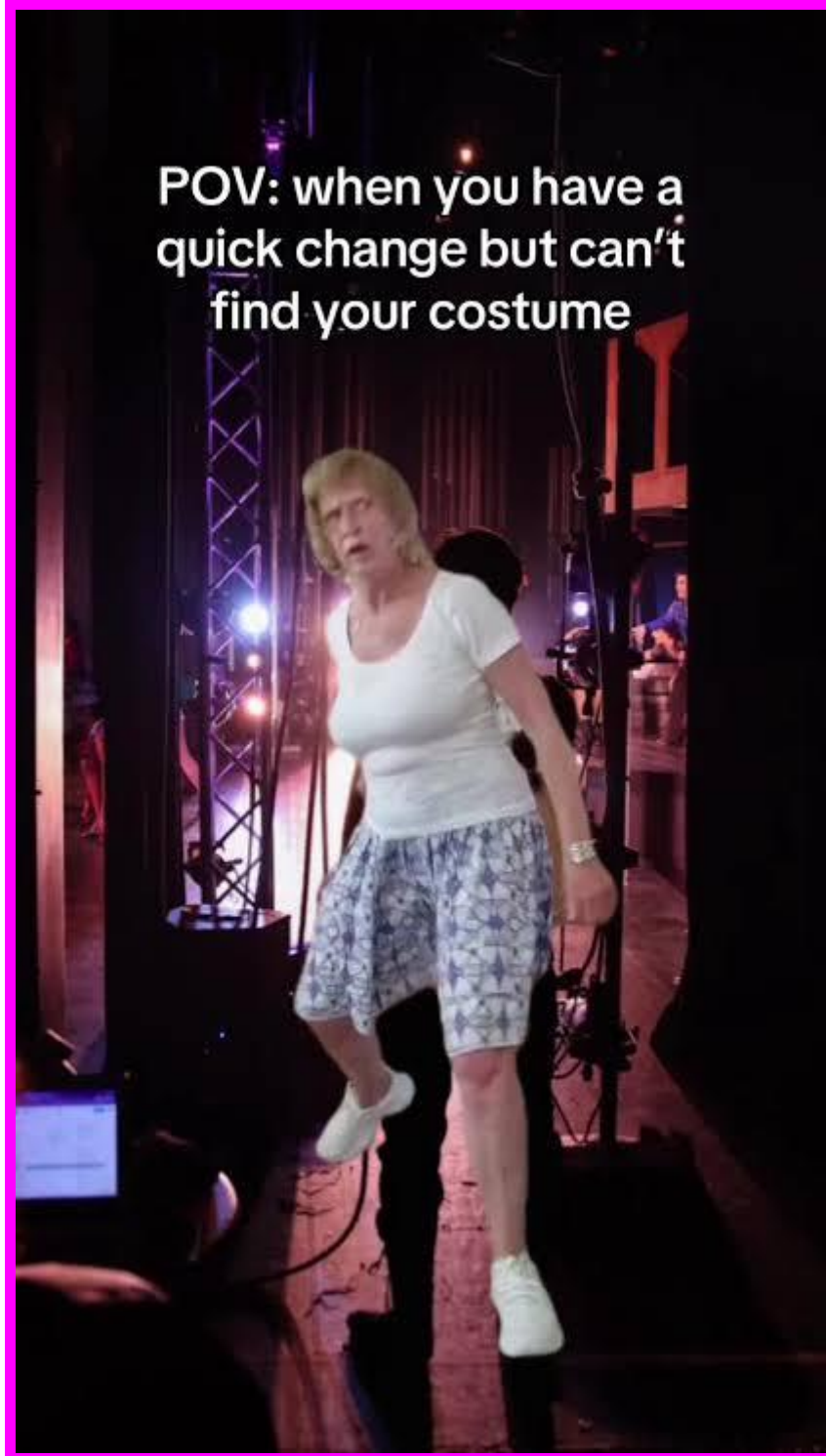


TBP CURTAIN CALLS

APRIL/MAY 2026

**POV: when you have a
quick change but can't
find your costume**



Greetings fellow theater lovers. I'm writing this from the Florida retreat of our very own **Pat Casey and Pamela Koepke**. We've had what like a vacation to be, a low key and relaxing (okay, me, those two never stop running) time. They live in a place riddled with Michiganders and Tawasians, too.

