



## Denise E. Lien

May 16, 1949 - January 11, 2026

CARSONVILLE- Denise Lien, 76, of Carsonville, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 11, 2026. Denise was born to Oscar and Mildred Ostertag on May 16, 1949, in Detroit, Michigan. The youngest of three children, Denise grew up with her brothers, Jon and Dale, on Penn Street in Dearborn, where she formed friendships that would last a lifetime. It was on that same street—while walking her brother’s dog—that she met the love of her life, Rod. The two were married on May 17, 1974, beginning a partnership rooted in devotion, love, and family.

Shortly after marrying, Denise and Rod moved to Michigan’s Thumb, where Denise fulfilled her lifelong dream of building a family. There, she formed a close-knit circle of friends who remained dear to her throughout her life.

Denise’s greatest joy and purpose was being a mother. Her love and support were unwavering, and she never hesitated to offer thoughtful advice, encouragement, or a steady presence to her children. Her home was always open, welcoming not only her own kids but their friends as well—many of whom lovingly came to know her simply as “Mom.”

Denise was also a deeply loving and proud grandmother. She cherished time spent with her grandchildren, whether sharing stories, laughter, or quietly sneaking them an extra treat. Her warmth, patience, and gentle humor left a lasting impression on each of them.

She had a deep love for animals and nature. Denise was rarely without one of her cats curled up nearby, and she took great pleasure in watching the deer

that frequented her Rowe Road property, keeping close tabs on them from her backyard.

A lifelong Christian, Denise was a devoted member of Sandusky Presbyterian Church, where she found friendship, fellowship, and faith that sustained her throughout her life. Her kindness and compassion were evident to all who knew her.

Denise was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Rod Lien; her parents, Oscar and Mildred Ostertag; and her brothers, Jon Ostertag and Dale Ostertag. She is survived by daughter Danielle (Mike) Shellabarger; son Nick (Kaitlyn) Lien; five grandchildren, Stone, Freya, Odin, Milo and Beyla; sister-in-law Peg (Ralph) Stephenson; brother-in-law Cliff (Connie) Lien; brother-in-law Mark (Mary) Lien; sister-in-laws Beverly Harding and Sue Ostertag; nephews David (Meilissa) Ostertag, Donald Ostertag and Jayson Lien; nieces Jasmine Knaus, Roxanne Wendahl, Caleigh Smith and Cathryn Lien-Miller; Great-nephew Ben Lien; Great-nieces Allison Lien, Sydney and Rachel Ostertag, Kayleigh and Maya Wendahl, and Amira Ostertag.

Visitation will be from 4-8 P.M. on Friday at the Pomeroy Funeral Home in Lexington. Funeral services for Denise will be held at 11 A.M. on Saturday at the funeral home, with visiting from 10-11 A.M. Saturday morning. Rev. Mark Morningstar will officiate. Interment will follow in the Downing Cemetery in Deckerville.

Memorials may be made to the Sandusky Presbyterian Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Downing Cemetery

Deckerville, MI 48427

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **16**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pomeroy Funeral Home - Lexington  
5635 Main St.  
Lexington, MI 48450  
(810) 359-7700  
pomeroyfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://pomeroyfuneralhomes.com/>

## Visitation

JAN **17**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pomeroy Funeral Home - Lexington  
5635 Main St.  
Lexington, MI 48450  
(810) 359-7700  
pomeroyfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://pomeroyfuneralhomes.com/>

## Service

JAN 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pomeroy Funeral Home - Lexington  
5635 Main St.  
Lexington, MI 48450  
(810) 359-7700  
pomeroyfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Pomeroy Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Denise E. Lien*



**Pomeroy Funeral Home** - January 15 at 05:20 PM

BS

“ *Dear Nick, Danielle, and family,  
We are so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was so kind to us always asking about our girls and grandkids when we saw her. She was so proud of you all and willingly shared everything happening in your lives. May you find comfort in knowing she is now reunited with your dad in that heavenly realm. The Lord bless you always. The Sarkella family.*

**Bill and Patti Sarkella** - January 17 at 08:56 AM

PC

“ *Pat and Audrey Chambers purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Denise E. Lien.*



**Pat and Audrey Chambers** - January 16 at 11:26 AM

PC

“ Pat and Audrey Chambers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Denise E. Lien.

Pat and Audrey Chambers - January 16 at 11:26 AM

FE

“ My Sympathy and prayers to Denise's family and friends. I was her immediate neighbor in the same condo. She was always very kind to me on so many occasions. I will keep her in my prayers, but unable to attend her funeral. I'm presently in Nursing home in Port Huron. She will be missed by me when I get back to Peach Tree.  
Sincerely,  
Fr. Donald J. Eppenbrock,  
Retired priest of St. Denis Parish  
Lexington MI

Fr. Donald J. Eppenbrock - January 16 at 08:33 AM

DQ

“ We always enjoyed visiting with Denise at the Penn Street reunions. She was such a sweet lady.  
Dave & Kathy Quenneville



David Quenneville - January 15 at 02:19 PM

EL

“Necie, you were a kind and compassionate person with a wonderful sense of humor. You were not only a cousin but also a best friend. We didn't grow up next door to each other, but somehow the distance never mattered. We didn't talk every day, but when we did, it was like no time had passed. And those hour long conversations were always too short. The memories we made -- being in each other's wedding, the trip to Spain, summer visits, and more -- will never be forgotten. You will always be in my heart; I miss you.

Ellen Lloyd - January 15 at 10:44 AM

ME

“Melissa lit a candle in memory of Denise E. Lien



Melissa - January 14 at 08:56 PM

NW

“Nicole Rich Wesley purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Denise E. Lien.



Nicole Rich Wesley - January 14 at 07:33 PM

TQ

“The Quennevilles. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Denise E. Lien.

The Quennevilles. - January 14 at 07:28 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Denise E. Lien.*



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January 14 at 05:51 PM



“ Cheryl Beamgard planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Denise E. Lien.

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**Cheryl Beamgard** - January 14 at 05:51 PM



“ *Lonnie and Dawn. purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Denise E. Lien.*



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**Lonnie and Dawn.** - January 14 at 05:09 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Denise E. Lien.*



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January 14 at 01:49 PM

GO

“ Gary and Ron Ostertag purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Denise E. Lien.



Gary and Ron Ostertag - January 13 at 08:01 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Denise E. Lien.



January 13 at 07:19 PM

PF

“ Pat And Marc Kreiner and family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Denise E. Lien.

Pat And Marc Kreiner and family. - January 13 at 07:19 PM

WM

“ With love Joe and Nikki Mlynarski purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Denise E. Lien.



With love Joe and Nikki Mlynarski - January 13 at 03:48 PM

WM

“ With love Joe and Nikki Mlynarski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Denise A. Lien.

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**With love Joe and Nikki Mlynarski** - January 13 at 03:48 PM