



Alan Gerald Verheek, age 80 of Manistee, passed away on February 14, 2024, at Munson Hospital in Traverse City, MI.

He was born to the late A. Gerald Verheek & Lenore (Holmes) Marie Verheek on August 4, 1943. He was a graduate of Manistee High School, Class of 1961. Prior to attending college, Alan enlisted and proudly served in the United States Navy as an IC3 aboard the USS Boyd from 1961 to 1964. After military service, Alan attended Ferris State College and Central Michigan University and graduated from Central Michigan with his teaching degree in 1971. He was appointed as Manistee County Treasurer in 1975 and won election to the seat in 1976. After serving as County Treasurer for 32 years, Alan retired in May 2007.

Alan had a myriad of interests and hobbies that included woodworking, building muzzleloaders, and hunting with his sons. He was well known for crafting beautiful plate rails as well as his finish work with trim. He was proud to have a muzzleloader he built displayed at the Manistee County Historical Museum. He especially enjoyed duck hunting over the past 37 years on Sugar Island with his sons, his cousin Mike, and other family and friends along with deer hunting at the cabin with his son and others. Alan was also an active community member through his volunteer work in various organizations and clubs in Manistee. He was active in the Manistee Elks, Moose, American Legion, and Eagles as well as volunteered his time to coach his children's athletic teams. He loved helping family and friends and was always there to lend a hand when needed and asked. Alan also loved telling and hearing a good story. His face would light up when telling tales of his adventures throughout life.

He married the love of his life, Susan (Sue) Kay Dalke, on November 23, 1968, and was married for 55 years. Alan and Sue traveled extensively and loved talking about their adventures throughout the United States and overseas. He was proud of the cabin on Skocelas Road in Manistee County that he and Sue built in the mid-1990s and loved the memories that were created there. While he would claim he never won against Sue in cribbage, he loved playing cards with family and friends as well. Alan's greatest sense of pride was saved for his three children – Andy, Jason, and Sara – and his four grandchildren – Alexander, Madelynn, Natalie, and Sadie. He absolutely loved and cherished spending time with everyone at the house, at the cabin, and on vacation.

Alan was preceded in death by his parents plus his stepmother, Betty Verheek, and his in-laws, John & Donna Dalke; his sister Linda Verheek; and his stepbrothers Tom Verheek & Gary Verheek. He is survived by his wife Sue, sons Andy Verheek & Jason (Nichole) Verheek, and his daughter Sara (Tim) Rietman; grandchildren Alexander Verheek, Madelynn Verheek, Natalie Verheek, Sadie Verheek, plus his step-grandsons Jacob & Lucas Rietman; stepbrother Scott (Marie) Verheek, brother-in-law Duane (Linda) Dalke; and numerous nieces and nephews.

While it is impossible to express and describe the grief of losing the best husband, father, and friend a person could wish for in this, or any other lifetime, there is comfort in knowing that he led an amazingly wonderful, adventurous, and fulfilling life along with the peace he now enjoys being in the embrace of our Heavenly Father.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 22 at Oak Grove Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Parkdale, MI. Family will receive family and friends beginning at 10:00am with a memorial service following at 11:00am. A luncheon will be served at Oak Grove after the memorial service. Alan's cremated remains will be laid to rest at Oak Grove Cemetery in Manistee, MI in a private family ceremony at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Alan's family is requesting that donations be made to Manistee County's Humane Society - Homeward Bound Animal Shelter at Animal Shelter - Homeward Bound Animal Shelter (homewardboundmanistee.org)