



Russell C. Nielsen

November 29, 1951 - October 30, 2024

Russell C. "Russ" Nielsen age 72, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 after a nine-year battle with Alzheimer's disease

Russ was born on November 29, 1951 in Ludington, the oldest of four children born to Russell A. and Betty Nielsen and graduated from Ludington High School with the class of 1969. Russ married Diane (Horacek) Bentz on November 27, 1980 and they have celebrated almost 44 years together.

Russ served two years in the Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Before and after serving in the military he worked as a baker in Ludington and other locations in Michigan. While working as a baker in Midland he was recruited by Kmart as their Bakery/Deli district manager, eventually working his way up to regional manager covering several states.

Russ enjoyed spending time with family, traveling, watching NASCAR races, going to car shows, and showing off his 1966 Burgundy GTO. He was also an avid outdoorsman spending many hours hunting, fishing, gardening, camping and landscaping.

Russ will be greatly missed by his wife Diane of Ludington; children Paula (Moses), Greg, Todd (Jamie), Jennifer (Jeremy); his grandchildren Michael,

McKayla, Nick, Gabe, Gavin, Izik, Keetin, Koltin, Lucas, Logan, Taylor and Harper; great-grandchildren Jase, Kodah, Nayeli, Jax and Kailo; his brothers Don (Jackie), and Norm (Jenny); his sister Alice (Joe); sister-in-law Mary (Bruce); his brothers-in-law Chuck (Deb), Doug (Terri), Al (Lisa), and Brian (Traci). Russ will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins including special cousins Carol and Lynn Petre and Vernie Jabrocki.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents Russ (Phyllis) Nielsen, and Betty (Chuck) Hargreaves; parents in law Chuck (Bernice) Horacek; and his brother Bobby.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Russ at 11:00 am on Friday, November 8 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Custer with Rev. Daniel DePew as celebrant. Friends may meet with his family prior to services starting at 10:00 am at the church. Those who wish to remember Russ with a memorial donation are asked to please consider donating to one of the following organizations: Alzheimer's Association, or a Hospice Care of the donors choice.

Russ' family would especially like to thank John, Sandy, David, Tammy and Adrian from Elara Caring Hospice Care for their compassionate and professional care.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Memorial Mass

NOV 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Tribute Wall

NN

“ *Naomi Hudson (your Ypsilanti neighbor) purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Russell C. Nielsen.*



Naomi Hudson (your Ypsilanti neighbor) - June 03, 2025 at 08:27 AM

NH

“ *Russ and Diane were my neighbors in Ypsilanti Township Michigan. Diane and I used to go shopping together and I remember Russ always throwing something on the grill in the evenings. We weren't neighbors very long, but I loved them being next door to me. I used to babysit their dog, Onyx, when ever they left home. I missed them when they moved to Ludington, and I lost touch with them. I'm so sorry to hear about Russ. Diane, if you get this message, contact me at ladynotes@aol.com. I would love to hear from you*

Naomi A Hudson - June 02, 2025 at 07:03 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Russell C. Nielsen.*



November 06, 2024 at 08:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Russell C. Nielsen.

November 06, 2024 at 08:32 AM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Russell C. Nielsen.



November 04, 2024 at 10:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Russell C. Nielsen.

November 04, 2024 at 10:18 PM



“ Kaci & Courtney purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Russell C. Nielsen.



Kaci & Courtney - November 04, 2024 at 09:47 AM

GM

“ We go way back. I have known Russ since the beginning of high school. He had a BSA motorcycle and really made me jealous. My parents would not let me have one because of my brother and his troubles.

I recall riding in his 63 Ford Galaxy in high school. We would cruise around the school smoking cigarettes like grownups with him squealing the tires round every corner. It had a 352 police interceptor engine in it.

When he returned from Korea we hit the original Stix bar and made a night of it.

Unfortunately, we have only met once since then when he and Diane along with Carol and Lynn came to Lansing for dinner, what a throwback that was.

Not a day goes by that he does not come to mind and will be sadly missed forever.

Gary McCormick

Gary M McCormick - November 03, 2024 at 07:36 PM

KL

“ Russ was one hell of a pool and bocci player. Even after he became ill Diane would always make certain Russ was still involved. Sometimes at pool he would forget what ball to hit and confuse the cue ball. But when we showed him what to shoot, 99 % of the time it went in. He was good. I have never been able to do that. At bocci sometimes I would help him by standing next to or behind him to tell him where to shoot. That is all anyone ever needed to do. He could toss the ball as well as he played pool.

Russ also had a very quiet wit about him. You just had to listen. When a group of us used to go to the Chasco parade he would always wear his veterans cap. It took me a while to figure out why but then I realized he was getting all the beads and even hugs from the woman in the parade... Smart guy that Russ. I do miss him.

Ken Laga

ken laga - November 03, 2024 at 06:12 PM

JJ

“ Jennifer & Joe purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Russell C. Nielsen.



Jennifer & Joe - November 02, 2024 at 10:27 PM

JJ

“ Jennifer & Joe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Russell C. Nielsen.

Jennifer & Joe - November 02, 2024 at 10:27 PM

LP

“ Russ was a lifetime best friend to me. We grew up together and had too many to count good times together. Russ introduced me to his cousin Carol and the before you know it we've been married for 52 years. Guess he was my best friend for life after that first introduction. We have continued to stay in close contact and have built on that friendship over many years with Russ and Diane. Love you Russ and we will miss you.

Lynn and Carol Petre - November 01, 2024 at 11:50 PM