



## Fred E. Hart

May 22, 1960 - February 18, 2025

Fred Ellis Hart, 64, of South Boardman, entered eternal peace on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, with loved ones by his side. Fred was born in Flint, Michigan on May 22, 1960, the son of Fred and Ellen (Howell) Hart. He married Karen (Buckel) Hart on November 17, 2000 in South Boardman. Fred was a resident of Flushing, graduated from Flushing High School in 1978, and was employed by Halo Burger, Hamady Brothers, and Coca-Cola. Fred went on to the Michigan Institute of Technology, after which he started his own heating and cooling business in the Flint Area. He was hired by Phillips Energy and moved to Kalkaska County in the early 90s. In August of 1992 he began a career at Michigan Consolidated Gas Company (now DTE) out of Traverse City as a Service Technician. He worked directly with customers for twenty-three years, making sure his customers knew they came first, even in the middle of the night or on weekends when calls came in. In 2015 Fred transferred to DTE's high-pressure side of the business as a Tech II and worked on transmission pipelines and at stations out of Kalkaska. His knowledge of gas and operations was greatly respected. Fred retired at the end of 2019 after a twenty-seven year career. Since he was gifted with exceptional mechanical aptitude and engineering skills, Fred joyfully assisted his family, friends, and colleagues in person and over the phone even through his last days here on earth.

Fred enjoyed fishing, hunting, beekeeping, cooking, canning, driving his 4-wheeler, and watching various Michigan sports teams, especially the Detroit

Tigers, Detroit Lions, and Michigan Wolverines. However, his biggest passion was for Harley Davidsons, proudly owning many models over the years. Family was a large part of Fred's life, being the fun uncle with his outgoing personality and endless jokes. Although still maintaining that role, after the passings of his brothers, he became a father-figure to his nieces and nephews, a selfless act of kindness that will always be cherished. He loved summer cookouts at the lake, hosting Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and welcoming his family and friends to his home anytime. Fred made an effort to know everyone, and everyone certainly seemed to know and to remember him.

Surviving are his wife of 24 years Karen, mother-in-law Zenita Buckel of Traverse City, long time treasured friend Sue Seitz of Kalkaska, Uncle "Bill" William DeBruyn of Kentwood, Aunt Edna (James) Alecci of Burton, sister-in-law Diane Keyton (Bob Lewis), brothers-in-law Greg (Jan) Buckel and David (Dawn) Buckel, all of Traverse City, nieces and nephews Janel (David) McGaffigan of Manistee, Deborah (the late David) Snyder of Kalkaska, Laura Hart of Gaylord, Susan Hart of Fife Lake, Scott (Mary) Hart of Lehigh Acres, FL, Aaron Fasel of Traverse City, James (Danielle) Keyton III of Raleigh, NC, Corey (Cessa) Keyton of Traverse City, Darren (Tessa) Keyton of Interlochen, Ben Buckel (Lauren Adams) of Traverse City, Kari (Tiffany) Buckel of Jordan, MN, Emily (Eric) Videan of Traverse City, and Lauren (Dex) Teen of Gross Ile, as well as numerous cousins, great-nieces and great-nephews, special friends Elwin and Greta Hall of South Boardman, and Loyd and Karen Harrell of Kalkaska, along with his precious rescue cats Isabelle and Harley.

He was preceded in death by his parents Fred and Ellen (Howell) Hart, brothers and sisters-in-law Gary (Sue) Hart and Terry (Gina) Hart, niece Lisa Hart, and father-in-law Brian Buckel, as well as his dear pets Tosha, Bennie, Maxie, and Crusher.

Fred's family extends their deepest thanks to each of his medical doctors, nurses, medical staff, and so many other friends who assisted him on his journey home.

Per Fred's wishes, cremation has taken place. Fred's final resting place will be in Evergreen Cemetery in Kalkaska. A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, June 27 at 11:00 am at Kalkaska Funeral Home with a visitation one hour prior. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Kidney Companions P.O. Box 325 Traverse City, MI 49685 or to Kalkaska County Animal Control 605 N. Birch Kalkaska, MI 49646. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home  
152 S. Cedar  
Kalkaska, MI 49646  
(231) 258-3346

## Celebration of Life

JUN 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home  
152 S. Cedar  
Kalkaska, MI 49646  
(231) 258-3346

# Tribute Wall

AP

“ I knew Fred very well. He was a great guy and a good friend of mine. I always enjoyed talking to him at Auto Value in Kalkaska. May God be with him and his family in his time of need! Soar high my friend 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Antonio Poli - March 03, 2025 at 10:55 PM

DA

“ Our condolences to Karen and family,we miss him dearly,rest in peace cuz dale and Lorie alecci

dale - February 28, 2025 at 07:55 PM

JP

“ I was just joking around with Fred a few weeks ago. Such a warm soul and bigger than life personality. Huge smile, bigger laugh and a twinkle in his eye that let you know he was up to something. Gonna miss you.

Jan P - February 27, 2025 at 11:43 AM

LH

“ Fred was "one of a kind" for sure! He was brilliant at all things mechanical and could do just about anything around home! We shared a love for Harley's and I know he is riding wildly in Heaven right now!  
Ride free friend until we meet again!  
Love, Linda

Linda A Hawkins - February 25, 2025 at 12:56 PM

SS

“ *WHAT TO SAY ABOUT FRED. A bright light huge personality smart and a smartass, funny & difficult to deal with. It made his day to help others fix things. He had a great mechanical mind. He told me he could picture what I was working on, even though I was the one in front of it and not him. He was mensa smart and a great teacher. And now he truly has all the answers. My life will have a big empty spot until we meet again. If you know fred you get it. I called him everything you can call someone, well deserved. But so lucky to call him friend. Bye for now buddy, love sue*

Sue Seitz - February 25, 2025 at 09:04 AM

RI

*Godspeed Fred. Thank you for helping me. My condolences to everyone. Fred was instrumental in helping me become a technician. I was struggling with management at the time and things were very stressful. He took me under his wing and trained me. He took that strong part of his personality and put his foot down with management for me. He and Gary B. (RIP) saved my career. In my time with Fred I witnessed his compassion, his brutal honesty, his humor which I can't really comment on here, (If you know Fred then you know why.) 😂 His photographic type memory and intelligence is impressive. I'm speaking Fred as if he is still here because in my experiences of recent years it helps me knowing he's not gone. He's in a great place that we aren't able to see yet. He is still with us. You can't silence a personality like Fred's. Thank you for everything Fred. Especially those amazing pickled hard boiled eggs! Talk to you later Fred, Richard*

Richard W. Elliott IV - March 08, 2025 at 08:38 AM