



Bruce M. Saunders

October 28, 1947 - March 12, 2025

Bruce Michael Saunders, passed away at the age of 77, on March 12, 2025. He was born on October 28, 1947 in Buffalo, New York and spent his first few years at Father Baker's Orphanage. He was adopted by Walter and Betty Saunders at the age of two. Bruce grew up on a 320 acre farm in Franklinville, New York. He went to Franklinville High School and was a football and wrestling star. Right out of school he joined the Navy and served as a Navy Seabee on the USS Independence during the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1968. After Vietnam he met his soon to be wife Betsy while they were both working at Fisher Price. What sealed the deal for him was he fell in love with her as much as he did with the two children she had from a previous marriage and loved those kids as his own. The two were married on October 10, 1970 in West Falls, New York and together they built a life filled with love. They had the kind of marriage people can only dream about. They raised three children together in Shelby Township, Michigan while running their own landscaping business. They then moved to Florida where they owned a home on a golf course in Bonita Springs, Florida where they enjoyed golfing everyday before moving back to Michigan. Bruce was a strong and proud man who loved golfing and sports but most of all his wife and family. Unfortunately, Bruce was diagnosed with brain cancer and died from complications.

He is predeceased by his wife Betsy who passed away weeks before his death on February 16, 2025. Bruce leaves behind his three children,

Kimberley Saunders (Richard Wirsing), Michael Saunders and Bruce Saunders Jr. (Catherine Radloff), and his daughter-in-law Kelly Saunders. Bruce was also a loving and proud grandfather to Lindsey Moore (Michael) and Courtney Saunders and his great grandchildren Madilyn, Isabella, and Michael. His brother Robert Saunders (Shelley), sisters Kim Saunders (Lori) and Kellie Dunne (Gene) and foster brother Dennis Gagliardi.

Memorial visitation will be Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. until the time of his Military Honors rendered by the United States Navy and Memorial Service at 4:00 p.m. by Father Michael Quaine from St. Michaels Catholic Church taking place at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 blocks EAST of Van Dyke Avenue, on the NORTH side of Hall Road), Utica. Burial will take place on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Great Lakes National Cemetery located at 4200 Belford Rd, Holly, MI where he will be buried and united with his wife and the two will be together again. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAR 22. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Memorial Service

MAR 22. 4:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
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Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Bruce Michael Saunders Service Livestream in memory of Bruce M. Saunders*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - March 20, 2025 at 03:40 PM

MM

“ *Moira M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bruce M. Saunders.*

Moira M. - March 21, 2025 at 04:36 PM

CB

“ *Carol and Nicholas Berman purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bruce M. Saunders.*



Carol and Nicholas Berman - March 19, 2025 at 01:59 PM

CB

“ Kim, I am so sorry! My heart breaks for you and your family losing both your Dad and Mom in such a short time. They are together now in heaven. They were always together and we have such wonderful memories of them with us. Your Dad was our designated driver to Taco Bell after midnight. The last time he did that for us 3 years ago, I remember him picking us up and saying "well girls, somethings never change" and us laughing about it. He will be missed always and forever.

Carol Berman - March 19, 2025 at 01:28 PM

KS

Thank you, Carol. My dad loved you!!! Being our designated driver started on a night of a graduation party. He told us he would pick us up no matter how late as long as we promised not to get into a car with someone drinking. That late night stop was Burger King if I remember correctly. And three years ago, it was 40 years later he picked us up from our class reunion. You did not stop talking the whole way home and he just laughed. Love you.

Kimberley Saunders - March 19, 2025 at 06:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bruce M. Saunders.

March 19, 2025 at 11:50 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bruce M. Saunders.



March 19, 2025 at 11:50 AM

TF

“ The Copek family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Bruce M. Saunders.



The Copek family - March 18, 2025 at 05:47 PM

TF

“ The Copek family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bruce M. Saunders.

The Copek family - March 18, 2025 at 05:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bruce M. Saunders.

March 17, 2025 at 02:01 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Bruce M. Saunders.



March 17, 2025 at 02:01 PM

DD

“ Kim,

My heart goes out to you for the loss of both your parents in such a short period ~ wishing you comfort, peace, and deepest sympathies. You're in my thoughts & prayers!

David Dekker - March 17, 2025 at 09:05 AM

KS

Thank you very much for your kind words

Kimberley Saunders - March 17, 2025 at 06:00 PM

DG

“ Dennis G. planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bruce M. Saunders.

Dennis G. - March 16, 2025 at 02:26 PM