



## Ralph Stewart Patrick

February 26, 1950 - May 25, 2023

Ralph Stewart Patrick, age 73, of Hessel, Michigan, died late Thursday evening, May 25, 2023, at his residence north of Hessel. He was born on February 26, 1950, at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Bruce William and Florence Elizabeth "Betty" (Miller) Patrick.

After graduating high school, Ralph attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan, to continue a family tradition and become a teacher like his mother and his grandmother, Rubie "Gaga" Miller whom he often spoke of sentimentally. Ralph was a lifetime member of the Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity. Upon graduating, Ralph briefly worked at Newberry High School in Newberry before finding his true calling in life; being a carpenter. He would proudly tell anybody that he helped build the Tilden Mine, south of Ishpeming, Michigan. He pointed out anything he helped work on—even if just driving by it. He would often recant tales of what it was like working adjacent high steel workers. One story was during the construction of the Cedarville High School gymnasium, having to take on such daring and dangerous tasks as going up and sweeping snow off the steel beams so everyone could get back to work.

Ralph met his wife, Barbara, through a relative of hers. They were married, and had a daughter, Elizabeth Ann Patrick, in 1988. Thereafter, Ralph started working closer to home with his parents at Patrick's Landing Resort in Cedarville, Michigan. As a jack-of-all-trades, Ralph helped both his parents with every facet of the business. It wasn't out of the ordinary for him to help clean the cabins, take the trash to the dump, and make trips to the hardware store & all between applying coats of epoxy to a boat. Yet, he was never too busy to stop and have a friendly chat.

With the spirit of an outdoorsman, Ralph spent ample time hunting and trapping throughout his life. From trapping muskrats on the family dock as a youth to catching bobcats, foxes, and coyotes in his golden years. Plenty of quality time was spent hunting and learning life lessons on Marquette Island with his father and his uncle, John Patrick.

Growing up in the snows channel, he spent as much time on the water as he did in it. He was a great swimmer, enjoyed water skiing, and even took up scuba diving for a time. During the winter, he enjoyed carving duck decoys, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling, and was even a part of an air sledding club when he was a young man. Ralph loved animals, often keeping dogs and horses as they brought him a great sense of fulfillment. His most invaluable hobby was reloading bullets for himself and his friends. Like his father, Ralph kept a garden and found success at cultivating raspberries. Imagine, between all those hobbies, he still had time to be an avid and voracious reader of historical fiction, thanks to his mother for teaching him how to speed-read.

Ralph is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Ann "Bethann" Patrick of Hessel; ex-wife, Barbara Ann Patrick of Hessel; sister, Margaret "Peggy" Patrick of Florida; cousins, Robert Patrick of Cedarville, and Richard Taylor of Pickford.

Ralph was preceded in death by his father, Bruce William Patrick; his mother, Florence Elizabeth "Betty" (Miller) Patrick, his uncle, John Edward Patrick; his aunt, Jean (Patrick) Taylor; and aunt, Mae (Patrick) Brown.

Galer Funeral Homes & Cremation of Pickford, Michigan, is serving the family. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.galerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.galerfuneralhomes.com).

Obituary as submitted by family.

# Cemetery Details

## Cedar Cemetery (aka Edgewood)

Clark Township Office  
P.O. Box 367  
Cedarville, MI 49719

## Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph Stewart Patrick*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Ralph Stewart Patrick*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM

DH

“ *Ralph was a one of a kind type of guy. He was 3 years ahead of me in school, so we never were close friends. But when ever we ran into each other, he always greeted me with a big smile and a hearty Hello. There would always be a friendly chat about how things were going and what we were up to in our lives. RIP, Ralph we will miss your smile, God's Peace and Comfort to his family and friends. 🙏🙏*

**Dobby Holy** - June 08, 2023 at 10:18 AM

DH

*Opps, Dobby Holland*

**Dobby Holland** - June 08, 2023 at 10:19 AM

MF

*Going to miss my classmate and dear friend Ralph...RIP*

**Marty Fountain** - June 08, 2023 at 12:10 PM

DZ

*Donna Zobrist: My parents, my husband and our daughters spent many vacations at Patrick's Landing. Ralph became a treasured friend over the years as we exchanged letters about his life up north and mine in Ohio. He was a wonderful letter writer! His letters were newsy and always made me feel close to my very favorite place in the UP. RIP, dear Ralph*

**Donna Zobrist** - June 08, 2023 at 07:03 PM

GB

*The Donnelly family spent many vacations in Cedarville, with our Dunn cousins. Every trip included hanging out at the Patrick's, swimming, sometimes in a cabin, playing games, and generally pestering Mr. and Mrs. Patrick. I learned to swim and ski off the Patrick dock with Uncle Archie Dunn. Ralph and Peggy were part of our "growing up" years. RIP Ralph. You were one of a kind.*

**Gretchen Brown** - June 09, 2023 at 08:42 PM

GD

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Ralph's family and friends. Our family enjoyed staying at Patrick's Landing for many years with Bruce and Betty as well as Ralph. Many stories were shared over the years of the Dunns and the Patricks family friendships and adventures. We are blessed to know Ralph. God bless. The George Dunn family.*

---

**George and Lisa Dunn** - June 11, 2023 at 10:08 AM

SW

*Will miss Ralph, he had a big heart and was willing to help anyone in need. Many memories of him going out of his way to help me. Bless you and May you be embraced in heaven*

---

**Susan Whitaker** - August 07, 2023 at 12:47 PM