



Michael A. French

April 21, 1946 - December 4, 2013

French, Michael A.,
Drummond Island, MI

Michael Andrew French passed away with his family at his side on Wednesday, December 4, 2013, in Petoskey, MI. Age 67 years. Michael was born on April 21, 1946, in Saginaw, Michigan to the late Andrew and Leona (Zorn) French. He was married to Sandra D. Gay on August 27, 1966. She survives him. Michael graduated from Ferris State University and was employed by Delphi for 43 years, retiring as a machinist (tool & die). He enjoyed his retirement with Sandra on Drummond Island picking pudding stones, fishing, hunting, riding his motorcycle, visiting friends, and spending time with his family.

Surviving besides his wife are three sons, one daughter and their spouses, Jon (Margaret) French, David (Amanda) French, Dan (Stephanie) French, Patti (Eric) Stewart; eight grandchildren, Sierra and Claire (French), Cameron & Coryn (French), Eva and Oliver (Stewart), Andrew and Michael (French); one brother, Rudy Joyce; and several nieces and nephews.

Michael's memorial service will take place 10:00am, Thursday, December 12, 2013, at the Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc., 1218 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw. The Rev. Paul R. Hinz will officiate with a private family inurnment in

Roselawn Memorial Gardens. Friends are welcome to visit with the family at the Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc., on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, from 7:00 – 8:30pm, and then on Thursday from 9:30am until the time of service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given in Michael's honor to the Drummond Island Food Bank, Drummond Island, MI 49726 (906) 493-6430, Alaska's Healing Hearts (alaskashealinghearts.com) or the Wounded Warriors In Action Foundation (wwiaf.org). Memories and sympathies of Michael may be shared with the family on his memorial website at WakemanFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memorial Gardens

950 N. Center Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48638

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc.
1218 N. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-8531
wakemanfh@charter.net

Visitation

DEC 11. 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc.
1218 N. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-8531
wakemanfh@charter.net

Visitation

DEC 12. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc.
1218 N. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-8531
wakemanfh@charter.net

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael A. French*

September 13, 2022 at 05:01 PM



“ *Michael A. French*

September 13, 2022 at 02:27 PM



“ *We were so blessed to grow up in a family that included our extended aunts, uncles and cousins. Every summer we would pile into our family station wagon and we couldn't wait to get to Michigan to see our grandparents and aunts, uncles and cousins. There are too many special memories of those times to count....swimming at Uncle Mike and Aunt Sandy's house, watching him on the tractor coming in from the fields, the huge ditch of cat tails at the end of the driveway of their house (it's funny what you remember :)). But the most important memory to me is a more recent one....of Uncle Mike and Aunt Sandy driving many, many hours through bad weather in February to come to our Mom's funeral. It really meant the world to have the support of family there. I so wish I could have come to his memorial to give back the same support in kind. I hope you know that you are all in our prayers and that Mike I'm sure is so proud of the legacy he's leaving behind in his family. I think it's about time for another Gay Family reunion!*

Sherri Infranco - December 13, 2013 at 02:33 PM

RK

“ Growing up, my mom, dad, sisters and I would vacation from PA out to Michigan pretty much every summer to visit relatives. This always included spending some time at Uncle Mike and Aunt Sandy's house. One such visit I remember Uncle Mike took me and my sisters, along with Jon and Patti I believe, out in his boat perch fishing. I remember him showing me how to bait the multiple hooks on the line, and thinking it strange that he thought we would catch more than a single fish at once! Well we brought back what seemed like a hundred fish from that trip, and he showed us how to quickly scale and clean them. The fish fry we had for dinner that evening was delicious and the memory of it has stuck with me ever since.

Thanks Uncle Mike for the great memories.

Rick Komerska - December 13, 2013 at 12:34 PM

DB

“ My husband Shannon and I met Mike & Sandy in 2006 when we moved to Tourist Rd. My parents got to meet Mike through mine & Shannon's relationship with Mike & Sandy. We all thought the world of Mike & he demonstrated his unselfish kindness and giving spirit when my father passed away 3 years ago. Mike made the impossible possible for my mom & I during that time. My heart is heavy tonight after hearing of Mikes passing. He was a gentle caring man, a true angel. Sandy, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time. Heaven became a grander place upon Mikes arrival. Debbie Baareman

Debbie Baareman - December 11, 2013 at 10:44 PM

RS

“ I met Mike in high school but we became closer friends in college FSU. We had some great times trying to build a race car that would run. Lots of good memories. Bob Sumera Henderson NV.

