



## Edward L. Little

September 21, 1936 - December 10, 2020

Edward L. Little, age 84 of Bad Axe, passed away on Thursday, December 10, 2020.

He was born September 21, 1936 in Bad Axe, son of the late Charles E. and Vivian A. (Near) Little, the fifth of eleven children.

He married Glenna Boland on December 3, 1960 in Elkton. She preceded him in death on September 8, 2012.

Leaving home at 14 to apprentice himself to local farmers in exchange for room and board, Ed graduated from Bad Axe High School in 1955. From there he embarked on what would become a thirty year career with U.S. Steel Corporation, working on iron ore freighters, sailing the Great Lakes. Steadily working his way up from deckhand through the ranks to First Mate, he also earned his pilot's license in navigation from the U.S. Coast Guard 20 years before retiring in 1984. Ed served on 39 vessels and took his wife along several times. Additionally, each of his children made a trip of at least a week to gain first-hand knowledge of the profession which kept their father away from home 6 – 15 months at a time.

Ed was actively involved at Evangel Life Assembly of God, and the Bad Axe chapter of the Huron County Historical Society. Working alongside his Aunt Estella "Fern" Copeland, he was instrumental in gathering several of the cabins which are now included in the log cabin village near the Bad Axe Public Library. A favorite activity was guiding visitors through the cabins, some of which included furniture and items donated by his older relatives.

Ed is survived by two daughters and three sons: Michele and husband Iain Gunn of Bay City, Darcy and partner Linda Sanback of Saginaw, Edward and wife Colleen (Kolhoff) Little of Frankenmuth, Andrew Little of Portage and Perry Little of Bad Axe; three grandchildren: Mikayla, Nathan and Devin; Siblings: Doris Lawrence, June Little, Jewell Hacker, Erlene (Bob) Preston, Merlin (LaDonna) Little, Eunice McKenzie, and Daniel (Jan) Little.

He was preceded in death by three siblings: Edgar Little, Phyllis Pate and Willet Little.

Services for Ed will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 11 am at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe. Officiating will be Rev. Cyle Harless. Burial will be in Colfax Cemetery in Bad Axe. Visitation will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2020 from 1 – 4 pm at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe or Monday from 10 am until the service time at 11 am.

In lieu of flowers, cards and memorials may be sent to Ed Little, P.O. Box 1394, Bay City, MI 48706.

The family will be arranging for a memorial in his name with the Bad Axe Historical Society.

# Cemetery Details

## Colfax Township

Bad Axe, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **13**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.  
84 Westland Dr  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 269-3000  
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Visitation

DEC **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.  
84 Westland Dr  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 269-3000  
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Service

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DEC **14**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.  
84 Westland Dr  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 269-3000  
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Edward L. Little*

January 28, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ *So sorry to learn of your father's passing. Thinking of you as you find a new normal to navigate without the patriarch at the helm*

*Norma (Steinhardt) Bour*

**Norma Bour** - January 25, 2021 at 06:34 PM



*Thank you, Norma.*

**Michele Gunn** - January 27, 2021 at 11:01 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies to Ed's family. Ed use to come in to shop at Mc Donald's Food and family, where he use to like to tease me and I would tease right back He always made me laugh and made me feel lucky to have gotten to know him. I will always smile when I think of him. Rest in peace Ed.*

**Tracy Ferguson** - December 17, 2020 at 02:25 PM



*Thank you Tracy. We sure missed seeing you. I always appreciated your kindnesses to Dad. Michele*

**Michele Gunn** - December 22, 2020 at 11:31 PM

MB

“ Thoughts and prayers to the Little family. I knew Ed a little bit while growing up in Bad Axe. I talked to him a couple of times about life on the Great Lakes working on the iron ore ships, I always found his stories fascinating. Rest in peace and God Bless.

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**Mark Blair** - December 14, 2020 at 01:43 PM

BM

“ Our thoughts and prayers to the families of Ed Little. Very sorry for your loss. Greg and Betty McKnight

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**Betty. McKnight** - December 14, 2020 at 12:33 PM

MS

“ I used to give Ed a hard time when we saw each other. He would always laugh and tell me something that would make me laugh. I always told him to be good! He was a special man! Loved you Ed

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**Mary Jo Schember** - December 12, 2020 at 03:39 PM

LW

“ My condolences to the family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Lisa Wiley** - December 12, 2020 at 03:11 PM

CJ

“ Our sympathy to the Family,  
Our sympathy to all of you on the passing of your father. We enjoyed the many years working with Ed in the Historical Society. He was such a joy as he visited with the families touring the village, and recounting many stories of his sea-faring years. We were always happy to spend time with him. Please accept our condolences and know he and his ready smile, will be missed. We are sorry that due to Covid we cannot attend the services. Bob and Dee Johnson

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**Constance L Johnson** - December 12, 2020 at 09:38 AM

DS

Sorry for your loss; Prayer to you Ed Jr and your entire family-Deb Sells

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**Deb Sells** - December 12, 2020 at 10:08 AM

PP

Our sympathy to the entire Little family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Paul and Donna Powers.

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**Paul Powers** - December 12, 2020 at 08:25 PM

SE

Very nice, was never a time that I can remember that "Mr Little" did not have a smile on. He always had some time to speak with and thoughts are with him now. SEEilers one of the kids next door. My heart goes out to Edward's family for their loss.

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**Steven E Eilers** - December 13, 2020 at 01:33 PM

BW

So sorry for your loss. Ed was such a nice man & good neighbor. Enjoyed visiting and hearing stories about his sailing the Great Lakes. He will be missed. Our thoughts & prayers.

*Hank & Barb Weitenberner*

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**barb Weitenberner** - December 14, 2020 at 06:46 AM