



Raymond LeRoy Peka

August 7, 1945 - March 12, 2026

Raymond Leroy Peka (80) of Fife Lake, Michigan passed away on March 12, 2026, at a nursing home in Romeo after spending an afternoon with his niece and time with an old friend and his favorite son in law.

Raymond (Ray, Butch) was born in Little Falls, Minnesota on August 7, 1945, to the late Raymond F. Peka and Eleanore D. Oldakowski. During his childhood, the family moved to Roseville, Michigan where he grew up.

Ray was married to the love of his life for almost 60 years. Mary Elizabeth Sherrill (Peka) passed away in September of 2024.

Ray served in the U.S. Air Force, got stationed in Marquette, toured in Thailand, went to Vietnam, and worked as a helicopter mechanic. After his two enlistments, he was a truck driver for many years until he started his own home-remodeling company. He retired downstate in 2008.

The couple then moved up north to spend summers near Ray's youngest sister Patti's place. They wintered in Florida, where he volunteered at Sun N Fun Aerospace Flight School in Lakeland. Ray was part of the maintenance team there. His main job was to exterminate all the ants, which gave him the nickname of "Ant Man." Ray lived a good life by traveling and taking family trips between Michigan and Minnesota.

"Butch" and Mary loved visiting Aruba, but most of all, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, hosting reunions, building campfires, and chopping wood at his retirement home in Fife Lake, where they were members of the Catholic church.

Butch is survived by his three children, John D. Peka (Melissa), Brian J. Peka, and Cynthia D. Brunk (Robert); five grandchildren, Raymond (Kristin), AJ, Kourtney (Alex), Evelyn, and Zach; six great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and poodle, Max.

Butch is predeceased by his sisters, Jane (Jan) Dine, Lois Jovanov, and Patricia (Patti) Dooley; nephew, Steven Kenward and great nephew, Jason Kenward.

Cremation services have been entrusted to Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home in Kalkaska. Memorial contributions can be made to Kalkaska County Commission on Aging, or St. Aloysius Church. Please go to www.wolfeoneill.com/obituaries to visit Raymond's tribute page and share a memory with his loved ones. A small, private service will be held at a later date.,

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Not sure where to begin! My earliest memories are you coming up to Deford to go deer hunting. The summers I spent at your house in Roseville. The Christmases at Aunt Lo’s with all the adults sitting around the table and us cousins hanging out together. Going up to the cabin in St. Helen. When you first bought the house on Lakeville Lake and the amazing work you did to it over the years. The summer picnics going out on the boat, fishing, swimming out to the floating dock. Gee’s, those were definitely the days! And then coming up to Fife Lake in the summers as you hosted all of us crazy kids at your property. Swimming at Mirror Lake, the canoeing adventures, always the Best Fourth in the North parade downtown, you taking on a tour of the property and what had changed. My favorite times were just sitting around the campfire at your house, talking, reminiscing about all the good old days while Don cooked beef stew on the fire – and he always hid a container for you to eat later. Lol. The last few years, coming to see you after Christmas in a snow storm but I told Don, we had to make it up to see you. You and I on the phone laughing about the electric blanket being so cozy on the couch while you watched TV, making sure you had enough firewood chopped to make it through the winter and how Max missed Aunt Mary. The last time we talked, we spent awhile on the phone and then you abruptly told me you were late for your nap and had to go. I didn’t know that was the last time I’d talk with you. I don’t know if you knew I was there last week, talking your leg off about random stuff as you slept. I did notice you scrunch you’re eyebrows when I said your favorite niece is here to visit you. Lol. I’m really going to miss you. I love you and hope you’re with Aunt Mary and your sisters now, at peace and happy. Until we see each other again Uncle Butch....Love you, Jill





Jill Hemmen - March 16 at 03:16 PM

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Kourtney Altman - March 16 at 03:13 PM