



Leo (Lee/ Tony) Pavaglio

October 21, 1946 - December 12, 2023

Leo (Lee/Tony) Pavaglio died suddenly and unexpectedly at Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital on December 12, 2023. He had just returned from a trip to Finland with his wife Pat. They watched the northern lights 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle, drove a dog sled team and then returned home to Cadillac to eat out and play cards with friends. His life was filled with adventures, quiet pursuits and connecting with people. He had a dry sense of humor and loved to pun and laugh.

Leo was born on October 21, 1946 to Leo Earl and Esther Marie (Knowles) Pavaglio who preceded him in death, along with his brother-in-law, Fred Retlewski. He is survived by his wife Pat (Harvey) and daughter Lynn (Bart) Heil of Midland, and his siblings Mark Pavaglio, Betty (Bill) Schubert, Ruth Retlewski, Glen (Kim) Pavaglio, his in-laws Sue Hopkins, Steve (Nancy) Harvey, Richard (Marcie) Harvey, and many nieces and nephews. He cared deeply about the many young people in his life.

He began his 36-year teaching career in Lapeer, Michigan. After many years of teaching high school math and being a department head, he moved into a curriculum coordinator position. He was a distinguished educator, passionate about teaching, loved to connect with students, and wore red socks on Fridays.

Perhaps the most important thing that came from his teaching career was meeting his wife, Pat. They enjoyed 52 years of marriage. They moved with their daughter, Lynn, out to the country and began raising bees, rabbits, goats and chickens, and made maple syrup. Upon their 2005 retirement they relocated to Cadillac. They enjoyed rich relationships with special friends everywhere they lived.

Leo was active throughout his life in a wide variety of pursuits. In college he was a gymnast. He ran throughout several decades, completing triathlons and marathons. He orienteered, skied cross country and downhill, climbed mountains, backpacked, camped, hiked, sailed, canoed and went on sea kayaking trips. He summited Mt. Rainier, traversed Michigan by bike multiple times, hiked portions of the Appalachian Trail, hiked the Grand Canyon from rim to rim, and earned his scuba certification. In recent years, he enjoyed yoga and annually met the YMCA challenge of swimming 100 miles.

He loved to travel, having visited many national parks, all 50 states, many countries and exciting destinations like Antarctica, the Galapagos, Machu Picchu, Greenland and Iceland. This summer he spent several weeks on a sailboat in Glacier Bay, Alaska with his family. He and Pat had plans to visit their seventh continent in March.

His life was full. He enjoyed bird watching and was a voracious reader. He enjoyed concerts and theater. In the 1980s he auditioned for a play on a whim and ended up acting for decades, serving on theater boards, judging playwriting contests and being active in the theater.

He was an avid photographer from the early days of black & white film developed in his darkroom to many photography trips to Alaska, Costa Rica, Kenya and Yellowstone in the winter.

Volunteering was in Leo's nature. He was a counselor, board member and treasurer for the Council on Aging. He served on zoning boards of appeal, monitored two sections of the North Country Trail, was an instructor on the Inland Seas' schooner, was a ski patroller at Caberfae, and mapped routes for the Pedal Across Lower Michigan bike ride.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 am on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services with Reverend John Doud officiating. Friends may meet with the family Tuesday, December 19 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service on Wednesday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Inland Seas Education Association, North Country Trail, or Interlochen Public Radio. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

DEC **19**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services
205 East Cass Street
Cadillac, MI 49601

Memorial Service

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services
205 East Cass Street
Cadillac, MI 49601

Tribute Wall

DK

“ I’m sad to see him go he was a great guy and an amazing reader theater actor

DK - December 26, 2023 at 12:02 PM

RJ

“ We were shocked & saddened to hear about Leo. A life well-lived, a man setting an example for all! We will cherish the memories of skiing in CO, hot springs in Steamboat Springs, backpacking across Aisle Royal and viewing slides from your trips. Pat, our thoughts & prayers are with you to find peace.
Love, Patty & Rick Jagger

Rick Jagger - December 26, 2023 at 11:45 AM

NR

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Mr. Paveglios passing. He was my algebra teacher my freshman year and one of my favorite teachers. He had such a great energy about him and a special way of connecting with his students. Condolences to his family.
-Nicole Robertson (McCarrick)

Nicole Robertson - December 20, 2023 at 08:52 AM

SD

“ Lee was a special person who always had time to attentively listen .We were classmates at St. James. He will be greatly missed.

sue dolsen - December 18, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Leo (Lee/ Tony) Paveglio.



December 18, 2023 at 10:27 AM



“ From the Caberfae Ski Patrol Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leo (Lee/ Tony) Paveglio.

From the Caberfae Ski Patrol Family - December 18, 2023 at 10:27 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Leo (Lee/ Tony) Paveglio.



December 18, 2023 at 10:08 AM



“ Dennis, Shelley, Sam & Maddie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leo (Lee/ Tony) Paveglio.

