



Russell "Russ" Bleich

AUG 17, 1942 - MAR 16, 2026



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Russell "Russ" Bleich

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Russell “Russ” Bleich, age 83, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, March 16, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on August 17, 1942, in Muskegon, Michigan, to Orel and Pearl (Knott) Bleich, where he spent most of his life. Russ graduated from Muskegon High School with the Class of 1960. On October 26, 1962, he married the love of his life, Phyllis DeVries. Together, they shared nearly 64 years of love, endless laughter, and cherished memories. Russ dedicated 30 years of service as a Conservation Officer for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in West Michigan, a career he found deeply fulfilling before retiring in 1996. During his time with the DNR, he earned the nickname “Officer Marshmallow,” known for his kind nature and his preference for helping others enjoy their time outdoors. He was a proud member of the Grand Haven Steelheaders Club, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), and the Michigan Conservation Officer Association. A true outdoorsman, Russ loved hunting and fishing. He was also a devoted hockey fan—whether watching from the stands supporting his grandchildren or cheering on the Detroit Red Wings. Russ treasured his coffee meetups with “the boys,” where laughter and banter were always on the menu. In retirement, he discovered a passion for estate sales, finding great joy in uncovering hunting and fishing treasures and “striking a good Christian deal”. Above all, Russ was a devoted husband, a loving father, a proud and supportive grandfather and great-grandfather, and a loyal friend to many. He will be remembered for making the most of every moment, for his warm smile, and for his remarkable ability to connect with others. He truly never met a stranger. His impact on the lives he touched will not be forgotten, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. He is survived by his loving wife, Phyllis Bleich; three children, Russ A. Bleich, Lori (Mike) Vieau and Angie (Rob) Rogers; seven grandchildren, Jeff (Gina) Bleich, Zach (Amanda) Bleich, Derek (Rita) Bleich, Nick (Madelyn) Vieau, Jake



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(Ashley) Vieau, Madison Rogers and Colton Rogers; eight great-grandchildren, Ben, Carter, Tristan, Landon, Liam, Olivia, Luca and Joey; and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Edward (Jan) Bleich and Richard (Dolores) Bleich. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, March 27, 2026, at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444. A Visitation will be held from 1-2:00 PM at the funeral home. Memorial Contributions in Russ' honor can be directed to the [Michigan Conservation Officer Association](#) or Trinity Health at Home-Grand Haven, 1027 S. Beacon Boulevard, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Share memories with the family at <https://www.sytsemafh.com>.



Events

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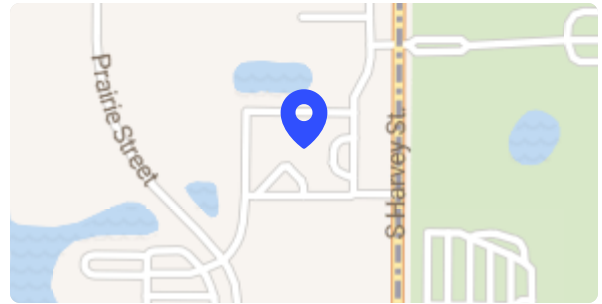
Visitation

 **Friday**, March 27, 2026

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET


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

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



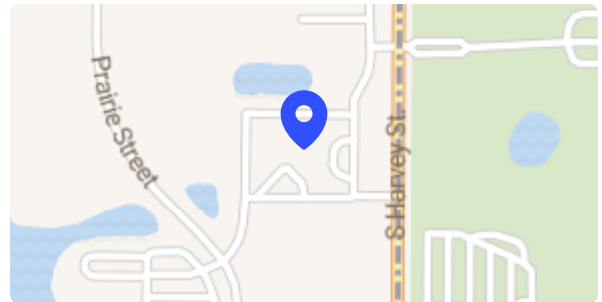
Memorial Service

 **Friday**, March 27, 2026

 2:00 PM ET

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Tribute Wall

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Philip Sielski lit a candle in honor of Russell.

Angie and family -- I am sorry to hear of Russ's passing. He was always thoughtful and considerate, and I appreciated those occasions when our paths crossed. My thoughts and prayers to you all.

March 23 at 3:40 PM



Anonymous sent a Serenity Wreath to the Bleich family.

March 23 at 2:20 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Russell.

March 23 at 2:20 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Bleich family.

March 20 at 11:12 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Russell.

March 20 at 11:12 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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