



Jerome Raymond Miller

August 22, 1940 - December 6, 2025

Jerome Raymond Miller age 85 of Custer passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 6, 2025 with his family by his side. Jerome was born on August 22, 1940 in Ludington, the son of Raymond and Pauline (Zukas) Stakenas. Tragically his father Raymond died when Jerome was 1 year old and his mother married Daniel Miller - who became the father that would shape Jerome's life.

Jerome graduated from Mason County Central with the class of 1959 and began a career in the Timber industry, which led to him starting his own business in 1960 and eventually locating his mill – Jerome Miller Lumber Company at its present location in Baldwin in 1973. The business continues to operate under the direction of his daughter and grandson.

On February 2, 1963, Jerome was united in marriage to Toni Norkaitis at the Sugar Ridge Church of the Brethren in Custer, and they have celebrated 62 years working hand-in-hand, side-by-side together.

Aside from working countless hours at the Mill, Jerome liked spending time building, breaking down, and rebuilding machinery. He was a longtime member of the West Michigan Old Engine Club and also served on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Timber Association.

Along with his father Raymond, Jerome was also preceded in death by his

parents Pauline and Daniel Miller, his father and mother in-law Anthony and Wanda Norkaitis, and his brother-in-law David Laiskonis.

Jerome will be greatly missed by his wife Toni; his daughters Michelle Miller of Scottville, and Melanie Bettinger (Kyle Tenney) of Ludington; his grandchildren Zachary McKelvey (Toya Iles) of Baldwin, Abby (Dillon) McKelvey-Buckley of Scottville, and Kyle Tenney Jr of Ludington; his great-grandchildren Milo and Jude Beemer, and Ruby Buckley; his sister-in-law Deb Laiskonis of Ludington; and numerous friends made over a lifetime.

A time of visitation with Jerome's family will be held from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on Thursday, December 11 at Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services – Stephens Funeral Home in Scottville. Burial will take place at Lakeside Cemetery in Eden Township next spring.

Those who wish to remember Jerome with a memorial donation are asked to please consider the West Michigan Old Engine Club in Scottville.

Cemetery Details

Lakeside Cemetery

1650 East Hawley Road
Custer, MI 49405

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 11. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - Stephens Funeral Home
305 E. State St.
Scottville, MI 49454
(231) 757-3333
wyman-stephens@sbcglobal.net
<https://www.wymanfuneralservice.com>

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Jerry came in on Friday nights for dinner at Debbie's Sportsman's. We enjoyed the intellectual conversations with him. He was a joy to be around. We all looked forward to seeing him.

Debra Mead - December 14, 2025 at 07:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Jerome



Sonia Bergers - December 09, 2025 at 06:18 PM

DL

great keepsake

Deborah Laiskonis - December 11, 2025 at 11:22 PM

AG

Jerry is my first cousin. We grew up together. On his family farm, we would walk a quarter of a mile, in deep snow to slide down a very large hill. The long walk to that hill, was worth the slide down. Jerry and I made a straw fort in his barn. We would walk to the pasture to check out the cows which were milked by Dan, his Dad, and Jerry. What I did was give each cow a scoop of grain. Jerry was the brother i never had. Every time I was in trouble or needed advice, Jerry would help me. I no longer have Jerry as a consultant. He is already missed. He has left a beautiful family. He and Toni should be very proud. GoodBye Dear Cousin. Thank you for being a wonderful cousin! Love Always, Alexis Lapenas, Gestes-Bradow P.S. On our last trip down the Pere Marquette River, we tipped the canoe over. So, that was our last trip. Jerry said he was not going to try that again. We had much fun.

alexis lapenas Gestes-Bradow - December 17, 2025 at 09:55 AM

CP

“ Cameron Wood Products purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Jerome Raymond Miller.



Cameron Wood Products - December 09, 2025 at 12:32 PM