Dennis, Shelley, Sam & Maddie - December 18, 2023 at 10:08 AM

NP

“ So sorry for Mr. Paveglio’s passing. I have very fond memories of being in his trigonometry class in 1971. Excellent instructor and a terrific person. He will be greatly missed.

Nate Petrie - December 18, 2023 at 07:51 AM

LJ

“ Pat, I am so sad to hear this news. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. Leo was one that always brought joy to the Y and brightened my day each time we met! He will be greatly missed.

Lonna J. - December 18, 2023 at 06:30 AM

BM

“ Pat, so sorry to hear of Leo's passing. He was so much more than a colleague. He was a special friend. The last time we saw him was when he stopped for a visit after we had moved to Colorado. He didn't have to do that, but it sure was good to see him. He wore many hats in his career, but to me he will always be a teacher who touched the lives of so many. I'm going to wear a pair of red socks Wednesday in his honor. On behalf of the entire McCarrick family, please accept our sincere condolences. RIP MY DEAR FRIEND.
Bob McCarrick

Bob McCarrick - December 18, 2023 at 12:37 AM

MK

“ Pat & Lynn...Truly saddened to read of Leo’s transition...Holding Space in my thoughts & prayers as you walk forward...Peace, Strength, Fond memories, Selfcare...
In harmony & caring, Maxine Kilbourn

Maxine P Kilbourn - December 17, 2023 at 06:51 PM

VW

“ Leo was an avid swimmer. He was one of our top 100 Mile Club swimmers at the YMCA. He was always smiling and will be missed. Rest in peace Leo, you are in God's hands now.
Virginia Whitt



Virginia Carol Whitt - December 17, 2023 at 12:18 PM

CV

“ Dear Pat and Lynn, We were so, so sorry to hear about Leo. Our hearts go out to you both. He was the personification of a life we'll lived and I know he'll be dearly missed. Sending loving, caring thoughts to you.

Carol Valle - December 16, 2023 at 11:24 PM

ZM

“ I am a classmate of Leo's from St James class of 1964. I am very saddened to hear of Leo's sudden passing. He was a great guy and fun to be around. Haven't seen him and Pat in a few years. My prayers to the family and God bless you,
Zoe McGrath

Zoe McGrath - December 16, 2023 at 05:04 PM

NB

“ So sorry to hear this. We taught together at Lapeer West for many years. We shared an interest in backpacking and many other things. We always had lots to talk about. He loved Pat and Lynn so very much. A life well lived. He will be missed.

Nancy Barry - December 16, 2023 at 01:02 AM

DP

“ *Very sorry to hear of Leo's passing. We worked together for many years at Lapeer West. He was a great teacher whose students learned many good lesson from him.*

Donald Peterson - December 15, 2023 at 03:43 PM

TC

“ *Dear Pat and Lynn,
Please accept my heartfelt sympathy for your loss. I have so many fine memories of Tony and you. I remember many of your pursuits with the bees, goats, chickens, and etc.. I remember several times when Tony so graciously helped me with various projects. I recall Lynn as the happy young child Dana took care of while raising our kids...probably Adam and Bridget [I don't think the others (3) were born yet...not sure. Dana would know but, like you, I lost her after being married 52 years (Alzheimer's) 11/26/22]
I and Dana were always so grateful for having you for neighbors and were certainly sorry when you moved. Now, finding out that Leo has left us, I feel such sorrow.... I find solace knowing that he led such a wonderful life filled with adventure. Leo was a great man.
Please accept my sympathy,
Tom (& Dana, too)*

tom coté - December 15, 2023 at 01:04 PM

CO

“ *So very sorry to hear of Mr. Paveglio's passing.
He was an exemplary teacher and it was my privilege to have been in his class. I also remember distinctly his "hall supervision", where he greeted each student that walked by him kindly and most often also with their name. No small task as this was before the high schools divided. I wish I could have reacquainted with him the past few years, as I too, have retired in the Cadillac area. My sincere condolences to the family.*

Cindy Stock O'Brien - December 15, 2023 at 12:00 PM

JM

Mr. Paveglio was a solid teacher, and a kindred spirit in his love of outdoor adventure. In his quiet way, he was a supportive and positive influence for a bunch of knucklehead adolescents when we needed it.

