



## Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila

July 22, 1943 - April 11, 2021

Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila age 77 of Keweenaw Bay, MI passed away April 11, 2021 at his home with his loving family by his side, following a short illness with cancer. He was born on the Askel Hill on July 22, 1943, the son of the late Ed and Mae (Heikkinen) Laitila. Wes attended the Doelle School in Tapiola and left after the ninth grade to seek employment. Wes served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged following 2 years of service. He married the former Susan "Sue" Weideman in Elo, MI on July 12, 1969. The two of them met on a blind date, were married shortly thereafter and had been married for 51 years. Wes was employed at the former Celotex Corporation for 40 years, retiring on January 11, 2008. Following his retirement, Wes spent a good portion of his time helping his daughters with projects and anything needing repair. They were the light of his life and he was there for them always. His love for animals in the wild, and tame, was evident in his daily assistance in caring for both of his daughter's multiple pets every day. He kept busy with the little jobs he needed to do for them daily, and enjoyed being helpful to them all. Wes was a member of Chassell VFW Post #6507. He was known for having a bit of a "wild streak" and full of shenanigans in his earlier years, but deep down was a kind and gentle soul that was always willing to help anyone out, and touched the hearts of so many. He was known for his hunting and fishing abilities, and taught others his skillful techniques. Wes was well known for making some of the best smoked fish and venison in the area. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing, planting his vegetable garden and berries every summer, working out in the yard every day, feeding the wildlife in his yard, and spending time and having lots of laughter with his family. He was a loyal fan of the Detroit Lions, Redwings and Tigers, and also had a deep passion for music.

Wes is survived by his loving wife Sue of Keweenaw Bay, daughters Angel Wadaga (fiancé Jim Bianco) of Baraga, and Sarah Laitila of Keweenaw Bay sisters Shirley Schuman of Brighton, MI and Lori (Jim) Stingle of Tapiola, brothers, Edsel Laitila of Elo, David Laitila (Diana Pirkola) of L'Anse and Roger Laitila of Askel, sisters-in-law Joan Laitila and Peggy Laitila both of Keweenaw Bay, and numerous nieces and nephews and cousins including his special cousin Raymond "Tuffy" (Kathy) Laitila of Elo. He is also

survived by grandchildren in his heart; Isaac, Genevieve, and Rachel Bianco and Savannah Stepan and his sweet little dog Lucy, that he adored. The two of them were inseparable. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Bob, Howard, Donnie and infant brother Roland, his sister Joyce and his very special son-in-law Brian Wadaga.

Funeral services for Wes will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at the Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L'Anse with Pastor John Ansell officiating. The family will greet friends at the funeral home on Saturday from 1 p.m. until the time of the funeral service. Chassell VFW Post #6507 will conduct military honors at 2:30 p.m. Interment will take place in the Keweenaw Bay Cemetery.

Wesley's obituary may also be viewed and condolences sent to the family at [www.reidfuneralservicechapel.com](http://www.reidfuneralservicechapel.com)

The Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L'Anse has been entrusted with the funeral arrangements.

# Cemetery

## Keweenaw Bay Cemetery

Keweenaw Bay, MI, 49908

# Events

- APR 17

Visitation01:00PM - 03:00PM

Reid Funeral Service and Chapel  
18240 US 41, L'Anse, MI, US, 49946
- APR 17

Military Honors02:30PM - 03:00PM

Reid Funeral Service and Chapel  
18240 US 41, L'Anse, MI, US, 49946
- APR 17

Funeral Service03:00PM

Reid Funeral Service and Chapel  
18240 US 41, L'Anse, MI, US, 49946

# Comments

---



“ A tribute video has been added.



**Reid Funeral Service & Chapel** - April 14, 2021 at 09:37 AM



“ Our prayers are with all of you. We will miss Wes always, but will cherish the many memories and the time we spent with him. Rest In Peace Wesley.

