



## William Lenard Sylvester

January 6, 1985 - February 20, 2025

William Lenard Sylvester – February 20, 2025 age 40 of Petoskey.

Beloved son of Donald and Anna Sylvester. Loving brother of Denise Sylvester, and Richard (Shelby) Sylvester. Dear uncle of Graham and Baylor Sylvester. Cherished grandson of Alice Vargas. Dear nephew of Betty (the late Gary) Gray, Bob (Cindy) Gray, Gail (Alan) Jadczyk, Glen (Paula) Gray, Anita (Dennis) Wright, Paula Szelag, and Garret (Angie) Marshall. Also survived by many loving cousins, family, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, March 16th from 11 AM to 4 PM at the AuSable River Center, 211 North Main Street, Roscommon, MI 48653.

Arrangements entrusted to Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, Plymouth.

Contributions may be given in Will's

memory to support the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve General Fund of the Roscommon County Community Foundation. Checks made payable to: RCCF, with the name Gahagan on the memo line, can be sent to: RCCF, P.O. Box 824, Roscommon, MI 48653, or gifts can be made online at [www.myrcf.org](http://www.myrcf.org).

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 16. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

AuSable River Center  
211 North Main Street  
Roscommon, MI 48653

# Tribute Wall

KA

“ William was my inspector for MDARD for many years.He was a very kind person and very knowledgeable. we often talk about the outdoors and hiking and biking up in the Houghton area of the Upper Peninsula. He was a good friend of mine and will be greatly missed.

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**Kirk Atanasoff** - April 25, 2025 at 12:25 PM

NK

“ Will was a one of a kind neighbor, perhaps the best possible outcome of getting a new neighbor. In his home lived my great Aunt and Uncle for my entire life, and when they moved out we weren't sure if we were going to get a pesky neighbor or not. When Will moved in, it was an immediate sigh of relief. The kindest, most gentle guy you could ever meet, that always waved and came over to say hi whenever he saw you outside. We hit it off with Will so well and so fast that he became our "holiday date", spending most holidays of the last four years with us and the rest of our family since we were just steps away. Will always made it a point to let me know when he was coming up to Marquette since I went to college there, and would bring me out for lunch where we'd chat and catch up. Even after coming home from school in the off-season, he'd still offer to go and catch up over food. Will became a really special part of our family, one that we will miss for years to come. We are sending our wishes and prayers to the Sylvester family and Will's friends as we cannot make it to his service due to inclement weather. We will miss our dearest neighbor, friend, and holiday date very much.

- Jo Arman, Nalu Kipapa, Stephanie Kipapa, and Family

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**Nalu Kipapa** - March 16, 2025 at 08:31 AM

CG

“ Will and I met at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. He was my first friend on the island, and we went on many hiking, biking, and ice cream adventures. And dancing the Hokey Pokey on the back 9, to turn ourselves around. He taught me all about native plants in Michigan on our island adventures. He was an amazing human, and even better friend. I feel so lucky to have been his friend and been in his orbit. May his memory be eternal.

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**Claire Greene** - March 05, 2025 at 08:30 AM

DS

“ Will and I grew up together - he was always the kindest person I knew. We lost touch for a while after graduation. Four years ago he found me in my retail shop. We picked up our friendship like no time had passed. When I got pregnant he would visit me often and bring me treats. He would check in with me just to make sure I was ok. He was always there for me. He was one of the best people I know.

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**Debby Saksewski** - February 25, 2025 at 09:14 PM

MC

“ I enjoyed working with Will at the North Higgins Lake State Park. I had such fun planning the Fall Festival with Will. I loved that his parents came out and helped scare visitors with their elaborate setup. I really appreciated his laid back attitude; he made me laugh. Even after getting other jobs, we would still talk once in a while. I regret now that we didn't stay in touch more. I miss the sound of his voice.

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**Michelle Cilibrise** - February 24, 2025 at 07:40 PM

DN

“ At our conference a few months ago, when he saw me go into the elevator, he ran into the elevator just to say hi. He was so cute - his smile was so adorable. What a wonder special person.

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**Dianne Naggar** - February 24, 2025 at 06:41 PM

 Trudy Jackson

“ My first memory of William was when Mother Anna invited me to their home at South Higgins Lake St Park. She had been just given the Supervisory position. I do not remember why she invited me, I think she just wanted to show off Her 3 brilliant children, but that is just fine, as I later learned those 3 children genetically got their smarts from their Mother or was it their Father, I dont know that answer, just that I know William was loved. So sorry His life was taken in the beginning of His Adulthood, God please spread your Healing Love to this Family, and give a special Heaven Job to William, He was a good Son. T Jackson

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**Trudy Jackson** - February 24, 2025 at 11:49 AM

SF

“ Scott F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Lenard Sylvester.

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**Scott F.** - February 24, 2025 at 11:14 AM

VS

“ Don, Anna, Denise & Richard - sending our deepest sympathy and love at this difficult time. Vicki & Pat

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**Vicki Springstead** - February 24, 2025 at 09:02 AM

KB

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Your family is in my thoughts.



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**Kristen Bennett** - February 24, 2025 at 08:38 AM

KB

“ Kristen B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Lenard Sylvester.

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**Kristen B.** - February 24, 2025 at 08:35 AM