



Timothy James Sawyer

January 2, 1948 - January 4, 2025

Timothy James Sawyer, age 77, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed peacefully at home Saturday evening, January 4, 2025. He was born on January 2, 1948, in Mexico, Missouri, to James and Margaret (Cadenbach) Sawyer.

Tim graduated from Flushing High School. Upon graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army where he was a Combat Engineer in the Americal Division, serving in Chu Lai, Vietnam. He was awarded the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. After serving his country, he earned his psychology degree from Northern Michigan University. He then went on to obtain his PhD in experimental psychology from the University of Nevada. He began teaching at Lake Superior University in 1976, until his retirement in 2001. He thoroughly enjoyed the many students he taught and mentored throughout his career.

Tim valued his family more than anything. He spent many wonderful years with his wife Connie prior to her passing in 2007. He enjoyed his weightroom and daily walks, working in his shop on projects, and using his tractors on the property with his family.

Tim is survived by his sons, Daniel (Sandy) Sawyer and James Sawyer;

grandson, Terek Sawyer, all of Sault Ste. Marie; daughter, Michelle (Jay) Rendon; sister, Esther Sawyer of Flushing; grandsons, Derek (Jordann), Adam (Gabrielle), Jacob (Annaleis) Jennings all of Davison, Michigan; and six great-grandchildren.

Tim was preceded in death by his wife, Connie, after 38 years of marriage; parents, James and Margeret; sister, Susan Robinson; and beloved brother, James "Sandy" Sawyer.

Per Tim's wishes no formal service or funeral will be held. There will be a private family Celebration of Life at a later date.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Tribute Wall

LK

“ When I think back to my favorite professor, I think of Dr. Sawyer 1998-2002. I asked him late in my third year if there was anything I could do to receive a minor in Psychology. I was already a business major and was realizing I had more passion for psychology and helping others at this late juncture. I had an A+ in his course. He asked me if it was my second time taking his course (lol). “No, Sir”. Long story short, he assisted me on an expedited path to Psychology. I ended up getting a graduate degree from his Alma mater University of Nevada-Reno and have recently retired from a 22 year long career in counseling and mentoring at risk adolescents. It was by chance and NV PERS that I went from Sault Ste. Marie Michigan to Reno, Nevada. Great memory! Thank you, Dr. Sawyer, for all your guidance and love of psychology that got me where I am today. May you rest in peace.

lesley keith - June 02, 2025 at 03:24 PM

SG

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Doc Sawyer's passing. Tim was an awesome man, mentor, and inspiration to me and many others. He helped me to understand so many things about psychology, family, success, and life. I still recall many of our conversations, and I'll never forget when he gave me tires for my old Ford truck when he could've sold them, but I couldn't have afforded to buy them. So many good things to say. Thank you for everything Tim, rest in peace.

Stephen Gillotte - February 18, 2025 at 10:25 PM

FS

“ Dan, Jim and family. I am so saddened by the passing of your father. I met him in 1979 my freshman year at Lake State. Tim was incredibly influential in my life and responsible for my career path in Psychology. He was an incredible mentor; but more than that a good friend. I have fond memories of helping him build a garage in his first home, backpacking trips and just hanging out with him over the years when I was in town. Dan, Jim - your dad was an exceptional human being: vast intelligence, a quick wit, quick to smile and always there with a kind word and encouragement. I was honored to know him. He will be deeply missed. May his memory be a source of comfort to you.



Fred Holt Sr - January 19, 2025 at 04:19 PM

FO

“ Mr. Sawyer would always ask how I was doing and made me feel welcome. I enjoyed seeing what projects he had going and He would offer me work when times were tough. I remember once the German Sheppard knew I was invited it was always fun to be there.

Forest - January 19, 2025 at 10:35 AM

NO

“ I met Tim the first week he moved to the Soo; I worked at the Tempo store & was still a college student though we were both pretty much the same age. And he hated it when I'd call him Doctor Sawyer; we had a lot of laughs and split a lot of wood. Wonderful memories... thanks!

Norm - January 18, 2025 at 12:32 PM

FM

“ My sincere condolences on the passing of your father. The loss of a parent is very personal and no words can adequately express all the emotions felt. Tim and I came to LSSC the same year and his office was in the library as was mine. We were of the same age and both of us served in the Viet Nam war era. I believe that formed an intangible bond between us. As I'm sure you are well aware, your father was a special person to so many students, and a sage confidant to me concerning the college and other issues. He stood as a solid rock, not bending to whims of the time or individuals; yet he was not intransigent. He was highly respected by all and I admired him highly. May God rest his soul.

Fred Michels

Fred Michels - January 12, 2025 at 06:46 AM

DW

“ Besides being my favorite prof he was also a good friend. I was having a rough timey freshman year coming home from Germany and one week later enrolled at Lake State. He understood the issues being a vet himself. Several times we discussed class and sometimes just memories of our times in the service over queso, chips and an adult beverage at the Mexican restaurant downtown. Your dad was simply a good man and my life is better for knowing him.

Donald Winsley - January 12, 2025 at 03:26 AM

EM

Our condolences to Dan, Jim and the families. You dad was an exceptional person. He went through tough times but always came out positive. We are glad to have known him.

Ed & Char Murphy

Ed Murphy - January 12, 2025 at 06:26 PM

EG

“ *May he rest in peace. I remember him fondly from my two years attending Lake Superior State in 1980-82. 🙏* ”

Eugene Groesbeck - January 11, 2025 at 06:01 PM

LM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I met your father as a LSSC student in 1979. He was also a friend and colleague of my in-laws, too, Drs. Margaret and Steven Malmberg. Your dad was such a kind, gentle, compassionate man and excellent professor and mentor. I sang his praises often, even recently. I credit him for guiding me in the right direction for employment. I admired his empathy for others. May the many memories ease your grief. Also, may knowing your parents are reunited offer some comfort during this difficult time. God bless.* ”



Lori Miller - January 10, 2025 at 09:59 PM

DM

*I so enjoyed his classes in the 80's.
So sorry for your loss*

david mcoll - January 12, 2025 at 05:20 PM