



William "Bill" David Lockhart

June 22, 1944 - December 16, 2025

William David "Bill" Lockhart, age 81, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly on December 16, 2025. He was born on June 22, 1944, in Sault Ste. Marie to the late Mervin George and Janice Vivian (Batho) Lockhart.

Bill grew up in Pickford, Michigan, and graduated from Pickford High School. On June 22, 1968, he married the love of his life, Virginia "Ginny" Splan, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Barbeau, Michigan. Together, they shared over fifty-seven years of marriage, building a life deeply rooted in family.

A veteran of the United States Army, Bill served during the Vietnam War before earning his bachelor's degree in mathematics education. He dedicated the majority of his career to the Sault Area Public Schools, where he influenced countless lives as both a teacher and a coach.

Bill never met a stranger; he had a rare gift for making anyone feel like an old friend within minutes. While he was a dedicated educator, he was defined most by his role as a loving family man and a selfless neighbor. Whether he was coaching youth sports, lending a hand over a backyard fence, or quietly plowing a neighbor's driveway, Bill's kindness was always in motion. In his quieter moments, he found peace hunting in the great outdoors or channeling his patience into woodworking, often gifting his handcrafted creations to loved

ones.

Bill is survived by his devoted wife, Virginia “Ginny” Lockhart; his son, Matthew (Jamie) Lockhart of Iron Mountain, Michigan; his cherished grandsons, Jake Lockhart and Luke Lockhart; sisters-in-law, Nancy Lockhart of Pickford and Sharon Splan of Macomb, Michigan; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; his mother-in-law, Margaret Henderson; brother, Mervin James “Jim” Lockhart; sister and brother-in-law, Judith (Frank) Nixon; brothers-in-law, George Splan, Fred Splan, and Dan Splan; and his niece, Shelly Lockhart.

Family and friends are invited to attend a brief tribute on June 6, 2026, at 12:00 Noon, with a luncheon to follow at Bruce Township Hall, 3156 E. 12 Mile Rd., Dafter, MI 49724.

In accordance with Bill’s wishes, cremation has taken place.

Bill will be remembered for his unwavering devotion to his family, friends, and neighbors. Of course, no memory of Bill would be complete without mentioning his legendary sweet tooth and his lifelong affinity for Snickers and Cherry Coke.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Upcoming Events

Memorial Gathering

JUN 6. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Bruce Township Hall
3156 E. 12 Mile Road,
Dafer, MI 49724
<https://www.bruce township.net/>

Tribute Wall

JG

“*Mr. Lockhart helped fuel my enthusiasm for mathematics. I went on to study calculus and differential equations throughout my college studies and then used and taught math to students in my career as an engineering professor. I thought of him often throughout my career. He struck the right chord with me by making math challenging and exciting to solve problems, including geometry, trigonometry, and even proofs. I doubt my students appreciated the topics as much as we appreciated his teaching, but they did recognize that I was always very enthusiastic to share with them what I thought they should know. I think that enthusiasm for knowing and learning and teaching is what rubbed off on me from him. I remember, too, when I am grouse hunting, a story he told of taking his wife (maybe fiancée at the time) grouse hunting and how he yelled at her when she touched his arm only to flush a grouse. He thought she was getting cozy and he wanted to stay focused, when she was only pointing out where the grouse was.*”

John Gierke - December 23, 2025 at 03:39 PM

JM

“*Talking track in the copy room. He had so much knowledge and he loved to share his insight with younger coaches (I know, hard to believe I was a younger coach once). Got so many great ideas from him from racing to training to team management. Great guy and a wonderful sense of humor. He will be missed.*”

Jim Martin - December 23, 2025 at 03:26 PM

JS

“ So grateful that I ran into “Mr. Lockhart” last summer while in the Sault.
Nearly every morning, for two years, he’d pull up out front of my house, in his green pickup, and we’d ride to school. One of the rare people who had time for everyone. Had the gift to make learning a collaborative effort.
Heartfelt condolences to Ginny and Matt.
I bet he was the greatest grandpa in the world.

Joe Shawhan - December 22, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William "Bill" David Lockhart.



December 22, 2025 at 03:28 PM

TM

“ Tom and Shari Myrick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" David Lockhart.