I just had to walk two feet away to enjoy an impromptu outdoor concert outside at **Vickie and Dennis Szatkowski's**. Our own **Judy Quarters** was there, along with some of her crew, and about a dozen other people I just met. And no, I am terrible with names so I can't even tell you some of them now, and that was only five days ago.

But while checking on the perimeter with Pat one evening (locking the pool and bathrooms), I noticed a really neat bench. And when I looked closer, I saw it was dedicated to long time and beloved member **June Groff**. Pat told me the "kids" purchased it and donated it to Strawberry Square where they all live in Plant City during the winter. Grandma June, as I always called her, was at the ready for a warm hug and whatever you needed. It brought a smile to my face, and she's still missed both here in Florida and at home in Tawas.



L to R: Vickie Szatkowski, Chuck Groff, Lyle Groff, Judy Quarters

Today was a gorgeous sunny, warm day, and we enjoyed ourselves in the pool. I write this now because I'll be coming back to Michigan just before this newsletter gets sent out, and I have to remind myself of all the sun and fun I'm leaving behind.

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(This is the start of a new feature for the newsletter. It's called Ask the Drama Queen. The author shall remain anonymous, but rest assured, when it comes to theater, nobody does it better. Think of her as the Ann Landers/Miss Manners for community theater. Now, for your reading pleasure:

DEAR DRAMA QUEEN,

I need some help with auditioning. I've auditioned quite a lot. I landed some parts but often didn't get the one I wanted: the lead. Do you have some tips? I want to do better! Hopefully,

Tawas Actor Wannabe

Dear TAW:

I applaud your goal of improving your auditioning skills. Here's some ideas:

First, dress for comfort and confidence. You don't have to dress up but don't be a slob!

Second, start on the right foot: arrive early; introduce yourself. If you aren't already familiar with the script, ask if you can look at a script and/or ask the director if they have a synopsis.

When you're called on to read:

Stand up straight

Read loudly enough for the people in the back to hear you.

Read slower than you talk and enunciate each word. (Audiences who can't hear or understand the dialogue will eventually stop trying.)

Feel free to look up toward the audience or at the person you are reading with.

Move your body, use hand gestures if you can. You'll only have one hand, but it will add to your reading.

If you want some options, watch a favorite TV show with the sound off and see how actors use their hands.

Read with emotion. Pauses, emphasize a word etc. (Directors like to see creativity.)

A Musical Note: If you are singing from memory, decide what to do with your hands. Use gestures to convey emotions or just leave your hands at your sides. Having practiced you can perform with confidence.

Keep an open mind about the part you want. Let's assume you want the lead. Widen your scope and try for the best friend or the town drunk. It will show the director your range.

A true story: When Vincent Weiler (still miss you every day, VW!) directed OVER THE TAVERN, many women tried out for the cranky, elderly nun. Who got the part? The youngest woman and she was terrific!

Good Luck!

Drama Queen

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TBP REPRESENTED IN SPELLING BEE

By **Michal Jacot**

Tilly's Tea House in downtown East Tawas was the site of the first annual Adult Spelling Bee, a night of fun and laughter and hard words. **Sue Duncan** and I agreed to be Team Tawas Bay Players for the evening's festivities. On February 3rd, we met at the teahouse and planned on either acing this contest or making total dopes of ourselves.

I left our cozy home, telling Laurie I was going out for a spell (see what I did there?), then braved the cold winds as I walked four miles to the teahouse in the bitter cold. Well, okay, I drove five blocks, but I had to park nearly thirty feet from the door.

Sue and I joined about ten other teams trying their luck at winning the coveted first prize, headband deely bobbars with a bee motif. Hey, it's been a long winter; we were antsy for entertainment.

