



Bernard "Ben" Leese

September 19, 1945 - February 26, 2026

Bernard "Ben" J. Leese, age 80, formerly of Port Hope, passed away Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Hampton Manor of Van Buren, under hospice care.

He was born on September 19, 1945 in Harbor Beach to the late Harold and Gertrude (Champaign) Leese. He and Maxine Guitar were united in marriage on May 27, 1972. She preceded him in death on June 25, 1994. Ben and JoAnne Jeffers were united in marriage on August 31, 1996 in Port Hope. Ben worked as a designer for Ford Motor Company for 31 years, retiring in 2000. Ben also served in the US Army during Vietnam. Ben enjoyed playing cards, watching all sports, visiting with friends and family, fishing, and could fix just about anything. He enjoyed helping people and would do anything to help a friend in need.

He is survived by his wife JoAnne Leese of Van Buren Township, children: Jennifer Wagner of Wayne, Bernard "Ben" Leese Jr of Van Buren Township, Juliet (Dale) Kupkowsky of Van Buren Township, Jill (Chuck) Guisgand of Belleville, step children: Debra (Bill) Byerley of Northern Michigan, Susan (Gary) Ross of Indiana, Linda (Bob) Gaffke of Port Hope, grandchildren: Thomas, Brooklyn, Victor, Breanna, Brett, Sophia, Dominick, Alex, Danyella, Derek, Dustin, Erin, Jesse, DeAnna, KayLee, Sara, Jennifer, 19 great grandchildren, brothers: Arnold (Judy) Leese of Lexington, Herb (Betty) Leese

of Port Hope, and several nieces and nephews.

Ben was preceded in death by his wife Maxine, step daughter Patricia Majeski, siblings: his twin brother Kenneth Leese, Albert (Bud) Leese, Margaret Schulte, Mildred Pease, Dorothy Warner, Wilbert Leese, Alvin Leese, Robert Leese, Caroline Ehnis and Melvin Leese.

Funeral Services for Ben will be Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 11 am at the Ramsey Funeral Home of Harbor Beach. Cremation will follow. Visitation for Ben will be on Monday, from 2-7pm at the funeral home, visitation on Tuesday will begin at 10 am until time of services at 11 am.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Veterans Foundation and/or the Harbor Beach local outreach program - Payable to The Anchor c/o Lighthouse Church.

Memories can be shared at www.RamseyFH.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Ramsey Funeral Home, Inc
425 State St
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3407
<https://www.ramseyfh.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 3. 11:00 AM.

Ramsey Funeral Home Of Harbor Beach

Tribute Wall

HB

“ *HAMPTON MANOR OF VAN BUREN purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Bernard "Ben" Leese.*



HAMPTON MANOR OF VAN BUREN - March 03 at 07:31 AM

LB

“ *Larry Brown lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Ben" Leese*



Larry Brown - March 02 at 09:58 AM

SH

“ *My sympathy goes out to Jo and the entire family. May you find comfort in the loving memories of your times together. My prayers for you to feel God's spirit and be at peace will continue. Much love and hugs to you, Jo, from your longtime friend, Sandi.*

Sandi Hunt - March 01 at 11:37 PM

VM

“ *Vicki Mix lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Ben" Leese*



Vicki Mix - March 01 at 07:57 PM

HL

“ Harold L. purchased the *Blue Caribbean Bouquet* for the family of Bernard "Ben" Leese.



Harold L. - March 01 at 03:00 PM

HL

“ Harold L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard "Ben" Leese.

Harold L. - March 01 at 03:00 PM

YF

“ Your City of Wayne Family purchased the *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* for the family of Bernard "Ben" Leese.



Your City of Wayne Family - March 01 at 02:18 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Bernard "Ben" Leese.



March 01 at 01:30 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Bernard "Ben" Leese.



February 28 at 07:48 PM



“ *Divine Light* was purchased for the family of Bernard "Ben" Leese.



February 28 at 06:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bernard "Ben" Leese.

February 28 at 06:55 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Bernard "Ben" Leese.



February 28 at 05:41 PM



“ *SANDY JEFFERS WHALEN lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Ben" Leese*



SANDY JEFFERS WHALEN - February 28 at 05:40 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Bernard "Ben" Leese.*



February 28 at 04:27 PM



“ *Jessica Bredow lit a candle in memory of Bernard "Ben" Leese*



Jessica Bredow - February 28 at 03:42 PM