



Neil Eklund

JUL 16, 1959 - OCT 10, 2021



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Neil Eklund

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Neil Eklund, age 62, passed away Sunday October 10th, 2021 at 11:11am surrounded by his wife and children. Neil was a lover of life and lived each day to be the best husband and father he could be. Neil was born in Muskegon, Michigan and when he was a preschooler he moved to California with his family. Neil spent his youth between California and Washington, returning to Muskegon after his career in the military as a United States Marine. Neil was best known for his great story telling, being an avid fisherman and hunter, a fixer of everything, and always ready to lend a helping hand. Neil was the business owner of Eklund Outback Express LLC, was an astounding mechanic, and then ended his career as a truck driver at Haggerty Logistics Inc in 2020. Neil's passion of life was defined by his love for his family. One of his proudest moments was getting all his kids a bow to join him for family hunting trips. Neil will always be remembered as a man of grit and tenacity. He was smart and witty, and above all else: a man who loved his whole family unconditionally. Neil is survived by his; wife Patricia Eklund. His children Tonya Smith-Bloom (Eddie Bloom), Laurie Smeltz, Joshua Thomas (Patty Thomas), Meghan Thomas, Dean Barrow, Noelle Eklund, and Joel Eklund. His many grandchildren; Christian, Jerod, Jordan, Alyssa, Mackenzie, Junior, Ava, Jeremiah, Marianna, Kadin, Serene, Savannah, Javier, and Ezekiel. His great grandchild Cyrus, sister Sharon Grosclaude, and lifelong best friend Mark Dewitt. Lastly, Neil's fur babies that he couldn't go a day without; Iris and Nova. Neil was preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Maxine Eklund, brother Noel Eklund, sister Sue Wolcott; and beloved grandchildren Serenity Meinders and Nicholas Woolman. SERVICES for Neil will be held 1:00 PM Friday, October 15, 2021 at The Sytsema Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, 737 Apple Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442 (231) 726-5210. VISITATION with the family will be from 5-8 PM Thursday, October 14, 2021. Burial will take place in Egelston Twp. Cemetery. MEMORIALS to the family



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will be appreciated. Share memories with the family at their online Guest Book at www.sytsemafh.com



Events


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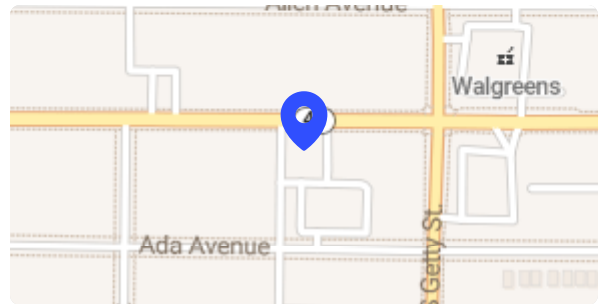
Visitation

 **Thursday**, October 14, 2021

 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

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

737 E. Apple Ave., Muskegon MI 49442



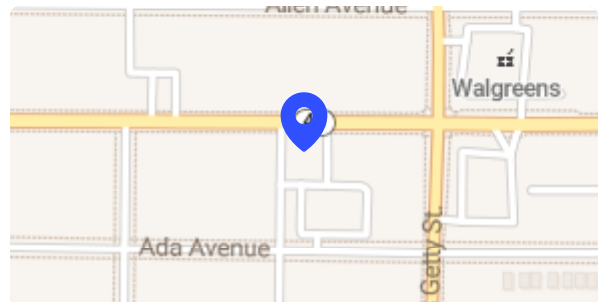
Funeral

 **Friday**, October 15, 2021

 1:00 PM ET

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

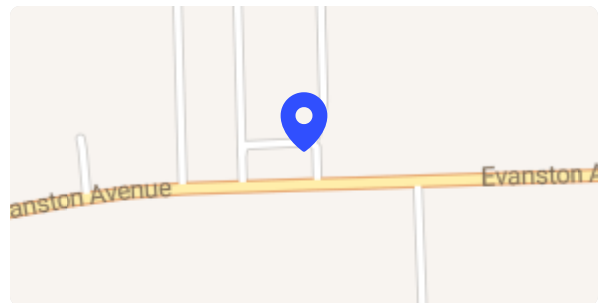
737 E. Apple Ave., Muskegon MI 49442



Cemetery Details

 **Egelston Township Cemetery**

5762 E. Evanston Ave, Muskegon MI 49442





Tribute Wall

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MM

Michael Mccarthy posted:

Thank you Neil for all the life lessons and great stories I got such as when you and mark were letting us kids shoot the .22 neither y'all were hitting shit I crouch down and blow the egg up maybe by luck or maybe good teachers or being at deer camp freezing our asses off Ina blizzard driving deer ona river bank catching fish. You never would trade me trucks though they were both red we could a put a Silverado badge on mine for ya you will be missed thanks again for the memories and lessons you'll never be forgotten

October 18 at 5:16 AM

SG

Sharon Grosclaude lit a candle in honor of Neil.

Neil, my little brother used to follow me everywhere. I guess I was his second Mom, as I was 10 when born. We lived far apart but he was always in my heart. I know he had a busy life and was loved by his family. He will be missed, always had a story to tell. I know he is in heaven with Our Mom and Noel. 🌿🌸❤️❤️
Love you big Sis



October 15 at 6:13 AM

MM

M Meza December 7 at 10:12 PM

Dear Sharon, I grew up in Highland Park California where Neil and Noel spent a large part of their childhood. While Noel was a playmate, Neil was a few years older like an older brother who always knew what to do, or had an answer for any question we had simmering in our heads. I remember him being smart and busy and always doing something mechanically brilliant. I'm sorry to hear of his passing. My stronger memories are of Noel because we were the same age. Noel would come to my house, the next block over on Avenue 54, and he would bring his toys and we would play in my backyard. In the late afternoon, Maxine your mom, would step out onto her porch and call out into the neighborhood as loud as she could "Nooooe!!!". And we could just barely hear her, but Noel's ears would perk up, and he would answer as loud as he could "Coming!" and then he would gather whatever toys he'd brought and disappear. The next day it would happen all over again. Spring and Summer. I was deeply saddened when the Eklunds left for Michigan. By that time the neighborhood had changed and your brothers were the last vestige of a fun, engaged neighborhood of kids who wouldn't know how good they had it until it was all gone. I'm sorry Noel passed so young. I wish we'd have become pen pals. I'm sorry to have lost touch with him. I remember him often.



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EH

Ed Hillerich posted:

Neil was an exemplary employee who always made it to work on time no matter the weather or circumstances involved. He clearly loved his job and gave his best every day. He was always ready to assist the company and his fellow drivers with whatever issues arose. I can say that no other driver came through in the clutch more times than Neil, earning him the name "Ol' Reliable." We at Haggerty Logistics were very proud to call Neil part of our family for several years. We are very saddened at his passing and offer our most heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

October 14 at 11:46 AM

KM

Ken Meinders posted:

Mu condolences go out to Neil's family. I always thought he was a good man. When we got together which wasn't very often we would talk about our different hunting experiences. I will miss those talks!! See ya on the other side brother!!!

October 14 at 9:59 AM



Ken Meinders October 14 at 10:00 AM

Sorry.....suppose to say*My

CM

Carna M posted:

My dearest condolences to the Eklund family, to lose a great man. I'll never forget all the welcoming bear hugs, the love and support he had shown. From the time I had a flat on the side of the road, to giving me poker advice, Neil always was willing to be there. I hope you fly high Neil, you will truly be missed. Much love, Carna

October 14 at 6:56 AM

BW

Brandon Wolcott posted:

When my dad, then my mother his older step sister, passed away, he was there to help me deal with the loss and what I needed to do to take care of myself. He was kind but tough about it. And it helped make me stronger. I will always be grateful for that.

October 14 at 5:58 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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