**Michael & Elaine Laitila** - April 14, 2021 at 07:42 PM

---



“ Laurretta Leinonen lit a candle in memory of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila



**Laurretta Leinonen** - April 19, 2021 at 06:44 PM

---



“ 13 files added to the album Memories Album



**Reid Funeral Service & Chapel** - April 17, 2021 at 03:53 PM

---



“ Wesley and his brother Howard and nephew Michael fishing on Otter Lake. Rest In Peace you will be missed.



**Michael & Elaine Laitila** - April 17, 2021 at 12:44 PM

---



“ So sorry for your families loss of Wes surround yourself s with all the wonderful memories sending hugs and prayers.



**Craig/Jackie Miller** - April 16, 2021 at 10:33 PM

---



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila.



April 16, 2021 at 03:15 PM

---



“ Sending condolences to the entire family for their loss. May the happy memories you have help you through this difficult time.

**Therese Michaels Grahek** - April 16, 2021 at 07:04 AM

---



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila.



April 15, 2021 at 06:22 PM

---



“ David And Nancy Haanpaa lit a candle in memory of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila



**David and Nancy Haanpaa** - April 15, 2021 at 04:00 PM

---



“ From Tom Shook-Wally Kania and Tommy Stebbins. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila.



**From Tom Shook-Wally Kania and Tommy Stebbins.** - April 15, 2021 at 11:27 AM

---



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila.



April 14, 2021 at 08:23 PM



“ So sorry for your loss!



**Dave and Steph Pirkola** - April 14, 2021 at 07:30 PM

---



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila.



April 14, 2021 at 03:27 PM

---



“ Courtney Robillard lit a candle in memory of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila



**Courtney Robillard** - April 14, 2021 at 01:06 PM

---



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Wesley's family and friends . He will be missed greatly .

**Daniel Saari** - April 14, 2021 at 09:33 AM

---



“ Sue and Family, thoughts and prayers your way with the passing of Wes.



**Rick Bleile** - April 14, 2021 at 08:34 AM

---



“ Robert Fredrickson lit a candle in memory of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila



**Robert Fredrickson** - April 13, 2021 at 11:29 PM

---



“ Our Sympathy on your loss. May his soul rest in Peace. May his family find Peace in the many memories that you all share of your family time together. He will be with you always in your hearts & your Memories. God Bless You All.



**Mike & Pat Gauthier** - April 13, 2021 at 09:10 PM

---





“ Kim Cole lit a candle in memory of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila



**Kim Cole** - April 13, 2021 at 06:51 PM

---



“ Linda Taipalus lit a candle in memory of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila



**Linda Taipalus** - April 13, 2021 at 06:29 PM

---



“ Vicki Martinac lit a candle in memory of Wesley J. "Wes" Laitila



**Vicki Martinac** - April 13, 2021 at 05:49 PM

---



“ Uncle Wes had the biggest heart and the gentlest soul of anyone I knew. He always had a smile on his face and you could feel the love in his heart. My sincere condolences to Auntie Susie, Angel and Sara. May your cherished memories carry you through your days and know that he will always be with you.

All my love and prayers,  
Tammi, Dennis & Courtney



**Tammi Stapleton** - April 13, 2021 at 10:51 AM

---



“ Such a good man.

**Roger Brodbeck** - April 13, 2021 at 10:47 AM

---



“ Wes was such a kind and gentle man. A true friend to all who knew him. Our hearts are heavy to learn of his passing. Our deepest sympathy to the family.  
Jan (Laitila) and Ken Larson

**Janice Larson** - April 12, 2021 at 08:22 PM

---



“ So sorry for your loss. Wes was such a gentle soul and great man. My deepest condolences for your loss.



**Cheryl Anderson** - April 12, 2021 at 03:33 PM



“ Sorry for your loss. He was a great friend,,He'll be deeply missed.

**annmarie miler** - April 13, 2021 at 07:29 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to Wes's family and friends. God bless!

**Della** - April 14, 2021 at 06:57 AM