



## Leon Gerald Duane Wood

October 8, 1944 - December 21, 2025

Leon Gerald Duane Wood, age 81 of Charlotte, formerly of Eaton Rapids, passed away Sunday, December 21, 2025. Leon was born October 8th, 1944, to Lewis and Athol Wood. Leon enthusiastically pursued and married the love of his life, Mary Gierzak and they settled in Eaton Rapids where they raised their three daughters. Leon's love for Mary was everything his daughters hoped for in their own lives, and he was simply the best dad the girls could ever ask for. The girls each insisted they were his favorite because he made each one feel like they were.

In his younger years, Leon loved speed and cars. He worked for Chaparral racing and selling snowmobiles, before becoming a skilled carpenter. Leon worked for Jacks Construction, owned his own wood finishing company then scored his dream job at Michigan State University Carpenter Shop. He was a very skilled woodworker and spent many weekends helping his friends and family with their home improvement projects.

After retiring Leon and Mary moved to White Cloud, Michigan where he lived along the White River. Even though he missed being close to family, he loved life in the woods and on the river. For the past 15 years, Leon and Mary traveled to Lady Lake, Florida for the winter where they enjoyed the sunshine and made wonderful friends from all over the country.

Leon enjoyed staying active and working with his hands. He loved golf, racquetball, softball, backyard volleyball, euchre, horseshoes, shuffleboard and making furniture. He only sat still long enough to watch his beloved Michigan State Spartans.

He is survived by his dear wife of 60 years, Mary; daughters, Sherri (Scott) McKessy, Nicole (Tim) Littlefield, and Laurie (Gunnar) Kiersey; grandchildren, Chelsie (Steve) Sroka, Keegan McKessy, Spencer (Jade) Littlefield, Austin Littlefield, Alyse (Preston) Akers and Kendall Kiersey; great-grandchildren, Lydia, Logan, and Stanley; sisters, Rebecca (Bruce) Zgoda and Renee (Kevin) Kole; brothers, Dan (Connie) Wood, Bruce (Marsha) Wood, Loren (Amy) Wood, and Eric (Gwen) Wood. He is preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Athol Wood, sister, Sandy Conklin, and brother, Burr Lewis Wood

Friends are encouraged to support Leon's family by sharing memories on his Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at VFW Post 2406 in Charlotte, Michigan. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 16. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

VFW Post 2406  
695 Lansing Rd  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall

“My father-in-law was a man of immense generosity and wisdom. He often joked that “you never really own a house; the house owns you” because of the endless work required—yet he was always the first to roll up his sleeves and help us with a project. He lived with a young man’s energy trapped in an older man’s body, fighting through every health challenge with a stubborn grit that allowed him to stay with us as long as possible.

*He was the heartbeat of our family adventures, whether we were at the river in White Cloud, Michigan, or soaking up the sun in Lady Lake, Florida. From family vacations at Gatlinburg and Myrtle Beach, he refused to be a spectator. He was right there in the mix—hiking, sledding, playing Wii video games with the grandkids, or challenging anyone to a game of shuffleboard, bocce ball, ping-pong, volleyball, card games, board games, or pool. Even in his later years, he didn't hesitate to jump into an indoor go-kart, proving he never lost his need for speed.*

*One of my favorite memories was taking him to the Daytona 500 for his birthday. The drive there was a gift in itself, as he shared stories of his younger days when he would race just about anything from cars to snowmobiles. The event turned into a comedy of errors: a massive rain delay, a jet dryer fire on the track, and a day race that turned into a midnight home-viewing experience. We didn't see much racing in person, but the laughter and conversation made it unforgettable.*

*Through every project, game, and trip, he taught us that life isn't about the work that needs to be done, but the people you do it with. He left us with a lifetime of lessons and a legacy of joy that will never fade.*



**Gunnar Kiersey** - December 27, 2025 at 08:35 PM

LK

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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**Laurie Kiersey** - December 27, 2025 at 02:10 PM

KK

“ Some of my favorite memories with grandpa were during our summer visits to the river house in Michigan.

*Grandpa would take us kayaking down the river, take us to Spanky's pizza for dinner, and build us the best bonfires for s'mores.*

*I remember grandpa would set up tee's out by the red barn and teach me and Alyse how to swing a golf club. Alyse was a better student than I was- I preferred to just ride around in Bob's golf cart.*

*Grandpa took us to a golf course a few times. He'd tell us to wait in the car while he grabbed the golf cart. He would swing around and pick us up at the car and take "the scenic route" to the course. It wasn't until I got older that I realized he would sneak us in to play for free.*

*During the summer trips at the river house, grandpa showed me how to make the best root beer floats. He taught me how to drive a golf cart and how to hold a fish. He taught me new phrases like "hooligan" and "stinker", most of which he would use to tease me and Alyse.*

*I'll always remember grandpa's humor, encouragement, and playfulness. I cherish the memories that I have with him and I'll never forget how loved I felt when I was around him.*



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Kendall Kiersey - December 26, 2025 at 10:50 PM