



Jack D. Luukkonen

December 31, 1937 - July 6, 2025

Jackie “Jack” Donald Luukkonen

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Jackie “Jack” Donald Luukkonen of Toivola, Michigan, passed away on July 6, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones, closing a life defined by love, resilience, humor, and an adventurous spirit.

Born in Calumet, Michigan on December 31, 1937, to Sakarias and Lyyli (Savola) Luukkonen, Jack was raised in the small Finnish community of Toivola. From a young age, he embraced the values of hard work, family, and self-reliance, and developed a lifelong love for hunting, fishing, and the outdoors.

He was a proud Army veteran, having served from 1955 to 1957 in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Benning, Georgia. After graduating from Aquinas College with a bachelor’s degree in accounting, Jack began working for the State of Michigan. He eventually retired from the Department of Corrections, where he served as an audit manager.

In 1957, Jack married the love of his life, Nancy. Together they built a life full of travel, laughter, and devotion. Eventually, they made Grand Ledge, Michigan their long-term home, where they raised four children and later, one of their grandchildren with strong values and deep love.

Jack had a sharp wit and a kind heart. He was outgoing, friendly, funny, and compassionate. He made friends easily and never missed an opportunity to brighten someone’s day. He enjoyed cross-country skiing, spending time with

friends and family, enjoying pizza at DeLuca's restaurant, listening to music, and especially returning to his cherished home in Toivola. He also had a special place in his heart for animals, and his beloved kitty Smee was a constant companion.

Jack bravely fought prostate cancer for 19 years, facing every day with *sisu*, a Finnish term that captures the strength, grit, and determination that so deeply defined him. He was fiercely proud of his Finnish heritage and embodied its spirit in all he did.

After Nancy's passing, Jack found renewed faith and a deep devotion to God, which brought him peace and purpose in his final years.

He is survived by his children Jack Luukkonen Jr. of Au Train, Michigan, and Denise Herweyer of Juno Beach, Florida; his brother William Luukkonen of Toivola, Michigan; his sister Shirley Luukkonen of Hancock, Michigan; his daughter-in-law Carole Luukkonen of Charlotte, Michigan; his grandchildren Alyson, Eli, Ben, Emma, Harley, and Hannah; and his cat Smee. He will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends, including the Fernelius family and the Harma family.

Jack was preceded in death by his beloved wife Nancy, his son David Luukkonen, his daughter Valerie Luukkonen, and his brother Walter Luukkonen.

He often said he was "running against the wind" a testament to his fearless and determined approach to life. Jack was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, veteran, and friend. He leaves behind a legacy of strength, love, and unwavering spirit.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jack's memory to McLaren Hospice and Homecare Foundation, Attention: Donations, 1515 Cal Drive, Davison, Michigan 48423 or Saved by Zade, P.O. Box 27, Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827 (<https://savedbyzade.com/make-a-donation/>). A memorial service will be held Saturday, August 2, 2025 at 11:00 AM at the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 10-11:00 AM. A luncheon will be served immediately

following the service. A memorial service for Jack's family and friends in Toivola will be held Saturday, August 9, 2025, 11:00 AM at the Range Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11 Whealkate Avenue, South Range, Michigan 49963. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 10-11:00 AM. A luncheon will immediately follow the service at the church. Inurnment will follow the luncheon at Toivola Cemetery. Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Share your memories and condolences online at www.holihanatkin.com

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
406 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-2531
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

Celebration of Life

AUG 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Visitation

AUG 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Range Apostolic Lutheran Church
11 Whealkate Avenue
South Range, MI 49963

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Tribute Wall

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“ I cannot truly express in words my feelings of sadness of not having Uncle Jack to visit with. Throughout my lifetime dad (Walter) would take me visiting at Agate Beach whenever Uncle Jack was home, a very special place. After dad died my sisters and I continued to visit him and uncle Willie and Aunt Shirley. We had such great conversations, singing, guitars and laughter and a little blackberry brandy. It was always a fun celebration of gathering, we had white fish for dinner's. The last visit, we made apple crisp from the local trees near by. We gazed at the stars in the night. Talked about family. He gave me so much insight to our family, past generations and the current.

One of his text to me was. “I looked it up 1 Corinthians, I remember that one, Love is patient love is kind. 😊” He is near and dear to my heart. So thankful he shared himself with his wisdom to me ❤️. He now is with his beautiful Nancy whom he passionately loved. Fly high Uncle Jack 🙏. With much Love, Terri

Terri L Marceski - July 25, 2025 at 05:38 PM

AN

“ Jack was truly a joyful person and was always so kind. He lived a rich life surrounded by his close family and a love for his home and history in the UP. May these memories bring you joy.

Angela Niswander - July 18, 2025 at 09:08 AM