



## Robert "Bob" Eugene Gay

May 22, 1942 - March 3, 2025

Robert "Bob" Eugene Gay, age 82, passed at his home in Pickford, Michigan, on March 3, 2025, with his loyal dog Debo by his side. He was born on May 22, 1942, to Chester Lyle and Della Marie (Dove) Gay.

Bob graduated from Ann Arbor Pioneer High School and Wayne State University before serving his country in Vietnam. A dedicated veteran, Bob volunteered at the Ann Arbor Veteran's Hospital and was an active member of various veteran organizations, where he proudly served as an Honor Guard. Service to his community was at the heart of Bob's life. He was a devoted volunteer, giving his time as a little league coach, Bell Ringer, Big Brother, and a dedicated supporter of organizations such as Civitan, Loves, and Special Olympics. He was also a member of the Eastern U.P. Search and Rescue team and served on Pickford's Volunteer Ambulance Corps for over twenty years. Even in retirement, Bob remained active with the Pickford Utility Authority. Bob deeply cherished his Pickford community and was a proud Yooper.

Bob is survived by his love, June Belleau; her large and loving family; son, Mike Gay; daughter, Michelle Sandin; sister, Debby (Cesar) Puente; niece; Jennifer Puente; nephews, Daniel Puente, Travis Rudd, Steve Rudd, Greg Rudd; and their father, Max Rudd; cousin, Judy VanDerHoeven; along with extended family and friends from all over Michigan and Canada.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Della; sister, Sue (Gay) Rudd; and niece, Susan Rudd.

Per Bob's wishes, there will be no services held. Instead, Bob's family would like to welcome his friends, neighbors, and community members to a remembrance gathering on April 5, 2025, between 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Pickford Township Hall, 155 E Main Street, Pickford, MI 49774. We'll have coffee and donuts (one of Bob's favorite treats) while we share memories of a man who would remind us all to "keep smiling".

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.  
Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

Obituary as submitted by family

# Previous Events

## Remembrance Gathering

APR 5. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Pickford Township Hall  
155 E. Main Street  
Pickford, MI 49774

# Tribute Wall

LW

“ Working security with "Captain Kangaroo" at the Soo Locks was always a fun day for me! We became shooting buddies at the range when it came time for brushing up before our annual qualifying shoots. After our jobs at the Locks ended, we remained close friends to the end; occasionally talking on the phone, texting, and sending greeting cards for every holiday that showed up on the calendar to stay in touch. I still have my recent Valentine's card sitting on my TV. It'll probably be there til Christmas, now. 😞 Please know that others share in your grief and loss. I'm so glad to have had the privilege to call him my friend, and I will always miss him! My most sincerest condolences,  
Lisa Wojnaroski

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**Lisa Wojnaroski** - March 13, 2025 at 02:53 AM

MS

Thank you for sharing Lisa. I'm going to miss those holiday cards too. He was a kind and thoughtful soul.

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**Michelle Sandin** - March 13, 2025 at 10:10 AM

LW

By the way, where will Debo be living now, if you don't mind me asking?

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**Lisa Jeanette Wojnaroski** - March 31, 2025 at 05:34 AM

SC

“ I was saddened to hear about your dad's passing,Michelle. You and your family are in my prayers. Saundra

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**Saundra Coullard** - March 12, 2025 at 12:28 PM

MS

*Thank you.*

**Michelle Sandin** - March 12, 2025 at 11:02 PM

HE

“ *I met Bob while working Security, at the Soo Locks. What a great guy, so helpful and funny. Our condolences to the family.*

**Henry** - March 11, 2025 at 08:54 PM

MI

*Thanks Henry. Dad enjoyed working at the Locks. He was an all-around good man.*

**Michelle** - March 12, 2025 at 11:12 AM