We did pretty well, spelling words like "egregious," "succinct," and, my personal nemesis, "accommodating." One themed category of fishing terms threw us for a loop (who knew what a "boilie" even was??). But Sue and I used to meet to discuss murder mystery preparations at Tim Horton's, so a coffee-and-tea themed round helped us pick up points with "decaffeinated" and "darjeeling."

In the end, we got 61 points, and the winning team got 62. (Darn English teachers anyway ...) But we had fun anyway, and didn't tarnish the Tawas Bay Players name too badly. We'll get those deely bobbars next year, Sue!

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Spring Show ☐☐

By: Judy Quarters

Moonglow is in full practice mode with the team of Brenda Chadwick as Director and Melissa Street as Producer. They have a great cast - who will bring this heartfelt and enlightening show to life. It is a touching story regarding a family dealing with the disease of Alzheimer's. This story is very special to Brenda who has a mother who has suffered from this for a few years. One of our founding members, Vince Weiler, would certainly be proud of our group for making our audiences "feel" the show.

The cast consists of:

Beth Borowski - Maxine

Keith Frank - Joe

Laura Flores - Diane

Eric Toth - Greg

Jillian Howey - Girl

Hannah Towne - Sailor

Willow Newman – Benita

This is the first show Melissa has produced for TBP - although she is a seasoned director and producer with WE Players! Once the show is over, we'll ask her whether it's kids or adults who are easier to work with! Please show her the support of our wonderful membership and offer to assist her with the show, her phone number 989-305-5164. The show opens May 8th.



Cast and director of **Moonglow**.

Mark your calendars! *Decades of Delight* is having tryouts on **SUNDAY, May 3rd**



**Decades of
Delight** | **20
26**

Variety Show via decades
of entertainment

**TAWAS
BAY
PLAYERS**

July 10th-12th & 23rd-26th
7:00pm
Online tickets:
www.tawasbayplayers.com

Questions? (989) 362-8373



@6:00 pm. Questions? Contact Tracee Lentz

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Trouble In Long Branch In The Short Branch Saloon goes to Florida!

By Pat Casey

A number of TBP snowbirds and some newbies presented the murder mystery *Trouble in Long Branch in The Short Branch Saloon* by Michal Jacot in Plant City, FL. Pat Casey directed the production with Vickie Szatkowski producing the show. Pam Koepke assisted behind-the-scenes helping with whatever was needed. The cast consisted of TBP members Dennis Szatkowski as Rufus Chambers (Saloon keeper), Vickie Szatkowski as Ellie Madison (Lady sharpshooter), Pam Koepke as Winifred Thompson (The local schoolmarm), and Pat Casey as Deputy Dan(i) Dogood (moderator). Filling out the cast was Bill Beamer from Colorado as Diamond Jack (wealthy rancher), Marty Slimming from Canada as Klondike Charlie (prospector) and Cindy Scaletta from Florida as Sagebrush Sophie (The madam or as she liked to call herself "Head Ho"). This was the first time many of our audience had ever been to a murder mystery. But get into it they did! The audience and cast had a great time with a lot of laughs.



***TROUBLE IN LONG BRANCH
IN THE SHORT BRANCH SALOON
Super Job! February 27, 2026***

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WE Players, Inc.
Auditions!



**The
Thirty-Three
Little Pigs**

By Brian D. Taylor

Auditions April 7th & 8th at 5:30 pm

Tawas Bay Players Playhouse, 401 Newman St. East Tawas

Auditioning ages 7-12

Show Dates May 29, 30 & 31

**Questions call Suzan
989.820.5257**



PIC•COLLAGE

If you've got littles who are dying to be on stage, this is a perfect opportunity for them to dip those toes in. WE Players is doing this delightful spring show. Questions? Contact Suzan Nemeth.

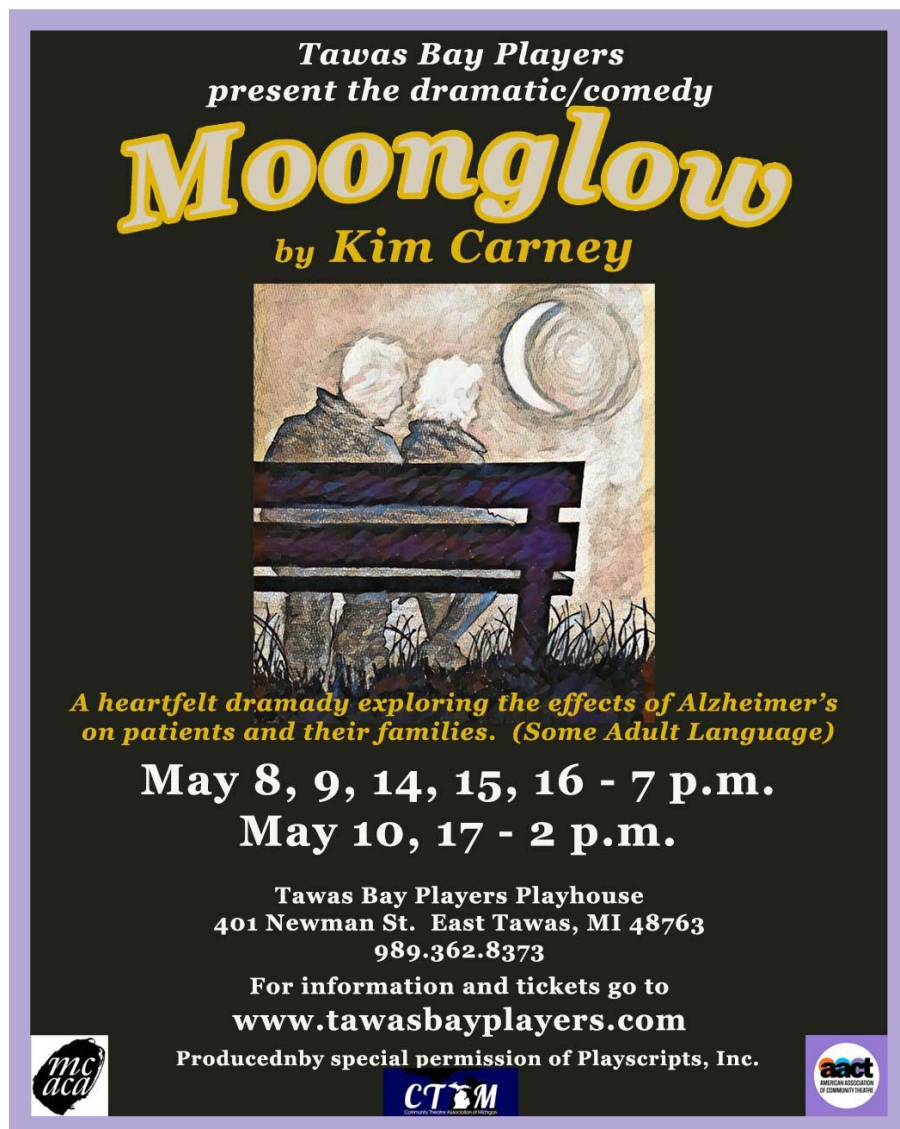
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MOONGLOW SPONSORS by Judy Quarters

Tawas Bay Players has been very fortunate to be blessed with some sponsors for our upcoming show, *Moonglow*.

We submitted letters to area service providers requesting sponsorships for the show because it will be touching on the personal pain of Alzheimer's Disease while also providing genuine educational information about its progression. We have received monetary donations from Iosco Commission on Aging, Iosco Medical Care Facility and Lakeview Manor to help offset some of the costs of bringing this show to our stage.


It's exciting to be in partnerships with other community groups through our joint efforts to make the Tawas community better for all of us!



Tawas Bay Players
present the dramatic/comedy

Moonglow

by *Kim Carney*






A heartfelt dramady exploring the effects of Alzheimer's on patients and their families. (Some Adult Language)

May 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 - 7 p.m.
May 10, 17 - 2 p.m.

