



## Michael Edward Honkanen

October 1, 1957 - October 31, 2023

Michael Edward Honkanen, age 66, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, died on October 31, 2023, at his home. He was born on October 1, 1957, in Detroit, MI, to James Edward and Beverly Ann (Riffel) Honkanen.

Michael grew up in Detroit until the age of ten when his family moved to Sault Ste. Marie. He graduated from Sault Ste. Marie High School in 1975. Michael started his career right out of high school, working for the Sault County Road Commission until he retired in 2008. In the early '80s, he met his beloved wife Pamela and they married on June 10, 1983. Michael and Pamela welcomed two daughters who were the light of Michael's life. He lived a full life in Sault Ste. Marie, devoting himself to all three of his "brown-eyed girls."

It's hard to sum up the legacy of such a wonderful man in a few, short paragraphs but he loved his girls, family, and friends with his entire heart. He would do anything for anyone at any time - no questions asked. He enjoyed all the outdoor activities the U.P. had to offer and took advantage of fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling and so much more, making long-lasting memories with his favorite people. Some of his favorite times were spent with friends on fishing trips to Wakami, Canada, weekends at the "Truckanen" hunting camp on Neebish Island and time on the beach at the "Honkanen Katu" in Brimley. He looked forward to visits from his girls, son-in-laws, and his grandchildren and wanted nothing but their happiness and laughter to fill the house.

It is known that Michael was dealt a hard hand with health struggles but

thanks to his devoted wife, he was living the best life he could. He found joy in listening to music and going to the Christopher Columbus Hall in Sault Ste. Marie to sing and dance to his favorite band every Wednesday. Through all his memory struggles with a dementia diagnosis, he always remembered and looked forward to "listening to the band" every week. He also took pride in taking care of the deer which he lovingly referred to as his "pets" which were some of the best-fed animals in Chippewa County.

Michael is survived by his wife, Pamela Honkanen; daughters, Andrea (Dan) Eves from Lake Orion, Michigan and Ashley (Nate) Ward from Sherwood Park, Alberta; grandchildren, Connor and Corinne "Rinney" Eves, Cate and Lyla Ward; father, James Honkanen from Cedarville, Michigan; father-in-law and mother-in-law, James and Audrey Johnson from Sault Ste. Marie; sisters, Diane Honkanen (Scott McGuinn) from Raleigh, North Carolina, Linda (Steve) Bryan from Brimley, Michigan; brothers-in-law, James (Lee) Johnson from Sault Ste. Marie, Christopher (Jamie) Johnson from Sault Ste. Marie and several nieces and nephews.

Michael is preceded in death by his mother, Beverly Honkanen.

Memorial services will be held on November 7, 2023, at Family Life Funeral Homes in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, from 10:00 A.M to 12:30 P.M with Funeral Service beginning at 12:30 P.M.

Family Life Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

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

# Tribute Wall

AR

“ I think about you every day! My heart breaks for you and what you've been through. Time helps.  
I wish I could help. If you want company or to chat call. 9066350049  
See you later

Angela Holt Rodney - November 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ We are so incredibly sorry Pam and family. Mike was one in a million. By far one of our very favorites!! He was kind, compassionate, fun, loving and just the salt of the earth. We pray you all are sustained with God's comfort and the loving memories I'm sure he was a huge part of. Pam your love for him was so evident by your loving care. We are praying for you during this extremely hard time.

Holly and Gary F. - November 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM

FJ

“ Thank you Mike for your genuine kindness and dedication to your family and friends. I will always have fond memories of Wakami and how much you contributed in making meal time fun.



Frank Jabour - November 06, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He put a smile on my face every time I saw him. He will be missed by so many. Rest in peace.

Jonna Hudson - November 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ I didn't know Mike very well, but when I saw him on Wednesdays he made my heart smile. He loved to dance with Pam. Something the Whole world wants. God Bless Mike and his family. He will be missed.

Carrie Reining - November 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Rest in peace my good friend. I'll see you later. 🥹

Jeffrey Paquette - November 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

FE

“ My heartfelt sympathy to the Pam and the extended Honkanen family and friends. Mike was a great neighbor and friend to many. Fly high with the angels Mike. May he Rest in Eternal Peace.

Fern - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Oh Pam, We are so very sorry to hear about Mike. I pray that you and the girls all find the Peace of Christ. We love you all. ❤️

Ron and Brenda - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

VG

“ Our heartfelt condolences to all of the family. May precious memories give you comfort and peace at this difficult time.



Vicki Gage - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Our sincere condolences to the Honkanen family for the loss of Mike. Many fond memories of this wonderful person will not be forgotten.*

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**Dan and Karen Brady** - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM