



# Arthur William Backstrom, Sr.

JUN 23, 1928 - FEB 17, 2008



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## Arthur William Backstrom, Sr.

JUN 23, 1928 - FEB 17, 2008

**M**r. Arthur William Backstrom, Sr., age 79, passed away early Sunday morning, February 17, 2008. Art was born in June 23, 1928 to Herbert and Dora (White) Backstrom, Sr. in Muskegon. Art was a 1946 graduate of Muskegon High School. On September 16, 1950 he married the former Myra Roberts at St. Jean's Catholic Church. She preceded him in death on October 31, 2007. He had been employed with the City of Muskegon as a building inspector for 22 years prior to his retirement in 1993. Earlier on, Art had also worked as a master bricklayer, having been past president of Bricklayers Union #5. Mr. Backstrom was a member of both the Lakeside Veterans and Muskegon Recreation Clubs; a third generation Bluffton resident, and was very proud of his Swedish Heritage. In his youth, Art was an accomplished sailor, and had also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and golfing with his sons and friends. He was an avid Muskegon Big Reds and Michigan State Spartans fan, and a member of the leather helmet gang. He was a past member of the Vikings, the Muskegon Yacht Club, The Elks, The Moose Lodge, and the Lakeside Eagles. Art was a generous man, always willing to help out a friend. He is SURVIVED by his 6 children, Arthur W. (Cynthia) Backstrom, Jr. of Muskegon, Susan (John) Racanelli of San Rafael, CA, Dianne (Terry) Ferris, Karen (Tim) Parker, Bill (Michelle Primmer) Backstrom all of Muskegon, and Michael (Lisa) Backstrom of Portland, OR; 12 grandchildren, Josef (Stacie), Kate, Ryan (Kolina), Robert and Anna Backstrom, Pierson Racanelli, Brian and Emily Ferris, Mac and Sam Parker, Gunnar and Annika Backstrom; 2 great-grandchildren, Aiden and Kingsley; 2 cousins, Robert White and Dora (White) Buck; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Herbert Edward Backstrom, and his cousin, Edward White Jr. A FUNERAL SERVICE will be held 11:00AM Friday, February 22, 2008 at The Walburn Chapel  
Sytsema Funeral Homes, Inc.



## Obituary

**Arthur William Backstrom, Sr.**

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1547 W. Sherman Blvd.

231-759-8565

with Pastors Mark and Miriam Bush officiating. VISITATION will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the funeral home. INTERMENT will be at St. Mary's Cemetery.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS may be made to The Muskegon Big Red Athletic Foundation. Share memories with the family at their On Line Guest Book at

[www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com)




## Events

**Arthur William Backstrom, Sr.**

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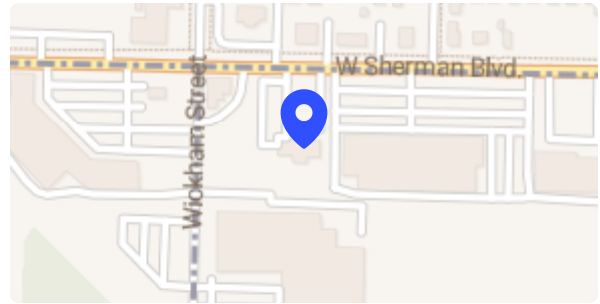
### Visitation

 **Thursday**, February 21, 2008

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Walburn Chapel**

1547 W. Sherman Blvd., Muskegon MI 49441





## Tribute Wall

**Arthur William Backstrom, Sr.**

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**Anonymous** posted:

WE ARE SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR FATHER. YOU ALL ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.##imported-begin##TOM AND ESTHER RAHRIG##imported-end##

March 6 at 10:06 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of your loss and to let you know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.Love,Dianne Rebedew##imported-begin##Dianne Rebedew##imported-end##

February 27 at 5:27 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Bill and family,I was so sorry to hear your dad passed away. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Cindy##imported-begin##Cindy Wilkinson (Vosburg)##imported-end##

February 25 at 3:58 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Art, my condolences to you and your family in this time of loss. I have great memories of you and your family growing up and will be praying for you and yours at this time.##imported-begin##Paul Garzelloni and Family##imported-end##

February 23 at 10:13 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Art & Cindy and extended families: I was sorry to hear of your loss, what a great man and a great smile your dad had. I will always remember his freindly attitude to one and all.He truely loved life. May God Bless you all during this difficult time as you proceed thru this sad greiving process.Please know my prayers are with you. I know, it is not easy to loose a parent.##imported-begin##Karen (Leonard) O'Toole##imported-end##