Tawas Bay Players Playhouse
401 Newman St. East Tawas, MI 48763
989.362.8373

For information and tickets go to
www.tawasbayplayers.com

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MEMBERSHIP by Judy Quarters

There is always some confusion about membership and when to renew???

The membership ALWAYS renews in August - at the time of the annual membership meeting. If not able to do it then, the form is available at the theater or on our website!!

Why be a member?

1. To keep in touch with what is happening via the quarterly newsletter and different emails throughout the year.
2. To be able to vote for board members.
3. To contribute by becoming a board member.
4. Get into dress rehearsals free. Save yourself some money and help out your fellow players by being there to support them before the actual opening.
5. To contribute to the newsletter and help keep yourself and other members up to date so you don't have to read Barb's endlessly lengthy writing to make it look like we have enough for a newsletter...(okay, maybe Judy didn't write the last one).

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COMING ATTRACTION



**JULY 17 & 18
2026**

Tawas Bay
Players Presents:

**DUELING
PIANOS**



FEATURING:

COOL 2 DUEL

AMERICAN LEGION HALL



900 E. Lincoln St. East Tawas, MI



Doors Open at 6:30pm - Entertainment Starts at 7:00pm

MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER TO ATTEND

\$30.00 at the door or \$25.00 advance at www.tawasbayplayers.com

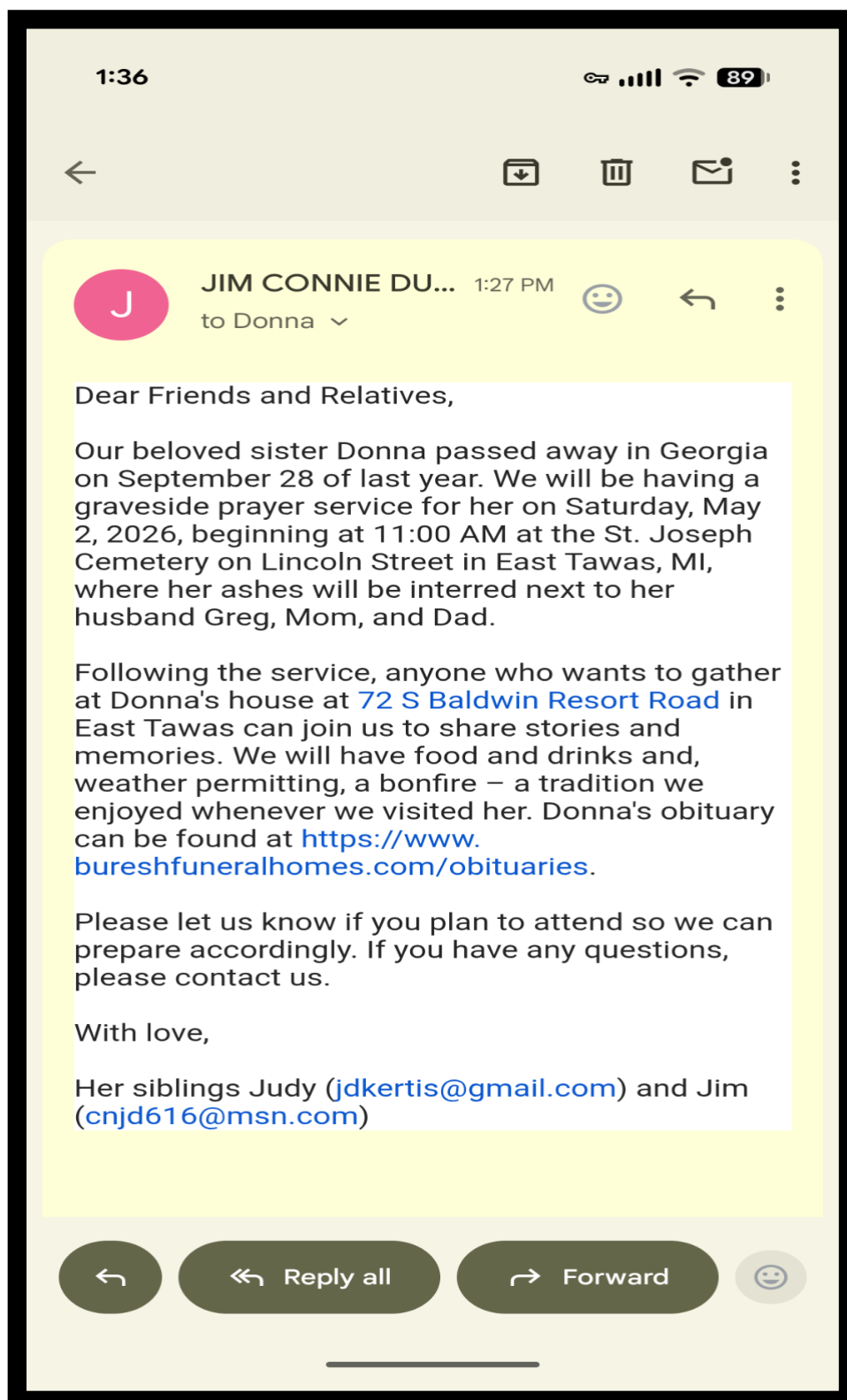


989-362-8373

Cash Bar and Refreshments Available



As many of you may remember, last year on September 28, 2025 we lost long time member Donna Dahlstrom. Her family shared this information with one of Donna's stepsons, who shared it with me. For anyone interested or able:



Rest in Peace...

TBP lost another amazingly talented soul recently. Andy DeWilde who was a long time member of both TBP and Shoreline Players. Andy also played an important role for many years with the TBP Singers. His dry sense of humor and quick wit has been missed since his relocation to Grand Rapids, but anyone lucky enough to have worked with Andy on or off stage knows it was a privilege to spend time with this seasoned theater veteran. Below is his obituary. Take a final bow Andy. You earned it.

OBITUARY



Andre DeWilde

MAY 30, 1932 – JANUARY 30, 2026

