



## Peter Kivisaari

April 18, 1946 - February 17, 2026

NORWAY- Peter Jacob William Kivisaari age 79 of Norway, passed away Tuesday, February 17, 2026, after a decade-long journey through an ultimately devastating bone marrow cancer (myelofibrosis) at Marshfield Medical Center – Dickinson in Iron Mountain, MI.

Peter was born on April 18, 1946 in Marquette the son of the late William and Lempi (Maki) Kivisaari, and moved to Norway at age five.

He attended Norway High School, where he met Cheryl Priante, the love of his life. He graduated in 1964 and then attended the University of Michigan, graduating with a political science degree in 1968.

He was then drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War. Following his tour, he returned to marry Cheryl on July 3, 1971 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Norway.

That fall, the young couple relocated to Minneapolis, where Peter attended University of Minnesota Law School, graduating in 1974. He practiced law in Norway for nearly 40 years. In retirement he enjoyed coffee with friends, bible study, and cutting wood with his chainsaw.

Peter was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church for much of his life, and his

faith in God provided a strong foundation and a guiding force to his family, by whom he was beloved.

Peter is survived by his wife of 54 years Cheryl; and his sons Adam, David, and Mark (Sun Lee).

He was preceded in death by his parents William and Lempi Kivisaari and his brother John.

Visitation will be held on Monday, February 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday at 3 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home with Pastor Dave Johnson of Bethany Lutheran Church, officiating.

Interment will be held at the Norway Township Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **23**. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home  
618 Norway Street  
P.O. Box 155  
Norway, MI 49870  
(906) 563-5700  
ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com  
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

FEB **23**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home  
618 Norway Street  
P.O. Box 155  
Norway, MI 49870  
(906) 563-5700  
ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com  
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DZ

“ Our deepest condolences to Cheryl and the family. Peter was a wonderful man and will be remembered as such. The Zanoni's

David Zanoni - February 25 at 02:19 PM

AF

“ Peter did a lot of work for the bank and I got to know him quite well. A few times out to his camp we had a few drinks and he would cut wood. He love cutting wood.

Al Filizetti - February 23 at 08:42 PM

BL

“ our deepest sympathy to your family bob shares memories of times spent at langin camp and going way back to confirmation classes fon menories

bob lofholm - February 23 at 12:48 PM

BH

“ Rich and I always enjoyed seeing and visiting with Peter. He will be missed. Our prayers will go out for all who loved him.

Beth Henrion - February 23 at 11:59 AM

ER

“ Peter helped me so much as my parents transitioned to Medicaid. He knew my dad's family and he treated me with respect because of my long time Norway family. (I was an out of townner) He was patient, kind and so so helpful. God bless him. Elaine Rysiewicz

elaine rysiewicz - February 23 at 08:12 AM

DG

“ Our sincere sympathy and prayers for your loss Cheryl and family.....Debbie and Tom Gursky

Debbie and Tom Gursky - February 20 at 10:56 PM

SS

“ Cheryl and family, I am so sorry for your loss. It must have been a long journey for you all. Peter is smiling down on you peacefully resting with the Lord. Siri Sholten

Siri Sholten - February 20 at 01:59 PM

AR

“ Cheryl and family, I am deeply sorry for your loss. Peter was such a genuinely nice person. We got to know him during our fellowship at church during Lenten services. We talked politics and our differences were never an issue. We humored one another and his sense of humor made sparring fun. He greatly liked the Holden Service we sang during Lent. I have always thought of him when we sing the songs from it. I will feel his presence this season of Lent and picture him singing in God's choir in restored health. May you find strength in prayers and love from your family and friends.

Alice and Gordy Reed

Alice Reed - February 20 at 10:45 AM

PA

“ Peter represented me in the 70s and I still remember his wry wit and humor to this day. The thoughts never fail to put a smile on my face.

paula a - February 20 at 09:45 AM

DC

“ We cut a lot of wood together in retirement. Now he's cutting wood for the Lord. He'll be missed.

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**Don Dugan Charlevoix** - February 19 at 10:31 AM