



## Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar

February 11, 1964 - June 19, 2025

Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar, age 61, of Sault Ste. Marie, died June 19, 2025, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born February 11, 1964, in Mariemont, Ohio, to Paul and Barbara (Dietz) Steinkohl.

Michael grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and was a proud member of the 82nd Airborne. He was a car hauler truck driver for many years. Mike was happiest when surrounded by his family and friends. He never met a stranger—his generous spirit and kind heart left a lasting impression on everyone he met. Always willing to lend a hand, he loved helping others and bringing joy to those around him. Mike had a knack for fixing just about anything. Over the years, he worked as a plumber, carpenter, and semi-truck mechanic. He especially enjoyed restoring old cars, riding his motorcycle, and casting a line to fish whenever he had the chance.

Michael was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. His family and friends will miss him and his bigger-than-life personality.

He is survived by his wife, Alicia Tazelaar, of Sault Ste. Marie.; mother, Barbara Dietz of Sault Ste. Marie; children, Nicole (Denzel Hampton) Steinkohl of Kennesaw, Georgia, Michael Tazelaar Jr., and Miles Tazelaar of Mahwah, New Jersey; stepson, Takoda Hauri of Sault Ste. Marie;

stepdaughters; grandchildren, Joshua Sanchez of Las Vegas, Nevada, Silverio Sanchez of Kennesaw, Georgia, Isabella Hampton, of Kennesaw, Georgia; siblings, Paul (Charity Zimmerman) Steinkohl, Sherrie (Allen) Lucas, Roger (Heidi) Steinkohl, Anthony Rogers, Barbara (Kyle Slater) Rogers, Jay (Cara) Tazelaar, and Paul Rogers, all of Sault Ste. Marie, and Michel Steinkohl of North Carolina; aunts and uncles, Hon. Elisabeth (Harvey Bell) Dietz of Sault Ste. Marie, Leah (Tom) VanAman of Ohio, Howard Steinkohl of New Jersey, Richard Steinkohl of New York; special nephews, Michael McLeod and Allie Rogers; his many nieces, nephews, great-nephews, great-nieces, cousins, dear friends from New Jersey; and the many friends he met trucking across the country.

Michael was preceded in death by his son, Michael Steinkohl Jr.; father, Paul Steinkohl; sister, Dawn Steinkohl; grandparents, Orval and Delphine Dietz; and aunts and uncles, Elvin "Sonny" (Margaret) Dietz, Elizabeth (Alford) Clark, Mary (Forrest) Poole, Orval Dietz, Rita (Bill) Dale, William Dietz and Anita Steinkohl.

A Memorial Service will be held at Family Life Funeral Home at 4951 S. M-129, Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783, Friday, June 27, 2025, at 2:30 PM. Friends may gather at the funeral home between 1:30 PM and 2:30 PM until the time of the service.

The family would like to thank the Ball Hospice House and McLaren Hospice for their care of Michael.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ball Hospice House, 308 West 12th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

Obituary as submitted by family.



# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

JUN 27. 1:30 PM - 2:30 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

JUN 27. 2:30 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Sault Ste. Marie  
4951 S. M-129  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 632-4951  
flfh@familylifefh.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar.*



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June 26, 2025 at 10:42 PM

“ Remembering Mike

*Going to my Aunt Barb's house was always a hoot. There were always a bunch of kids running around, making their own fun outdoors. One time, Mike and his brother Steve dug a deep hole in the yard, filled it with water, and covered it with long sticks and brush. Then they lured my cousin Roger and I to run across it. Roger stopped short of the hole, but I didn't - down I went! It felt like I fell 50 feet. The sides were slick with mud, and I couldn't climb out. Eventually, my Uncle A.J. came along and rescued me.*

