



Melvin A. Smalley

November 19, 1947 - November 14, 2025

Melvin Arthur “Butch” Smalley, age 77, passed away on November 14, 2025 at Centrica Rose Arbor Hospice. He was born on November 19, 1947, in Blissfield, MI the beloved only child of Dorethea Warren (Casteline) and Fredrick Smalley.

At the age of 16, Melvin met Connie Warner, and in 1965 they married and began building a life together. They were blessed with four children: Amy Smalley of Allegan, MI; Billie Ellard of Paw Paw, MI; Cherie Smalley of Bloomington, MI; and Jeffrey (Jean) Smalley of Gobles, MI.

A talented machinist with a strong work ethic, Melvin spent his life dedicating himself to his trade. His skill and determination led him to establish his own business, Smalley Machine, in Gobles, MI.

After he and Connie divorced, Melvin married Rita, and the two moved to Florida for ten years. During that time, they became guardians to four of Rita’s grandchildren—Thai-Ann, Troy, Bobby, and Mathew—the children of Rita’s daughter, Amy Akavong of Allegan, MI.

In 2007, Melvin returned to Michigan, where life brought him back to Connie, with whom he reunited and shared the years that followed.

Melvin enjoyed a life rich with traditions and simple pleasures. He loved fishing, golfing, bowling, watching sporting events, searching for the perfect Christmas tree each year, and taking part in his annual guys’ fishing trip—something he looked forward to year after year.

He leaves behind a large and loving family that was the pride of his life: 19

grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson. He shared a birthday with his great-granddaughter, Evelyn Ellard, a connection he cherished. Melvin is also survived by his brother-in-law Brad Rodgers (Mary); sisters-in-law Valisa Toporek (Ted) and Alicia McGlachlan (Ron); along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Melvin will be remembered for his quiet strength, his humor, his deep love for family, and his unwavering willingness to help others. He touched many lives through his kindness and craftsmanship, and his legacy will continue in the stories, traditions, and memories he leaves behind.

In keeping with his wishes, Melvin has been cremated. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Those wishing to honor his memory may make donations to Heartland Hospice, Portage, MI.

Cemetery Details

Cremation

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

AM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Alicia McLaclan - November 22, 2025 at 01:31 PM

DW

“ Sending thoughts and prayers.



Donna D Warren - November 17, 2025 at 06:28 AM

AA

“ Only a few pictures I could find of Grandpa with a few of his grandkids , you will be dearly missed , rest in heaven , we love you



Amy Akavong - November 16, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“ We heard about Butch's passing from Family back home. Sounds like he had a full life and family which He Loved and was Loved by. That's a life well spent. Of course our memories of Him involve Humor and time spent with family. Luv to all of you...Jim & Jackie Post

Jackie Post - November 16, 2025 at 04:47 PM