Josh McCreedy - December 17, 2023 at 09:41 AM

HH

“ *Our condolences to Pat, Lynn and the family. Leo was a kind and humorous man who I was very fortunate to be able to spend time with in the patrol room and slopes at Caberfae Peaks. He was always able to make the day brighter for all those around him with his quick wit. We'll all miss him dearly.*

Hanns Heil - December 15, 2023 at 10:28 AM

BM

“ *I have fond memories of working with Leo and Pat at Lapeer West. Leo always greeted me with a friendly smile and sage advice when asked. I extend my condolences to his family and friends.*
Brian Mauk

Brian Mauk - December 15, 2023 at 06:54 AM

JJ

So very sorry to hear of Leo's passing . I remember when I first met him. He did our taxes for us. What a wonderful life he and you have had together. God Bless Jane Jesweak

Jane Jesweak - December 16, 2023 at 02:42 PM

PP

“ *Pat and family I am so sorry to hear of Leo's passing. I always enjoyed working with him at Lapeer West High School. He always seemed to enjoy working with the students and staff.*

Pat Pozzi - December 15, 2023 at 12:05 AM

BT

“ Dear Friend Pat and Family. I am so sad to hear of this news. You all shared so many amazing adventures that filled your lives with one activity after another. My memory of Leo (Tony) is when we were husband and wife in the play “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”. I really wanted to play the character of Imogene Herdman but I guess I was just too old. Bernadette Treece

Bernadette Treece - December 14, 2023 at 09:03 PM

DC

“ I met Pat and Leo as a member of the community theater. They are both such wonderful people. Since I moved away over 10 years ago I haven't been able to stay as close to Pat and Leo as I wish I could have, but I was still devastated to hear of his passing. Such a great guy. He will be very missed.

Diana Curtiss - December 14, 2023 at 08:49 PM

SN

“ Mr. Leo you were my high school math teacher I always thought of you as a great person May You Rest In Peace 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Sandy Truax(Ripperdan) now - December 14, 2023 at 08:00 PM

SN

Prayers for his family 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Sandy Truax(Ripperdan) now - December 14, 2023 at 07:58 PM

CG

“ It was an honor and privilege to have Leo as a colleague for many years at Lapeer Community Schools. Always a gentleman and outstanding educator, Leo was a joy to associate with. Students, staff, and the community benefitted immensely from his presence! My condolences to Pat and the rest of the family,
Craig Gerard

craig gerard - December 14, 2023 at 07:53 PM

CG

“ Lynn,

Please know that your Jefferson Huskies are thinking of you and your family. Your dad sounds like such an amazing person!-
Jefferson Middle School Staff

Christie Gayheart - December 14, 2023 at 07:17 PM



Khaliunaa
Jamsran

“ Lynn, We are so sorry for your loss. We are sending huge hugs to you and your family from Mongolia. Darren Heil's family

Khaliunaa Jamsran - December 14, 2023 at 06:56 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leo (Lee/ Tony) Paveglio.



December 14, 2023 at 06:51 PM

TF

“ The Jenkins Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leo (Lee/ Tony) Paveglio.

The Jenkins Family - December 14, 2023 at 06:51 PM

CG

“ As a new teacher in Lapeer, in 2002, I was honored to meet both Pat and Leo. I was asked to build a deck on their house in the condos and plowed their snow until they moved north. I was enlisted to build a few sets at the pix with Leo, Carl, Dan, Jay and others... I consider myself lucky to have met such a respectful person!

Cory Gutenschwager - December 14, 2023 at 06:48 PM

SH

“ I was lucky to have been Mr. Paveglio's student many, many years ago. Even though it was 50+ years ago, I have fond memories of him and his class. He made trig make sense and prepared me well for my college math classes. I'm very sorry to hear of his passing but Wow he seemed to live life to the fullest! Condolences to his family.

Susan Hall - December 14, 2023 at 05:51 PM

JC

“ My deepest sympathies to Pat and Leo's families. I enjoyed working with both Leo and Pat at Lapeer Community Schools while substitute teaching and later as the ISS supervisor at West. God bless and comfort you in your loss.

Jeff Carmean



Jeff Carmean - December 14, 2023 at 05:40 PM

KP

“ My condolences to Pat and Leo's families. I found it a privilege to work with both Leo and Pat at Lapeer Community Schools.

Kelly Paige - December 14, 2023 at 05:14 PM

KB

“ Karl and Mary Bengtsson purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Leo (Lee/ Tony) Paveglio.



Karl and Mary Bengtsson - December 14, 2023 at 03:33 PM

SH

“ I am very lucky to have been able to have Leo as a brother-in-law for 52 years. He led the way in caring for his family, being a caring educator, having an adventurous life, and raising, with Pat, a most amazing daughter. He will live on in our hearts as we strive to follow his lead.

Susan Harvey Hopkins - December 14, 2023 at 03:13 PM

SA

“ Pat and family....Leo was a kind, kind man. It was a gift to have known him and be considered a friend. His passing leaves a hole in all of our hearts. I'm so sorry for your/our loss. Hugs to you, Pat.

Sue Allen - December 14, 2023 at 02:35 PM

AC

“ Dear Pat & Family - I was so shocked and saddened to hear of Leo's sudden passing, as I'm sure most of us were. I didn't know Leo as long as many others have, but I can certainly attest that he was one of the most genuine and happy people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. We should all take a page from the "Book of Leo" and chose to live a life of "carpe diem"! What an extraordinary life he lived! My thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless you,
Ann Clous

Ann Clous - December 14, 2023 at 01:17 PM