his playing guitar with him and Becky. He was a great man. You will be missed

Rick Kessinger - January 15, 2025 at 11:05 AM

BS

Thank you Rick. I really appreciate hearing this.

Becky Sheppard - January 16, 2025 at 02:01 AM

JL

“ I always enjoyed stopping by the shop every Friday to see Becky, Mark, Jacques, and Kevin. I enjoyed our many talks about ice fishing, hunting, and life.

Josiah Leach - January 15, 2025 at 09:28 AM

MA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michelle Anderson - January 15, 2025 at 07:48 AM

BS

*Good memories.*

**Becky Sheppard** - January 16, 2025 at 12:33 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Mark Wayne Sheppard.*



January 14, 2025 at 09:10 PM

TP

“ *Tom and Kris Piippo purchased the Serene Retre at for the family of Mark Wayne Sheppard.*



**Tom and Kris Piippo** - January 14, 2025 at 06:40 PM

SG

“ *Steve G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Wayne Sheppard.*

**Steve G.** - January 14, 2025 at 06:27 PM

AW

“ I remember when I hit a real low when I began battling with depression. I began to isolate myself and one day after the service meeting, I hid in my parents car so no one would talk to me. Mark went out and looked for me to make sure I was ok. He reminded me never to isolate myself and to ask for help when you need it. Mark will always be my other dad. Words cannot describe how sorry I am for the entire Sheppard family

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**Alexandra Winberg** - January 14, 2025 at 06:02 PM

NT

“ Mark gave me my first job at 16, he went on to teach me invaluable lessons not only pertaining to work, but to being a good person. I carry those lessons with me today and always will. Mark exceeded the expectation of what one would call a good person, always willing to help anyone in a time of need or to simply just share a good laugh. I'll forever reminisce on the stories we shared and the abundance of advice and lessons Mark taught me. Mark, you will be greatly missed, not only by your family and friends, but by the entire community.

-Noah Talentino

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**Noah Talentino** - January 14, 2025 at 03:37 PM

BS

Noah thank you so much for your kind words, this means so much and I know it would have meant a lot to Mark. He always spoke highly of you and being a hard worker.

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**Becky Sheppard** - January 14, 2025 at 04:26 PM

DM

*Becky and Jamie,  
Our hearts go out to you and to your whole family and all who loved him. He will be remembered as a good man who always did the right thing and he will be sorely missed.*

*Del and Michelle*

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**Del and Michelle** - January 14, 2025 at 04:53 PM

BS

*Thank you so much. It's going to be a huge adjustment for us.*

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**Becky Sheppard** - January 14, 2025 at 05:11 PM

ML

*Time slipped by and I never really got to know Mark like I would have liked. My cousin with the most genuine hug and wonderful smile.....always the friendly greeting. My Aunt Alma, his grandmother, adored Mark and we would talk forever about Mark and his family. Rest in peace my wonderful cousin.*

*Marcia Armstrong Ladd*

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**Marcia Ladd** - January 14, 2025 at 05:38 PM

JL

*"I have fond memories of Mark from our twenties, when we both shared a passion for scuba diving and attended events together. He had a deep love for the outdoors and nature, which was evident in everything he did. I will always cherish those moments and will deeply miss my dear Cousin Mark."*

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**Jordan Lever** - January 14, 2025 at 08:14 PM

GC

*One of the best men I have ever known. Mark was caring, thoughtful, and selfless and this was not lost on me or others. He was genuine, a great person that could always be counted on. He was loved and he will be missed by us and many. Becky our thoughts are with you and Jamie in this tough time. ❤️*

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**Gregory P Cook** - January 15, 2025 at 12:42 AM

BS

*Thank you Marcia, I really appreciate hearing this. Mark took good care of his grandma.*

**Becky Sheppard** - January 15, 2025 at 07:29 AM

BS

*Jordan thank you for these memories.*

**Becky Sheppard** - January 15, 2025 at 07:32 AM

BS

*Thank you so much Greg. Mark is going to be truly missed by many people.*

**Becky Sheppard** - January 15, 2025 at 07:34 AM

KA

*Sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed talking with Mark about hunting and his adventures. Debra and I are here if you need anything. Kent & Debra Artley*

**Kent M Artley** - January 15, 2025 at 10:54 AM

SK

*Dear Becky and Jamie,  
Our hearts go out to you! We cannot express how much we love Mark and will miss him and the love we have for both of you!  
Bryan and Sherri*

**Sherri and Bryan Kaywood** - January 15, 2025 at 12:00 PM

CW

*Dearest Jamie and Becky..I can't even express how sorry I am I lost my go to brother..but I know every time I walk in the woods sit in the blind or want to tell him of the buck I saw ..from my first meeting to the last in this system..I always knew he was there for me like I was for him.  
I'm looking forward to seeing him again in the new earth with no sickness or pain..Cecil*

**Cecil Watson** - January 15, 2025 at 02:55 PM

CW

*We want your family to know whatever we can do to help you get thru this .PLEASE don't hesitate to let us know .*

**Cecil Watson** - January 15, 2025 at 07:45 PM

BS

*Thank you so much Kent.*

**Becky Sheppard** - January 15, 2025 at 08:19 PM

BS

*Sherri and Bryan.  
We love you both too. Miss you!*

**Becky Sheppard** - January 15, 2025 at 08:22 PM

BS

*Cecil thank you for all that you do. Mark always appreciated the hard work you do and always being there for others.*

**Becky Sheppard** - January 15, 2025 at 08:26 PM

WS

*I loved Marks laugh, he was always willing to drop whatever he was doing to help. He took such good care of his mom and loved his wonderful wife and beautiful daughter. I will miss you my brother.. see you in paradise  
Wendy Sheppard*

**Wendy Sheppard** - January 15, 2025 at 08:42 PM

HT

*Mark has played a pretty integral part in my life. From me being a young pioneer and him helping me with car problems for some home made cookies and mountain dew, to giving me advice about how to buy a good used car without being taken advantage of. How he looked after my mom in his book study/ service group after my dad died, I knew he'd call me if she needed something. How he answered his phone when I called him from a hallway in the U of M ER and worked tirelessly to help find her medical care to save her life. There's truly no one like him and we are absolutely heartbroken over your loss. Becky and Jamie, you are in our thoughts and prayers always.*

**Heather Thomas** - January 17, 2025 at 07:32 PM

BE

*Thank you Heather. Mark thought the world of your mom and made sure he was always available to help her.*

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**Becky** - January 17, 2025 at 09:23 PM