Tom and Shari Myrick - December 22, 2025 at 03:28 PM

JP

“ So sorry to hear of Bill’s passing. He was my freshman basketball coach and my geometry teacher. I saw him often in the local lumberyard and we would chat every time. I was talking with him not long ago thanking him for teaching geometry. I told him at the time I thought to myself when am I ever going to use geometry later on in life. Then I became a general contractor and I’ve been using it for 42 years. RIP Coach ❤️🙏❤️

Jeff Paquette - December 20, 2025 at 08:22 AM

JH

“ Like many I was fortunate enough to have Mr. Lockhart for Geometry, I may have been one of his least capable students...BUT that being said he was a TRUE EDUCATOR. To this day I remember his words. IF I'm teaching something and you don't understand it let me know and I'll try another way...and if that doesn't work we'll try again. Truly, an educator and truly inspirational. His compassion, caring, and gifts will be missed. RIP, Jennifer Hinde

Jennifer Hinde - December 19, 2025 at 09:03 PM

JO

“ Mr. Lockhart was my high school track and cross-country coach - he was the best. I often think of him when I see a deer on the side of road, and I yell out "deer". My family looks at me strange and I say, "that was for Mr. Lockhart!". Have also repeated to the kids I coach the wisdom he passed on to me - "they put their pants on the same way you do!" Once a few girls and I road to a track meet in Clare, Michigan with Mr. Lockhart. We listened to music and sang the entire way. Recall there being a turkey on the side of the road and you would have thought it was a unicorn the way Mr. Lockhart reacted. Although I have not seen him in some time, I will always remember him fondly, all that he taught me and the good times had.
Joanna Gregory Novak

Joanna - December 19, 2025 at 05:26 PM

JO

coach not couch

Joanna - December 19, 2025 at 05:28 PM

DG

“ Mr Lockhart had a big heart for his students. He made learning fun and memorable. May he rest eternally in the arms of Jesus.

Dawn Garlinghouse - December 19, 2025 at 05:02 PM

AP

“ *Mr. Lockhart made me excited to learn algebra. At the time, I did not feel I belong in high school and felt strong racial discrimination. Mr. Lockhart, however, saw potential in me. I got an A in his class which surprised me as I got only Ds and Es up to that point. I was proud years later to tell him I taught statistics at the college level and got a research and statistics class passed through the college curriculum. He was such a good teacher that he turned me from hating math and school to realizing my potential.*

Aaron Payment - December 19, 2025 at 04:59 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" David Lockhart.*



December 19, 2025 at 04:43 PM

YF

“ *Your Edward Jones Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" David Lockhart.*



Your Edward Jones Family - December 19, 2025 at 04:33 PM

JO

“ *Mr. Lockhart was a great guy, I've told people many times in the last 52 years (10th grade) that he taught me more in math then I learned in 8 yrs of grade school, God Bless You Bill.*

Jolene - December 19, 2025 at 03:56 PM

CR

“ So sorry to hear about Mr. Lockhart’s passing. He was such a kind man and could strike up a conversation with anyone. I hope the many memories will give you some comfort. My sincere condolences.

Carrie Rogers - December 19, 2025 at 01:55 PM



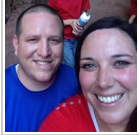
“ It is an understatement to say that Bill Lockhart was a wonderful man. He was extraordinarily kind and helpful to everyone he met and, as mentioned in the obituary, he had the amazing gift of making you immediately feel like a long time friend. Among his many attributes, there are countless stories from students over the years whom he patiently helped to succeed in mathematics. A true hero in many respects, his legacy of kindness, generosity and inclusiveness will live on in the family, friends, students and community that he cherished.

Cheryl Humbarger - December 19, 2025 at 12:52 PM

CC

“ Bill, "Mr. Lockhart", was a fantastic teacher. Through the subject of Geometry, he enhanced my love of mathematics. He was so kind, enthusiastic and entertaining. I am very sorry to see him go, and very sorry for your loss. Love, Collette Coullard

Collette Coullard - December 19, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“ *Bill was more than a neighbor—he was like family. He was often seen around the neighborhood, clearing snow or lending a hand wherever it was needed. I’ll never forget one winter morning when we asked our son to shovel the driveway. Before he even made it outside, Bill had already finished the job. Our son’s reaction said it all—he started singing “There Goes My Hero” by the Foo Fighters, and that moment truly captured who Bill was to all of us. Whether he was working alongside us in the yard or helping us build our chicken coop, Bill was always there—steady, kind, and willing to lend his time and strength. He never missed a chance to help others. His kindness, generosity, and quiet heroism made our community a better place. His passing leaves a great void in our hearts, but his example will continue to inspire us. Thank you, Bill, for being such a beautiful presence in our lives. We will all strive to live with the same spirit you showed every day.*

Love, The Niebuhr Family

Carrie Niebuhr - December 19, 2025 at 11:11 AM

RF

“ *Rob Hall & Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of William "Bill" David Lockhart.*



Rob Hall & Family - December 19, 2025 at 11:03 AM

JC

“ I was never good at math, still scares me. Mr. Lockhart made math fun and I was able to get straight A's in his class my senior year. I was the only senior in that class(I think). My grade point was suffering and his kindness and patience made all the difference. Thank you Mr. Lockhart. Many prayers and love to your family 🙏

Jennifer Corbiere - December 19, 2025 at 10:53 AM

DG

“ So sorry for your loss. He was always one of my favorite teachers, one you never forget. ❤️💔

Diana Gunckel - December 19, 2025 at 10:31 AM