



## Dennis Carl Shiemke

November 3, 1942 - June 30, 2018

Dennis Carl Shiemke, age 75, of Maple City, passed away on June 30, 2018 at Crittenton Hospital in Rochester, Michigan.

The first thing everyone noticed about Dennis was his eyes. They were such a deep, wonderful blue. Some say that the eyes are the window to the soul, but despite his captivating gaze, Dennis was actually very difficult to get to know. He was an extremely dignified man who didn't let his emotions show, but for those fortunate few who earned his trust and made it into his inner circle, Dennis was a kind, helpful man who always let you know exactly what he thought.

Dennis was rightfully proud of the 34 years he spent as a police officer, but in his youth he sowed some wild oats just like any other teenager. Born in 1942 in Ferndale to Louis and Stella Shiemke, Dennis graduated from Pershing High School in 1962. A skilled pool player, Dennis would sneak into poolrooms where his ability to make shots earned him both the respect of his elders and much of their ready cash. He was also fond of drag racing, and formed a club with his friends called the "Filthy Few," where he would race his stock Ford Galaxy for trophies and bragging rights. Although he loved the camaraderie of his friends, Dennis made room in his heart for Kathleen, his first wife. They were blessed with a son, David, and two daughters, Robin Bugbee and Shannon Crouse.

After graduating from Pershing, Dennis found his life's work in law enforcement. He began his career in Detroit where he worked a tough inner city beat as part of the city's STRESS Task Force, whose acronym means Stop The Robberies Enjoy Safe Streets. To that end, Dennis would patrol the streets in plain clothes, helping to clean up crime in the neighborhood, before later on, moving north to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, where he retired in 2002. Dennis was known as a tough, but fair cop, who treated everyone with respect, regardless of race, religion, or creed. He loved joking around and grabbing a drink with his fellow officers, but he also enjoyed meeting those on his beat, and was even known to share a beer with the locals, reminding them that the next time they saw him he'd be on duty. Truly, Dennis earned the respect of all who came to know him, on both sides of the law.

On or off his police beat, Dennis loved to be outdoors. He and his second wife Vicki, worked very hard to build a beautiful log home outside Traverse City, where they could relax with friends. Dennis named his log home by the lake "Rustic Rise" and loved to spend his free time cutting wood, hunting deer, doing yard work, boating, and making moonshine, depending on his inclination and the season. It was here that Dennis could spend time sharing a drink with his friends, or play one of the many practical jokes that he was fond of devising. Dennis would also travel farther afield to Michigan's upper peninsula to join his friends hunting deer, bear, and pheasant, where good cheer was as important as bagging a limit.

When Dennis wasn't out hunting wildlife, he was out hunting for deals on blue and white stoneware. Dennis and Vicki were passionate collectors of these beautifully designed ceramics, and both their homes in Rochester Hills and Maple City were adorned with their finds. Dennis always played it close to the vest, so nobody knew exactly what drove his desire for these pieces. Perhaps

he was fond of the color, or perhaps searching for blue and white stoneware was a convenient excuse to pack up the car and travel out-of-state for a spell with his wife, or with other family members. Or maybe, Dennis just loved the thrill of the chase. In any case, he was always excited when he found a good piece at a good price, and was fond of sharing his discoveries with friends and family.

Those privileged enough to know Dennis know he was a true and kind friend who could always be counted on to deliver a straight opinion that was often enough on the mark. His blue eyes, which always shone with dignity, honesty, and candor, will certainly be missed.

Dennis is survived by his brother Mark Shiemke, his son David (Leanne) Shiemke, his two daughters Robin Bugbee and Shannon (Mike) Crouse, his stepson Barry (Felicia) Lehman, his stepdaughter Danette Lehman, his grandchildren Robbie Mydlarz, Dayna Bugbee, Nicole (Rivard) Williams, and Dylan Shiemke, and his great grandson, Christopher Mydlarz. Dennis was preceded in death by his wife Vickie (Lehman), his father Louis, and his mother Stella.

Memorial services for Dennis will be held at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8549 Hall Road, Utica, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 3, 2018.

For Dennis' northern friends, the family will be holding a memory gathering at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City on July 28 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Lovingly written by Beloved.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

JUL 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

### Funeral Service

JUL 3. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ My God rest your soul my friend. I met Dennis when we hired in together at OCSO, he was always laughing and playing pranks, he taught me alot and I respected him so very much. You will be missed . Beane Jr.

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**Bill Beane** - July 06, 2018 at 06:55 AM



“ I will never forget working with Dennis at L BLDG when I first started with OCSO. Always made me smile or laugh even if you didn't feel like it. He taught me a lot and I will always remember him he was a good man, partner to work with and friend.  
Rest easy D.

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**Craig Vradenburg** - July 05, 2018 at 07:34 PM

CY

“ I learned of Dennis' passing while toasting another lost friend last night. Dennis and I hired in to the OCSO on the same day. He was far more experienced than I and he taught me a great deal. He shared some amazing stories of his STRESS days. He was a good friend to so many of us. His passing is a loss to us all.  
Cris Yuchasz OCSO  
Retired

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**Cris Yuchasz** - July 04, 2018 at 01:17 PM



“ I will never forget Dennis waking me up at 4am to make a run to Waukegan, IL to fill my little LeMans hatchback with supplies for my wedding. Not only did we hit Chicago rush hour traffic, he made me stop at every single antique store on our way back.  
Rest Easy Dennis...you are loved and fondly remembered.

*Lt. Thom Seling- OCSO*

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**Thom Seling** - July 03, 2018 at 01:52 PM



“ Dennis was a great man, a great Deputy and a great public servant. We will miss him at the Sheriff's Office family.

*Undersheriff Mike McCabe  
Oakland County Sheriff's Office*

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**Undersheriff Mike McCabe** - July 03, 2018 at 01:38 PM



“ Dennis was valued member of the Optimist Club in Traverse City. He had a great heart and a ready smile. He also was a committed steward of our 44 acre Optimist Cabin Property that serves hundred of Youth in the Grand Traverse area. Heartfelt thanks to Dennis and condolences to his family.

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**Michael Brown** - July 03, 2018 at 12:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Dennis Carl Shiemke.



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July 02, 2018 at 09:17 AM