February 22 at 8:48 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

for my family..... uncle art was a wonderful man. he was fun, loving and a joy to be around. his passing leaves a empty place in my heart. we will all miss him alot and remember him as he was to each of us. may the lord be with all of us in life and in death. love to all. kitty keck###imported-begin###dan and kitty keck###imported-end##

February 21 at 4:36 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

From our family to yours, our prayers are with you. God Bless###imported-begin###Bob and Beth Marine###imported-end##

February 21 at 2:28 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

May your memories of him help to sustain you through this time of sorrow.My prayers are with you all.###imported-begin###Barbara Stevenson###imported-end##

February 21 at 8:54 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Our sympathy to family amd friends. I,(RED)was a classmate, teammate, friend and fellow member of the leather helmet bunch, and cannot recall any single incident of discord with this product of Lakeside. We will miss and remember him very fondly, along with legions of others.###imported-begin###Don and Mary Seifert###imported-end##

February 20 at 2:03 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

To all of AB's FamiliesYour dad was a speacial person. I remember growing up in the Bluffton Neighorhood,that going by the house that if he was outside, he would say "Hi Frazier" or How ya doing?The stories that he could tells us . Oh Boy! Our stories about AB could go on forever. And that they will. Your dad and mom are together now. Peace be with them.###imported-begin###Lou Anne Frazier-Thomas###imported-end##

February 20 at 1:28 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

To the Backstroms, Roberts, Parkers, Ferrises and everyone else who knew and loved Art Backstrom Sr., we send our heartfelt wishes of love and peace at his passing. Someone said 'The only thing you take with you when you're gone is what you leave behind'. A.B. left quite a lot to enrich this world he's now leaving... much happiness, good humor and wit, and a loving family. Even from afar, his absence will be felt and he will be missed. With loving kindness, The Racanellis San Francisco, California##imported-begin##John Racanelli##imported-end##

February 20 at 12:09 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

To all of Art's family and friends! What a loss of a beautiful person. I worked with Art briefly at fedders corp, than I joined the Muskegon Rec club through Art. What great times and much enjoyment we had there over the years. My mother Mina Koning and Big John who also worked with Art once said God should have made alot more people like Art and Myra. ( say's alot about them, "doesn't it"? I remember that statement from thirty plus years ago. May the love and peace through JESUS be with all at this time and forever. 1 Cor 3:22-23##imported-begin##Denny & Beth Hilliard and family##imported-end##

February 20 at 9:02 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

We are in FL and just got the bad news about your dad. AB was such a special friend and person, and will be surely missed. He was such a hugh Big Red supporter and fan of which we sure appreciated. We will certainly miss all of his stories, and all of his help and advise on any project we had going. He was one of a kind, and we are sure you are all proud of him. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you on Friday. Dave and Shirley Taylor##imported-begin##Dave & Shirley Taylor##imported-end##

February 20 at 8:38 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

My mom and I want to offer our condolences to the family. Art was special and he will be remembered with fondness, and greatly missed by many. Mom remembers him from school and class reunions. I think he still owes me 10 bucks from a setback game 15 years ago. Lots of fond memories with him at the Vets Club.##imported-begin##Stan Paczosa and Shirley Vasser##imported-end##

February 20 at 8:20 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

your always in ours prayers.##imported-begin##Mr. Mrs. Peter Thorsen##imported-end##

February 20 at 6:14 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. AB was a wonderful man. For as long as I can remember your parents and my parents have been friends. You all have lost alot this past year and I want to let you know that you are in my thoughts and my prayers. remember to find comfort in your memories of AB. Again, I am sorry for your loss.Love, Terri##imported-begin##Terri Messner##imported-end##

February 19 at 8:49 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

To Art, Susan, Dianne, Karen, Billy, Mikey, all the grandkids and great-grand kids and his many, many friends- may God's grace comfort you during this time of loss, but may the memory of Art brighten the days to come. Art was easy to talk too and laugh with and was a friend that could be counted on. Again, I extend all my deepest sympathies and may you be comforted in this most difficult time. Your father, grandfather and friend was a great man.Scott Wade and family##imported-begin##Scott C. Wade##imported-end##

February 19 at 6:48 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

To all the Backstroms:Please know that we are thinking of you at this most difficult time.I have nothing but very fond and "entertaining" memories of your dad. He truly was one of a kind and will be remembered as family to me.##imported-begin##Brad & Mary Wade & Family##imported-end##

February 19 at 3:17 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Art & Family We wish you well in your time of grief. You have a great talent, passed on from your father. We have a great chimney, from a great young man.##imported-begin##Gene & Barbara Greenwood##imported-end##

February 19 at 2:54 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Arthur William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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