



# Robert M. Lakanen

AUG 18, 1925 - SEP 4, 2022



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## **Robert M. Lakanen**

AUG 18, 1925 - SEP 4, 2022

**R**obert M. Lakanen, age 97, passed away peacefully Sunday, September 4, 2022. He was born on August 18, 1925, to Akseli and Ida (Kurtti) Lakanen in Iron Mountain, MI. He received his education in the Champion school system, followed by obtaining his associate degree at Muskegon Community College. After graduation, he continued his education at Western Michigan University where he earned his bachelor's degree in sociology. In 1948, Robert married the love of his life, Bernice in LaGrange, Indiana. Together they cherished 57 years of marriage. He had a true love and passion for being outdoors, whether it was spending time fly fishing, capturing nature's beauty in photos, or going for long walks in the woods with his family. Robert also took to golfing in his later years to spend a little more time with his son, John out on the greens. He was a very talented man who enjoyed taking on projects that would test his skill set: refurbishing broken antique furniture, repairing car engines, or digging out a well. He was a proud Finnish man whose heritage radiated through his strong-willed mentality and love for all things nature. He also was a faithful Christian and is enjoying being in Heaven with his Lord and Savior. He will be remembered as a loving father, grandpa and great-grandpa; and friend to many. He is survived by his two children, John, Ph. D. (Heidi) Lakanen and Christine, M.D. (Robert) Barrett; eight grandchildren, David, Stephen, Natalie, Claire, Jennifer, Laura, Kelly and Amy; eight great-grandchildren; and son-in-law, Henry Klukos, Jr. He was preceded in death by his parents, Akseli and Ida Lakanen; wife, Bernice Lakanen; daughter, Roberta Klukos; four brothers, Roy, William, Clifford and Paul; and three sisters, Ruth, Dorothy and Catherine. The family would like to extend a special thanks to Henry Klukos, Jr. for his ability in allowing Robert to keep his independence while in Muskegon, David Lakanen for his dedicated care for the last three years in Upland, Indiana and Jill Parkison, his nurse and friend that provided excellent and compassionate care this last year. A Graveside Service will be held at



## Obituary

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2:00PM on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at Norton Cemetery, 743-761 Airport Rd., Norton Shores, MI 49441. Arrangements entrusted to The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444. Memorial Contributions in Robert's honor can be directed to the Muskegon Humane Society & Animal Rescue. Share memories with the family at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com).



# Events


**Robert M. Lakanen**

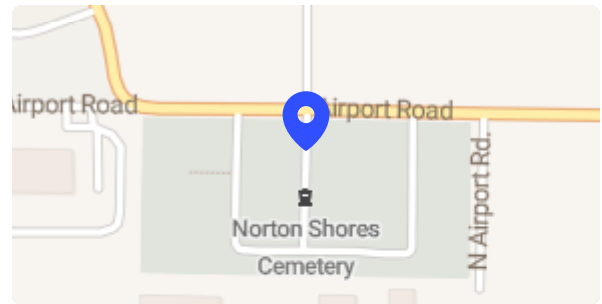
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## Graveside Service

 **Saturday**, September 17, 2022

 2:00 PM ET

 **Norton Cemetery**  
743-761 Airport Rd., Norton Shores MI 49441





## Tribute Wall

**Robert M. Lakanen**

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**Pete Wolters** posted:

Bob and Bernice were a great couple, nice people and my friends. I was privileged to have known both of them. R.I.P.

September 11 at 9:26 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Lakanen family.



September 9 at 5:21 AM



**The Clifford And Margaret Lakanen Family** sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Lakanen family.



September 9 at 4:39 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Lakanen family.



September 9 at 4:21 AM



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

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



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