



## Stephen "Steve" Brice Kemppainen

January 2, 1947 - October 15, 2024

Stephen "Steve" Brice Kemppainen, age 77, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family, Tuesday, October 15, 2024, in Petoskey, Michigan. He was born on January 2, 1947, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to William and Edna "Peg" (Thompson) Kemppainen.

Steve grew up on Drummond Island, Michigan, and graduated from Detour Area High School. After graduation, he attended Lake Superior State University and Diesel Mechanic School through Michigan Tech. He met Karen White and the two married on October 14, 1967. Shortly after that, Steve started working at the Drummond Island Quarry and eventually bought Lake View Resort on April 15, 1970. He and Karen built their log home in 1989. He worked at the quarry until he retired in 2011. They sold the resort in 2021 and Steve was free to spend more time with Karen, along with golfing, hunting, boating, and of course, taking pictures.

Steve was an active member of the community. He served as Drummond Island's fire chief for 40 years and was a Charter Member of the Lions Club. He also served on the Drummond Island Clinic Board of Directors, Sportsman Club Board of Directors, Moose Lodge Board of Directors and 4th of July Committee. He and Karen were awarded Outstanding Citizen Awards in 1998.

Steve enjoyed the outdoors. Whether it was hunting, fishing, boating, or

golfing - you could find him outside doing one of them! He was an avid collector of many things, such as duck decoys, knives, guns and flashlights.

Steve is survived by his wife, Karen; daughter, Holly (Rob) Bullington of Rochester Hills, Michigan; son, Brian (Angie) Kempainen of Dewitt, Michigan; grandsons, Ethan Bullington, Joe Kempainen, and Sam Kempainen; brother, Marshall (Jolene) Kempainen of Drummond Island, Michigan; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Marilyn and Ted Marek of Dearborn Heights, Michigan; and sisters-in-law, Sandra Hogenson of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Barbara White of Greentown, Pennsylvania.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, William and Edna; brother, William Jay Kempainen of Drummond Island, Michigan; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Phyllis and Irving Krewell, of Clarksville, Tennessee; and brother-in-law, Lee White of Greentown, Pennsylvania.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, from 11:00 AM -12:30 PM at the Drummond Island Town Hall, 29935 E Pine St, Drummond, MI 49726. The funeral service will immediately follow at 12:30 PM, and a luncheon will be held immediately after the graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of Steve to the Adele Gagliardi Library Addition, at the Drummond Island Public Library, 29934 E Court St, Drummond Island, MI 49726 or to the Drummond Island Fire Department at Center Street, Drummond Island, MI 49726.

# Cemetery Details

## Drummond Island Cemetery

34318 S Townline Road  
Drummond Island, MI 49726

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **22**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Drummond Island Township Hall  
29935 E. Pine St.  
Drummond Island, MI 49726

## Funeral Service

OCT **22**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Drummond Island Township Hall  
29935 E. Pine St.  
Drummond Island, MI 49726

# Tribute Wall

BM

“ My brother inlaws and son and nephews rented one of the big cabins for deer hunting for many many years so many great memories made with family and oh yes Don and Jerry as well our sisters condolences to his entire family

bryan martinie - October 21, 2024 at 04:23 PM

MW

“ Steve and I were second cousins, so I remember him since childhood from family events and trips to Drummond with my family. It was always a pleasure to see him. When my mother was up in years and unable to go out much, Steve would stop in to see her when he was in the Sault. She truly enjoyed those visits. that kindness meant the world to her. My sincere condolences to the entire Kemppainen family.

Mimi Wirtanen - October 21, 2024 at 03:54 PM

JG

“ Jesse & Charlotte Goudreau planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen "Steve" Brice Kemppainen.

Jesse & Charlotte Goudreau - October 21, 2024 at 02:51 PM

JG

“ Jesse & Charlotte Goudreau purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Stephen "Steve" Brice Kemppainen.



Jesse & Charlotte Goudreau - October 21, 2024 at 02:51 PM

VL

“ Vicki and Will Long planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen "Steve" Brice Kempainen.

Vicki and Will Long - October 21, 2024 at 12:42 PM

VL

“ Vicki and Will Long purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Stephen "Steve" Brice Kempainen.



Vicki and Will Long - October 21, 2024 at 12:42 PM

BD

“ Bryan And Joni Davis lit a candle in memory of Stephen "Steve" Brice Kempainen



Bryan and Joni Davis - October 20, 2024 at 08:19 PM

BD

“ Steve and Karen are such a wonderful couple who helped many on the Island they were always giving and helping others, Steve will be missed by all of us! And our hearts love and prayers are being sent to Karen, their children and family

Bryan and Joni Davis - October 20, 2024 at 08:16 PM

DM

“ *Marshall and Jolene and Steve' family,*

*Do sorry to hear of Steve's passing. He was a nice guy. Just talked to him at Chuck's a couple of weeks ago. Holly played basketball for me back in the 80's.*

*RIP Steve. You will be sadly missed by family and friends.*

*Dave Miller*

*DeTour Village*

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**David F. Miller** - October 20, 2024 at 12:02 PM

 Margie Collier

“ *Sending love and prayers and gentle hugs to Karen and family. We are so very sad to lose our wonderful friend.*

*Steve was a "one of a kind" guy. Always there to lend a hand if you needed help. He was a Jack of all trades for sure, a very hard working man. He will be so missed and always loved and forever in our hearts.*

*Our deepest, sincere sympathies to Karen, Holly, Rob and Ethan, Brian, Angie, Joe, and Sam. You all have so many memories to cherish.*

*R I P Dear Friend* 

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**Margie Collier** - October 19, 2024 at 04:59 PM

CH

“ *Karen, Tom and I are so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. We have such fond memories of you both over the many years we came up to lakeview starting on our honeymoon in 1980. Our best go out to you and your family.*

*Tom and Candy Hlivka*

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**Candy Hlivka** - October 19, 2024 at 04:24 PM

MK

“ *Most sincere condolences on Steve's passing. He leaves an empty space that will be hard to fill. Merle Jo Klickman*

Merle Klickman - October 18, 2024 at 04:13 PM

DB

“ *Drummond Island Medical Center Board purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Stephen "Steve" Brice Kempainen.*



Drummond Island Medical Center Board - October 18, 2024 at 03:33 PM

SS

“ *Sending Prayers and Hugs to Karen, Holly, Brian. He was a wonderful man willing to help anyone. He will be missed by the whole Island. Fly High Steve. God Bless.*  
*Sharon Sadegh*

Sharon Sadegh - October 18, 2024 at 03:07 PM

MD

“ *Karen, Rob, Holly, Brian Angie, and family, Sending comforting thoughts to you all..Steve always took the time to say, "how you doin ?" His great personality and smile will be missed. Stay strong during this difficult time Mike & Diane*



M and D - October 18, 2024 at 02:53 PM

MA

“ *What great giving man, He will be missed by everyone who knew him! Great man, great family!*

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**Milton & Linda Adams** - October 18, 2024 at 01:07 PM

BT

“ *Our sincere condolences to Karen and all of Steve's family during this difficult time. Steve was a good friend and will be greatly missed by so many. His sense of humor and compassion for his Island family and friends will always be remembered fondly. RIP and fly high Steve. 💔*

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**Bonnie & John Tucker** - October 18, 2024 at 01:06 PM