



## Joel Alan Findley

June 9, 1983 - March 17, 2023

Joel Alan Findley, 39, of Rapid City, passed away unexpectedly, on March 17, 2023. He was born on June 9, 1983, in Traverse City, MI to Roxanne and Mark Findley.

Joel spent his younger years enjoying many family adventures and outdoor activities. After living in Traverse City, Alpena and Kalkaska, Joel's family settled at the south end of Torch Lake when he was ten. There he would spend days fishing, swimming, and boating with his Grandma and Grandpa Estelle and many family members. He loved the lake and the solitude it provided.

With family and friends at his side, Joel went on numerous hunting and fishing excursions and was always up for outdoor thrill-seeking adventures and challenges. Many adventures were spent at Fletcher Pond near Alpena. Sisters Brandie and Whitney would beg to go fishing with him and Joel would patiently spend the rest of the day on the water putting worms on, untangling lines, and taking fish off hooks. Joel probably envisioned more fish being caught but memories were made.

Being gifted mechanically, Joel would often find random metal parts in a dumpster and put together a bike for Whitney. At 6'4" Joel was forever his sisters' protector and advocate. Joel's dad Mark taught him to be the family's

protector. Oftentimes when Mark worked out of town, Joel was the go-to person for his sisters and mom, Roxanne. He adored his mom and once loaded his sisters up in a canoe and paddled to the local hardware store to buy her flowers for Mother's Day. He was always giving her little trinkets. Joel had many amazing talents but what the family most admired was his patience, compassion, quiet strength, fortitude, and kindness. Mark described his son as the first one to help someone in need but the last one to ask for help. Eva also adored her uncle Joel especially when he landed a drone on top of her head and got tangled up in her hair. In the past ten years, Joel has been an integral part of his Grandma Estelle's life. He has taken care of her with compassion and never passed up the chance to include her in adventures such as panning for gold in the Rapid River at 2:00 am.

Throughout his life Joel worked at jobs suitable to his mechanical strengths. He was a jack of many trades and most recently he worked at Alpine Electric. Joel also worked in the oil field business in South Dakota.

In August of 2021, Joel's son Wyatt was born. Wyatt instantly became the light of his life. With his toy tools, he worked in his daddy's garage and helped him dismantle and build things. After hanging in the man cave, Joel took his son for rides, flew kites, and introduced Wyatt to Torch Lake.

He is survived by his son Wyatt (Alisha and family), parents Roxanne and Mark Findley, sisters Brandie Findley, Whitney (Bob) McCartney, Eva Findley, and Grandmother Irene Estelle, nephew Fin, along with a multitude of cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends. Joel is preceded in death by Grandma and Grandpa Findley, and Grandpa Estelle. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Joel's son, Wyatt Findley. A memorial service for Joel will be held at Kalkaska Funeral Home on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 1:00 PM, the family will receive friends beginning at 12:00 PM until the time of service. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation

Services.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **25**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home  
152 S Cedar St  
P.O. Box 1457  
Kalkaska, MI 49646

## Memorial Service

MAR **25**. 1:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

JU

“Roxanne, Irene and all of Joel's family and loved ones, my heart aches for your loss . You all are such a close, loving family. Please hold in your heart, that there are many, many people that are touched with memories of Joel. All my love is sent your way. Julie.

JulieLenz - March 26, 2023 at 01:00 PM



“Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



March 24, 2023 at 09:52 AM

JB

“John Bennett purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



John Bennett - March 24, 2023 at 09:46 AM

FP

“From Mick and Carol Pfeiffer purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



From Mick and Carol Pfeiffer - March 23, 2023 at 10:48 PM

MI

“ 1 file added to the album Joel



Mick - March 23, 2023 at 09:28 PM



“ John Bennett lit a candle in memory of Joel Findley



John Bennett - March 23, 2023 at 04:11 PM



“ Mark, Roxanne and family..... I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your son Joel. I remember him as a kid when we were working in the Alpena area. He was a happy boy and always had a smile on his face, he was a joy to be around. Will be thinking of you all during this sad time. God bless you all. Sincerely, John Bennett

John Bennett - March 23, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



March 23, 2023 at 01:59 PM

LC

“ I always think of Joel as a teenager having so much fun enjoying the lake on his jet ski. He always had a smile for us and was so kind in helping my parents. Sending you all love and prayers.  
*Lynn (Brown), Bill, Will & Elizabeth Clary*

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Lynn Clary - March 23, 2023 at 12:12 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



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March 22, 2023 at 08:19 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



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March 22, 2023 at 03:56 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



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March 22, 2023 at 03:50 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.*



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March 22, 2023 at 11:58 AM



“ *From that adorable, shy little boy to the quiet, handsome man he became, Joel will always have a special spot in our hearts. We love you Mark, Roxanne & girls. RIP dear Joel.*  
*Vicki & Kevin*

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**Lindsay's** - March 21, 2023 at 09:13 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.*



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March 21, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *Joel, your quiet strength will be missed. The peeks around the corner to say hi as you worked on your projects, always putting something together for someone. Your giggle and sense of humor I will remember fondly. Fly to the angels nephew. They will hold you tight. Love Uncle Dave and Aunt Karen.*

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**Karen Findley** - March 21, 2023 at 06:44 PM

AR

*I watched joel grow up with my son Russell Ramsay and I've gone fishing with them and just sat and talked with him many times. He had a witty sense of humor,I remember his ultra lite airplane days I was going to test fly it for him,but it was probably for the best that he listened to his mom to sell it and not try to fly it. I will miss him stopping in and the stories he could spin I know Russell was helping him with his thunderbird and his buel motorcycle. I've sent prayer requests to the blesses father solanus Casey prayer group for all his friends, family to please help them heal from this untimely death.And also for his son. May God Bless you all and comfort all. 🙏🙏🙏🕶️🕶️*

**Alfred Ramsay** - April 03, 2023 at 12:40 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



March 21, 2023 at 04:18 PM

ME

“ Joel was always so helpful and always had a ready smile. A beautiful soul was called home much too soon. My condolences to his family.



**Melanie** - March 21, 2023 at 03:59 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



March 21, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joel Alan Findley.



March 21, 2023 at 01:04 PM



“ You will be forever missed my friend Ty for being a friend:(

Rusty pontz - March 21, 2023 at 11:40 AM



“ Joel was a big part of my oldest and my nephew's life's. He was always polite and helpful to us. My thoughts and prayers to his son and family. Joel you were way too young and will be terribly missed. God bless you.

Robin Bielski - March 21, 2023 at 09:58 AM



“ Robin Bielski lit a candle in memory of Joel Findley



Robin Bielski - March 21, 2023 at 09:55 AM