Robert Sumera - December 11, 2013 at 08:54 PM

JW

“ I worked with Mike at Steering Gear and everyday with Mike was a gift. He was always kind and generous. He was such a hard worker and dear friend. He would always take time to share stories about his family, his love for up north, fishing, and boating. He loved his family and made sure they were his number one priority. Mike will be missed, but always remembered as my friend.

Jeff Weslock

Jeff and Angie Weslock - December 11, 2013 at 06:33 PM

MF

“ Pops asked me to take a ride with him in the jeep, to 'check some fields' on the farm one day. We had a good talk, he asked me to be patient with Jon. Jon and I were dating at the time, but it wasn't going very well. He said he made Jon promise that he'd travel and finish college before getting serious with a girl. He told me that he & Sandy really liked me and they'd like to see me stick around...maybe it was just the biscuits and gravy I'd bring him after my shift at Bob Evans... it's 20 years later and we're still together with 2 beautiful boys, I'm glad I stuck around :). Pops was able to meet, hold, and play with both Andy and Mike, memories we will always cherish. Thanks Pops!

Margaret French - December 11, 2013 at 03:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Michael A. French.



December 11, 2013 at 03:10 PM

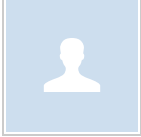
“ From the position of being the youngest in our family I had a unique point of view of Sandy, my sister who was a few years older and next up the chain of our family of four kids. I recall the first time that Mike met my dad, who like most German father's of the day, had strict rules and a formable manor about which any suitor was required to pass inspection before allowing to date his pride and joy little girl. Mike was well prepared to make that first meeting by undergoing "Sandy coaching". But still, Mike had other strategic plans of his own. He came to the door, well dressed except for wearing a pair of seen better days tennis shoes. Nervous as all heck, Mike met my dad and passed the muster. As they left the house you could hear Sandy drilling him with "What were you thinking and why are you wearing beat up tennis shoes?" Mike replied, "Well, if your dad did not like me, I figured I had better have some fast shoes on to outrun him!" I think the first present my mom ever bought for him was a new clean pair of tennis shoes!

Mike was always generous and good to me. He always seemed to have some pretty fine "fast wheels" that he used to pull up with when he would pick up my sister for a date. He loved fast cars with Hurst shifters. Once when I wanted to go on a date with this girl I really wanted to impress, he said "Hey, you can borrow my car if you want..." OK, to a 17 year old who wants to impress a girl the choice was use my mom's Corvair (0 to 60, in four days) or Mike's Pontiac GTO... which would you choose! The problem was I had so much fun driving Mike's car I guess I forgot about paying attention to my date!

I could go on for quite some time about stories about Mike and Sandy in the early years. Seems like yesterday sometimes. But I know with every passing year, Mike retained the same wonderful characteristics of loving my sister and the kids and balancing life with off the chart adventures. He will continue to be missed, but I do not think he would like us to dwell on that. Rather, I think the next time something triggers a "Mike remembrance", smile and look up... you just might hear his unique chuckle and see him smiling back at

you! Peace and love to you Mike... Howard Paul Gay

Paul Gay - December 10, 2013 at 11:37 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael A. French.*



December 10, 2013 at 09:44 AM



“ *Uncle Mike, You will be missed! I will never forget your big goofy smile!*

Phil and Chris always loved your secret trapping location (hints) that you gave them. Thanks so much!

*Sending your whole family our deepest sympathy.
Love Sue Phil Chris and Ashley*

susan morrow - December 10, 2013 at 09:22 AM

JF

“ Alright, Mike French memory for this morning...my dad would take my sister and I salmon fishing up north when we were little. Salmon fishing was always in November. My sister and I would gather ALL our Halloween candy and separate all the "good" candy (chocolate candy bars of any kind) out, put them in a box decorated with Halloween stickers all over it. We saved this box of good candy for fishing with Dad. My folks had a Pontiac J2000 station wagon (like a miniature station wagon) that my Dad would put down all the seats in the back and make a bed for my sister and I. He worked 2nd shift at Delphi at the time. When he came home from work at 0100 in the morning, he'd grab something to eat, us kids would get up and go crawl into our sleeping bags in the bed he made for us in the back of the car. My sister and I fought for about 2 fishing seasons because when we woke up in the morning -nearly all of the good candy was gone (each thinking the other ate it over night). Well that one trip, I had awoke half-way up to Dad's secret fishing hole, looked up in the front to find my Dad dipping into the secret stash of candy...and a seat full of empty candy wrappers. I woke my sister and when we asked him about it, he said he was hungry and using it to stay awake.

