



Paul David Seppala

August 13, 1943 - October 2, 2025

Paul D. Seppala, age 82, of Holland, formerly of Niles, Michigan passed away Thursday, October 2, 2025, at Resthaven Maple Woods Cottages. He was a beloved brother, father, grandfather and great grandfather and was known for his generous spirit as well as his silly and quick-witted humor.

Paul was born and raised in Detroit by his mother, Mae, and father, George, along with his brother, Earl. The family was close with their grandparents, aunts/uncles, and cousins. They enjoyed spending time together in the Copper Country of the Upper Peninsula. He followed in his parent's footsteps and went on to become a teacher. He received a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education and a Master of Arts in Education from Northern Michigan University, and taught Math, CAD, AutoCAD, and Drafting for the majority of his 30-year career at Southwestern Michigan College at their campuses in Niles and Dowagiac. In a letter of recognition from the Dean of Business and Technology in 1993 it was shared that Paul "has developed the drafting/engineering technology program into one of the most advanced in the state". His daughter remembers how excited he was to be part of a team to help bring one of the first 3D printers to the college.

He was proud of his Finnish heritage and tremendously loved spending time with his family, sailing, kayaking, and was always busy working on projects around the house. After retiring from teaching Paul purchased a summer

home in Grand Traverse County and was always on the move between Niles and Traverse City and visiting his daughters and grandchildren. Paul was never known to turn down a cup of coffee or a sweet treat (especially Moomers Cherries Moobilee ice cream), although any kind of "scary" green vegetable was likely tossed to one of his dogs!

He was an accomplished woodworker and all-around handyman - building both of his houses and even installing an in-ground pool with assistance from his longtime friend, Dennis. Lacking hobbies was never a problem for Paul; he dabbled in many, which included: clock making, stained glass, fishing, sailing, playing pool, skeet shooting, scuba diving, cars, and furniture making. Paul was also passionate about his happy places on the waters of Grand Traverse Bay and Duck Lake where he loved spending time with his family, friends, and golden retrievers. He loved watching college football, hockey, and basketball especially if the MSU Spartans or the Notre Dame Fighting Irish were playing. It was house divided so he was often found wearing gear for both teams on game day just so he couldn't be accused of taking sides.

While living in Niles, Paul regularly attended church at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and then he began to attend Zion Lutheran Church in Holland with his daughter, Michelle's family, when he moved to the area.

Paul is survived by his:

Daughters

Karen (David) Hossfeld of Oswego, IL

Michelle (Travis) Gibbs of Holland

Grandchildren

Sarah (Justin) Dancu

Matthew Hossfeld

Christopher (Kendra) Hossfeld

Oliver Gibbs
Emmalynn Gibbs

Great grandchildren
Theodore Dancu
John Dancu
Maelys Dancu

Brother
Earl (Sylvia) Seppala of Hockessin, DE

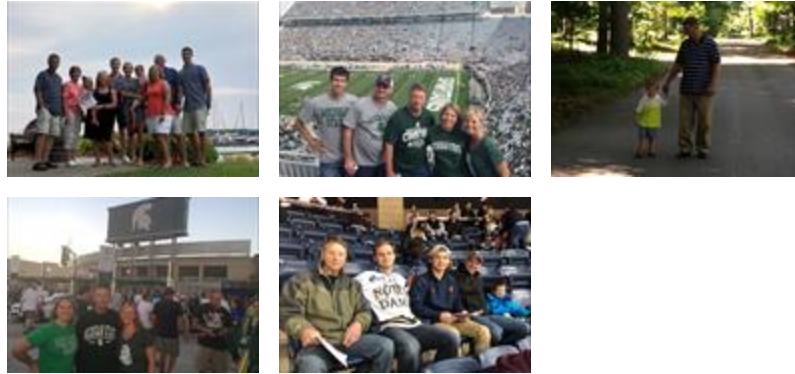
Former wife
Mary Seppala of Niles/Holland

A private family service, with Rev. Ryan Winningham officiating, is planned at Zion Lutheran Church in Holland. Burial will be in Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Traverse City. Memorial contributions may be made to Resthaven's Maple Woods Cottages Fund "Renewing Our Legacy" or the Alzheimer's Association. The Seppala family is grateful for all the kindness, care, and support shown to them by the staffs at both Maple Woods and Faith Hospice. Arrangements are by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home and condolences may be left online at www.langelandsterenbergh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ 23 files added to the album Memories Album



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - October 08, 2025 at 09:29 AM

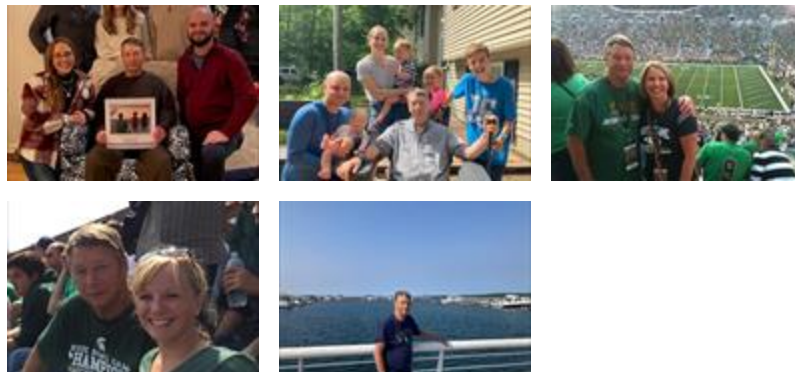
LG

“ Paul’s love for life was infectious when in his presence. He was a wonderful father, grandfather and it is an honor to have been able to know him as a friend. I will miss his teasing and his hugs.

Lori Gibbs - October 07, 2025 at 09:40 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - October 07, 2025 at 05:09 PM

SR

“ Paul always found a way to make me laugh, he was quite the funny guy. When he wasn't cracking jokes he would find ways to be appreciative of those around him and I will always be grateful for his kind words and gestures. He is so loved and will be greatly missed. Prayers to the family ☐

Shammy Rose - October 07, 2025 at 04:50 PM

LG

Paul's love for life was infectious when in his presence. He was a wonderful father, grandfather and it is an honor to have been able to know him as a friend. I will miss his teasing and his hugs.

Lori Gibbs - October 07, 2025 at 09:32 PM

AP

“ I enjoyed Paul's stories and smile. My prayers are with the family.



Anna Perales - October 07, 2025 at 11:16 AM

AK

“ Paul was a one of a kind guy. He was that guy you would try to get to come to activities just for a coffee and sometimes it would work. But you tell him theirs puppies involved and he lite right up! His witty comments while he watched activities from a far were some of my favorite especially during cardio drumming. Some of my favorite memories with him were when he came out to watch the solar eclipse, when the puppies came to visit, and just sitting outside with him drinking a coffee or going for a walk. He just loved his family especially Michelle and Karen, thank you for being such a good advocate for your dad! He will be missed! My thoughts and prayers are with you guys!

Alisha Kingston - October 07, 2025 at 09:41 AM

HK

“ I had the great honor to care for Paul. He was the type of man that blessed me daily with his quick wit and boyish grin. He will be missed by many but now can rest in peace💙

Heather Knoop - October 07, 2025 at 12:24 AM