



Casey J. Eckert

April 24, 1979 - January 23, 2026

Casey J. Eckert, born April 24, 1979 left this world on January 23, 2026 at the age of 46. The cherished son of Lu (Barry) Hoffman and Jack (Darlene) Eckert will forever be missed by his parents and siblings: Rebecca (LaWalt) Johnson, Janna (Ken) Hosford, Quinn (Sarah Howes) Hoffman, Kenzee (Bryant) Trierweiler, Jennifer Elceser, A. J. Eckert, and Cale Eckert. Casey is survived by his paternal grandfather Oliver Eckert, his uncles Tim and Mike Eckert, treasured cousins, and many precious nieces and nephews. Preceding Casey in death were his maternal grandparents, Robert and Edna Kenworthy, his maternal aunt, Kim Kenworthy, and his paternal grandmother, Eleanor Eckert. Casey was blessed with friends who were essentially family: Louise (Brad), Clay and Derek Foltz who added fun and joy to his life. Casey also had a gift of the extended families of his stepparents, Barry Hoffman and Darlene Klein Eckert. Casey leaves behind his beloved dogs, Baxter and Ellie.

Music, Art, sports, and love of animals helped to define who Casey was. His life was marked by both deep struggle and deep humanity. He faced significant challenges with mental illness and addiction, battles that shaped much of his journey and profoundly affected those who loved him. While these struggles were real, they were not the entirety of who he was.

When Casey was well, he was gentle in a way that stayed with you. He was kind, attentive, funny, and deeply caring. In those times, he showed the true version of who he was: a person capable of great empathy, life, and love.

Those who knew him best knew that underneath the illness and the chaos in

his mind was a sweet soul. Casey's laughter, his concern for others, and his ability to connect are the memories his family holds closest.

Casey's life reminds us how devastating mental illness and addiction can be. His story was one of love, loss, and the ongoing struggle to see the person beyond the pain.

The funeral service to honor Casey will be officiated by Pastor Jacob Richards at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at the First Congregational Church, 421 E. Bridge St., Portland, MI. Casey's family will receive relatives and friends from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. right before the funeral at the church. In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Capital Area Humane Society, 7095 W. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48906 (<https://bit.ly/4ITktE9>). Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Share your memories and condolences online at holihanatkin.com

Cemetery Details

Portland City Cemetery

950 E. Bridge Street
Portland, MI 48875

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 28. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church
421 E. Bridge Street
Portland, MI 48875

Service

JAN 28. 12:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church
421 E. Bridge Street
Portland, MI 48875

Tribute Wall



“ *Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Casey J. Eckert*



Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home - January 27 at 12:07 PM

JF

“ *I'm so sorry for the loss of Casey and for the family. There's not enough room here to say everything that he was or what he meant to people. One heck of an athlete, fiercely competitive. But the best word I can use to describe him is loyal. Being a friend of Casey, you knew he was always there for you when you needed him. I attached a couple pictures, a fun night at central. You are all in my thoughts. Much love. John*



John Fabiano - January 28 at 09:55 PM

LA

“ *Lisa, Derek, Trent, Ali and Alaska purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Casey J. Eckert.*



Lisa, Derek, Trent, Ali and Alaska - January 28 at 11:33 AM

LA

“ Lisa, Derek, Trent, Ali and Alaska planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Casey J. Eckert.

Lisa, Derek, Trent, Ali and Alaska - January 28 at 11:33 AM

TL

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I was Casey's teacher in high school. I remember his laugh and very strong sense of wonder and curiosity. I hadn't seen in him in over 20 years when I ran into him at the garden store about a year ago. We became friends. Over the past year we'd get together and go drive around country roads just drinking coffee and talking.

Casey had a very big heart and lots of love he yearned to give. I'd tell him I saw much love, thought and care he put into the little flower garden he kept in his yard. He also cared for and loved his dogs. Most of all on our drives he'd talk about his family and his love for them. He always got an excited glimmer in his eye and a spark in his voice when he talked about his family and those he cared for. I know he struggled, but he always came back to such a strong desire to love and care for others.

I hope and pray Casey is in a place where love flows freely and is not so burdened by the complications of this world. I can see Casey flourishing in heaven where his creative spirit, great capacity to love, and his excitement to care for others takes wings.

My prayers for his loved ones and especially his mom are many. May Casey be at peace.

Tom Little - January 28 at 06:43 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Casey J. Eckert.*



January 27 at 09:41 PM



“ *Lu Ann, my heart is heavy with the news of Casey’s passing. While there are truly no words that can ease such a profound loss, I want you to know how deeply I feel for you, for Janna, and for the entire family.*

Though I didn’t know Casey personally, I had the honor—as a close friend to the family—of watching him grow over many years. It was a privilege to see him grow from that spunky, blonde little boy into the tall, handsome gentleman he became.

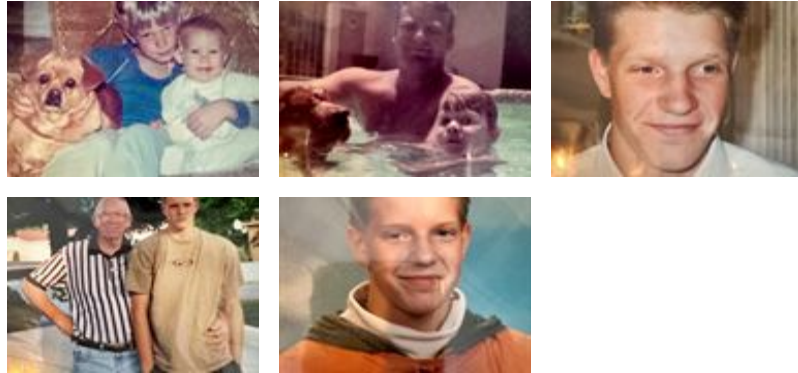
I will always remember his great smile—or that unmistakable little grin—when he was cracking a joke, teasing one of you, or about to launch into a story we may or may not have been prepared to hear. He was fun and witty, yet he carried a welcoming and calming presence that was entirely his own. His obituary captured him perfectly: ‘he was gentle in a way that stayed with you.’

I know how much he meant to all of you, and I am so deeply sorry for the loss of your beautiful son. You are in my thoughts and my heart.

Andrea Scannell - January 27 at 04:10 PM



“ 78 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home - January 27 at 11:41 AM



“ Casey, I will miss you bud. May you rest in piece from the struggles you faced.



Debbie Hamilton - January 27 at 11:36 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Casey J. Eckert.



January 27 at 09:50 AM

JV

“ So sorry to hear this. I didn't know him well but he seemed a genuinely nice caring person. He knew my daughter as they went to school together. Cannot attend the service as we are in Florida. So sorry for your loss and praying for healing for the family. - Jim VanGoor

James VanGoor - January 27 at 09:47 AM

GH

“ So sorry for your loss. I'll be praying for Casey and your family. Rest in Peace Casey. Gordy Hamberg

Gordon Hamberg - January 27 at 08:58 AM

KJ

“ Jennifer, I'm so very sorry for your loss. You will be in my prayers to get through this difficult time. - Kelley Johns

Kelley Johns - January 27 at 08:04 AM

JP

“ Very sorry to hear of Casey's passing. I graduated with him in 1998, and probably hadn't seen him in 20 years or more. Gone far too soon!

Jacob M Pung - January 27 at 07:25 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Casey J. Eckert.



January 27 at 06:17 AM