DeWilde, Andre (Andy), age 93, of Grand Rapids, Michigan was called home on Friday, January 30, 2026. He was born on May 30, 1932, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, to parents Andries and Inez DeWilde.

When he was six years old, the family moved to Surinam, Dutch Guiana for his dad's work but then landed in Royal Oak, Michigan six years later. Andre graduated from Lincoln Ferndale High School in 1949. He then attended Wayne State University, where he joined the Alpha Kappa Psi fraternity, met his future wife, Elizabeth [Betty] Moore, and earned a BS in Business Administration with Accounting in 1954.

Andre went on to serve two years in the U.S. Army as Specialist 3rd Class and in the Medical Corps – 8th Infantry, 4th Division, primarily stationed in Germany. During this time, he married Betty, in June of 1955, and had his first son, Gregory (spouse Kitty).

After his service, Andre and family settled in Keego Harbor then Waterford while he began a career at GM Truck & Bus in Pontiac. He and Betty had two more children, Michael (spouse Mandy) and Elizabeth [Beth] (spouse Dennis) Gargano. Eventually they purchased a farm in Ortonville and lived there for the next 12 years. After Andre retired from GM in 1988, as Senior Administrator, they moved to East Tawas in a house overlooking Lake Huron. They spent 30 years in the Tawas/Oscoda area working in real estate and taking part in community theater and choirs.

Over the years of marriage, Andre and Betty were members of Drayton Plains United Presbyterian Church, Tawas Area Presbyterian Church, and Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Jenison. Andy served as elder, clerk of session, sang in choirs, and volunteered with a youth group.

Just before the pandemic, they moved to the Grand Rapids area to be closer to family. Andre enjoyed golf, bowling, reading, singing, acting, traveling, visiting casinos, and playing board and card games with family and friends.

Andre is preceded in death by his parents, brother Kees, sister Tine, and wife Betty. He is survived by his sisters Caroline [Els] and Cathy, three children, six grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

The family is planning to have an internment service in Tawas. More details will be sent when determined.

Andre, Andy, Dad, Grandpa/Papa, Great-Grandpa will be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, hard-working provider, an example of how to enjoy life and family, and as a strong, faith-based believer.