



## William Jay Kemppainen

March 16, 1937 - July 17, 2018

William Jay Kemppainen, of Drummond Island, Michigan, died on July 17, 2018 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He was born on March 16, 1937 in Sault Ste. Marie, to William G. Kemppainen and Eili Koski.

Bill grew up on Drummond Island and was raised by his father, Bill Kemppainen and stepmother Edna “Peg” Thompson.

Bill graduated from Sault Area High School. He moved to Detroit, Michigan before joining the United States Marines in 1956. After 3 years of military service, he returned to Drummond Island. He then moved to California and started working for John Hancock as an insurance salesman. In 1970, Bill moved back to Drummond Island and began working at the Drummond Island Ferry. He also worked for the Drummond Island Quarry and Northwood Bar & Restaurant. Bill was forced to retire due to illness in 1993.

Bill was a member of the Drummond Island Snowmobile Club and a charter member of the Lions Club.

Bill enjoyed snowmobiling, telling jokes, and playing pinochle with his buddies. He was also an avid Detroit Tigers fan. He loved it so much he even tried out for the Tigers as a pitcher.

Bill is survived by his sons, Allan and Craig Kemppainen both of San Bernardino, California; grandchildren, Hailey and Jack Kemppainen; brothers Marshall (Jolene) Kemppainen and Steve (Karen) Kemppainen both of Drummond Island; and many nieces and nephews; and good friends, Paul Seppala, Joe Hartman, and Bob Bennett

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, William and Eili; stepmother, Edna Kemppainen; and grandparents, Joseph and Hilma Kemppainen.

Per Bill's wishes no services are planned.

Interment will be at Drummond Island Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Drummond Island Ambulance, P.O. Box 255, Drummond Island, MI 49726.

R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Michigan is serving the family.  
Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *William Jay Kemppainen*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *William Jay Kemppainen*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *William Jay Kemppainen*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Bill(y) Kemppainen was my first cousin, being one of two sons born to my Aunt Aili Koski. The first son, was my older brother William Maynard, who was adopted by my parents, John and Marie Koski.. When Bill's dad entered the military, Billy lived with my parents during those years until his father returned to Drummond Island. I have many memories of my cousin and my brother who were actually half-brothers genetically. Prior to Maynard's untimely death at age 54, he was able to visit Billy on the Island. My husband and I were happy to visit Billy in his DI home. Although his vision was greatly impacted by macular degeneration, he recognized my voice and we shared many wonderful memories of times past. I am sorry to learn of his passing, and I regret not following my slowness in trying to contact him by phone in more recent years. The photo certainly captures the cousin I cherished over all the years of my life. Elaine Koski Stoddard*

**Elaine Stoddard** - November 23, 2018 at 01:13 PM

HF

“ So sorry to hear or your loss, cherish the memories you hold near and dear in your heart! Much love, the Fountain family.

Hilary Fountain - July 24, 2018 at 06:47 AM

DM

“ Marshall and Jolene,

Sorry to hear of Bills passing. He was a nice fellow. I always liked to talk baseball with him. Condolences to Steve and Karen also.

Dave Miller

David F. Miller - July 22, 2018 at 12:29 PM

JD

“ Joni And Bryan Davis lit a candle in memory of William Jay Kempainen



Joni And Bryan Davis - July 22, 2018 at 09:00 AM

JD

Bill was such a great person, he will be missed. Prayers to the family

Joni And Bryan Davis - July 22, 2018 at 09:03 AM

EI

“ Edward Gratowski li lit a candle in memory of William Jay Kempainen



Edward Gratowski li - July 21, 2018 at 10:10 PM

RB

“ *Rebecca Boehm-Sergent lit a candle in memory of William Jay Kemppainen*



Rebecca Boehm-Sergent - July 21, 2018 at 06:11 PM

SS

“ *You are all in my thoughts and prayers, I used to love talking with Billy he was always very kind to everyone.  
God Bless  
Sharon Sadegh*

sharon sadegh - July 20, 2018 at 10:59 PM

Jackie  
Gable  
Chrzan

“ *Jackie Gable Chrzan lit a candle in memory of William Jay Kemppainen*



Jackie Gable Chrzan - July 19, 2018 at 06:30 PM

M&

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Bills whole family. We hope it helps in some small way and brings comfort to you all to know Bill is now at peace and pain free. You are in our thoughts and prayers  
Mike & Diane*

M&D - July 19, 2018 at 04:38 PM

MK

“ You won't have to walk to Muggy's apt. any more Billy!! She's right there with you and you can SEE her. No more blindness or pain..  
Rest in peace Brother Bill.

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**Marshall & Jolene Kemppainen** - July 19, 2018 at 04:09 PM



Jackie  
Gable

So true!

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**Jackie Gable Chrzan** - July 19, 2018 at 11:09 PM

BM

Our sympathies to the entire family~ May he be at peace~

Bill & Amy Moser

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**Bill & Amy Moser** - July 20, 2018 at 09:55 PM



Such a sweet man, lots of good memories of him and Junior when I managed the apartments. He will surely be missed! RIP Billy!

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**Sue Gibbons** - July 20, 2018 at 10:44 PM