My father and mother took us all over fishing, hunting and camping.....Thanks Mom & Pops for passing on the love of the outdoors.

Jon

Jon French - December 10, 2013 at 08:47 AM

DF

“ When I was 13, Dad took me ice fishing. We tried over on Crane Road and found out the water had flowed out so we went up towards Pigeon. We loaded up with our gear and started walking out. About a mile from shore, we cut a whole behind a shanty and I fished. About 5 minutes later, I had a 3 inch perch. Dad said if I caught another one he would start fishing. Five minutes later, we decided it was too cold and packed up and headed for the truck. The wind was blowing so hard we both fell. Dad caught the fishing gear blowing on the ice, but we finally got to the truck. We went into Pigeon at an IGA, and bought a pound of broasted chicken and potato wedges and went home. Thanks Dad for many treasured memories. Love you-- Dan

Dan French - December 10, 2013 at 07:51 AM

SF

“ 51 years ago a skinny good looking guy ask me out on my first date. Later I found out I was his first date also. We were truly high school sweethearts! We had many many good years together! We were married for 5 years when our daughter Patti was born. Now we have a beautiful daughter with a Phd from MSU. Patti has 4 beautiful kids and a great husband. Then there came #2 child 2years 4 months later. Jon! Our boy! He has his masters in civil engineering from Mich. Tech and belongs to the National Guard has been to Afghan and has a loving wife and 2 great boys We thought we were through but 5 years later came our surprise-David and our shocker Dan. David has a masters degree from U of M and is married and has a girl and a boy and is happily living back in Michigan. Dan has a bachelor degree from Western Michigan. He and his wife Steph live in Phoenix with Dan's guide dog Anika. Honey, you worked hard all your life supplying love and support to me and your kids! Our kids are a true testimony to our love and devotion to each other. I will always love you honey and cherish the years of happines we had together!

Sandy French - December 09, 2013 at 07:07 PM

JS

“ *RIP Mike..When you became a friend of Mike's, it was forever. Sending Sympathy to Sandy and family.*
Jim Schrank

James Schrank - December 09, 2013 at 06:50 PM

JF

“ *When I was 3 years old I was sitting at the end of kitchen table eating Kellog's corn flakes. My dad walked in the doorway, put his wallet, change and lunch box on the counter and was talking to my mom near the sink. My mom said, "Sure. I don't know. Ask him". My dad came over and asked, " Hey, do you want to play ice hockey?". I said, "Sure". And he told me about some guys at work (Jim Shrank and Joe Schram) that also owned "The Hockey Shop" at the Verbeeke Ice Arena and how they'd help me with finding hockey equipment. He was just as excited as I was...all the incredible people and friends we met/made; all the lessons and all the fun our entire had -all through hockey and his one simple question, "Do you want to play ice hockey"?... Love you Dad and thanks. Jon*

Jon French - December 09, 2013 at 03:13 PM

JS

What great memories, Jon ...So sorry to hear about your dad.
Jim Schrank

James Schrank - December 09, 2013 at 07:10 PM

DS

Jon, You and your family have our deepest sympathy. We are sorry for your loss. Your dad was a very giving man. We were blessed to meet through hockey. He was a friend indeed. We are happy we got to meet up again in the Soo last year. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Rick and Donna Simerson

Donna Simerson - December 12, 2013 at 07:22 AM

PS

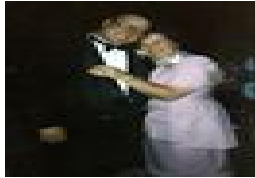
“ 3 files added to the album Photos of Mike



Patti Stewart - December 09, 2013 at 12:42 PM

PS

“ 1 file added to the album Photos of Mike



Patti Stewart - December 09, 2013 at 12:37 PM

SA

Look at the fingernails on that lady and the tan line on the wrist---must have been a summer wedding! MOM

Sandy - December 10, 2013 at 05:34 PM

MM

“ I am sorry to hear about the loss of your dearest Michael. My family and I wanted to send our deepest sympathy. Our family recently lost two of our dear friends. I wanted share a comforting thought from God's Word at Isaiah 25:8. I hope that your family finds this text comforting as it did me and my family.

Matthew Murray - December 09, 2013 at 11:47 AM

PH

“ *I want to send sympathy to your family for your loss. I want to share a promise from the bible that has helped us. It is from Revelation 21:3-5. I hope this helps.*

Phyllis Hamilton - December 09, 2013 at 08:15 AM