*Another time, we were all getting ready to go to the drive-in, which was a huge treat back then. Before dinner, Aunt Barb had us draw for seating positions in the car. I drew the short straw: smooshed between Mike and Roger in the back seat. We had baked beans for dinner, and Mike kept singing the infamous "Beans, Beans, the Magical Fruit" song. You can probably guess what happened next - he spent the entire movie lifting his left cheek and making sure I got the full experience. I can't even remember what movie we watched, but I'll never forget Mike's antics.*

*I have so many stories like that. Looking back, those times with Mike and my cousins are some of the most memorable of my life. I grew up in a strict household, so visits to Aunt Barb's hold priceless memories and I wouldn't trade them for anything.*

*Years later, Mike and I reconnected as adults. He ended up living in an apartment near my place and would ride his bike past my house almost every day. He'd stop in to chat, helped me out by babysitting my animals, and we went out to dinner a few times (because he REFUSED to take money for pet-sitting). It was a gift to know him again, not just as the wild cousin from my childhood, but as the kind and thoughtful person he had become.*

*When I heard he was sick and in hospice, I was heartbroken. I wish I had gone to see him, but I just couldn't bring myself to. I will hold*

*onto the memories we shared—both as kids and later as friends. Mike's bright spirit, sense of humor, and positivity will be deeply missed. He made life lighter, and those of us who knew him will always carry that joy with us.*

Carolyn Dale - June 26, 2025 at 01:39 PM

LD

*I am so, so sorry to hear about Mike ! You and your family has suffered so much grief !! I pray God will comfort all of you with your terrible loss!!! ❤️❤️❤️ Someday soon, hopefully we will see him again ! ❤️❤️❤️ My deepest sympathies are with you and your family. I remember when all the kids were little, playing games. Sending all my love !!!*

Lenore Dietz - July 05, 2025 at 12:18 AM

TF

*“ The Hauri family. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar.*



The Hauri family. - June 26, 2025 at 09:28 AM

PR

*“ Paul, Donna and Dakota Rich purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar.*



Paul, Donna and Dakota Rich - June 25, 2025 at 08:46 PM

DD

“ *Dave & Ellen Dietz lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar*



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**Dave & Ellen Dietz** - June 25, 2025 at 07:27 PM



“ *A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar.*

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June 25, 2025 at 07:24 PM



“ My mother and Mike's mother were cousins and great friends over the years. I baby sat Mike and his brothers and sisters way back when. Mike was one of the sweetest kids I've ever known. He was always so helpful and kind, always offering to help with anything he could do for you. I still remember how close Mike and his sister Sherrie were. They always were best of friends and were both a pleasure to be around. They were always so helpful, respectful, and kind. I know that Sherrie will be missing her best friend. I always enjoyed the times I was able to spend with their family over the years. Their entire family has always been so kind to my family and I consider them my closest relatives. I know that everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Mike will always remember him as a sweet guy who would help out anyone who was in need. I know how much Mike will be missed by his entire family, his relatives and friends....and me too. We need more people like him and his family in this world.

God speed to you Mike. Please give my Mom a big hug from me (she always had a soft spot for you). Say hello to my sisters Debbie and Michelle and my Grandma & Grandpa LaFaver for me too when you see them.

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**Renee Robinson** - June 25, 2025 at 07:07 PM

CR

“ I was so saddened to hear about Mike's passing. Even though I haven't seen him for many years I will always remember him as the little boy I babysat many times. My heart goes out to the entire family. Cheryl (LaFaver) Rapson

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**Cheryl Rapson** - June 25, 2025 at 06:33 PM

DF

“ DASH FAMILY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar.

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DASH FAMILY - June 25, 2025 at 05:47 PM

DF

“ DASH FAMILY purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar.



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DASH FAMILY - June 25, 2025 at 05:47 PM

DF

“ DASH FAMILY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar.

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DASH FAMILY - June 25, 2025 at 05:40 PM

DF

“ DASH FAMILY purchased the Bountiful Memories Casket Spray for the family of Michael "Mike" John Tazelaar.



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DASH FAMILY - June 25, 2025 at 05:40 PM