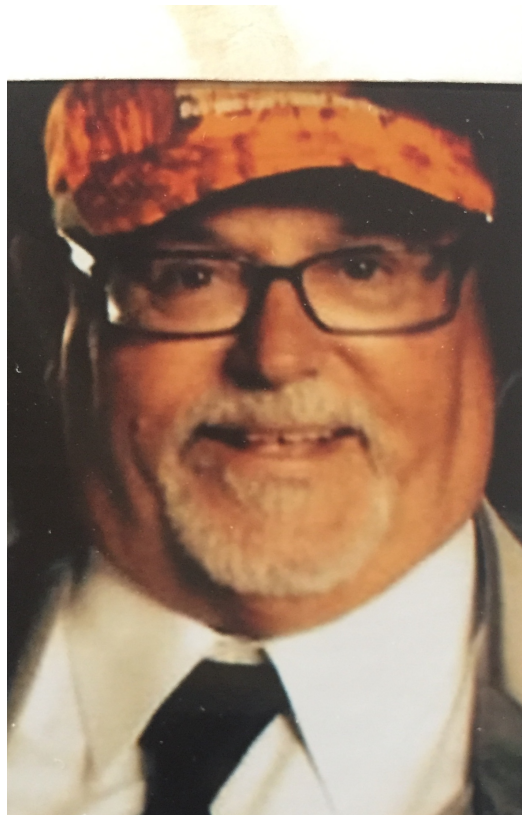


## Michael James Winkowski ‘Winks’



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ESCANABA — Michael James Winkowski “*Winks*,” 69, of Escanaba passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at Marquette General Hospital.

Michael was born in Bessemer, Mich., on March 8, 1949, the son of Marge (Bross) and James Winkowski. He was raised in Bessemer and attended the local schools through 10th grade, then moved to complete his education at Luther L. Wright High

School in Ironwood, Mich. He was proud to be part of the 1965 football team when it was inducted into the Ironwood Area Sports Hall of Fame. He graduated in 1967.

He enlisted into the Army in July of 1968 and was stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Colo. He completed his active service in July of 1970. His honorable discharge from the reserve was in July of 1974. Before and after his service years, he drove school bus for St. Ambrose School, was an EMT with Beacon Ambulance and drove taxi for Twin City Cab, both owned by his step-dad Bob.

On May 23, 1973, he married Darcy Friedman in Ironwood, Mich. He attended Northern Michigan University and graduated in 1975 with a degree in business education and a minor in distributive education. Michael was hired as a business teacher by the Rapid River Public School system in 1976. While employed there he was also a JV football coach for six years.

Michael was an avid outdoorsman with a love for the woods and the water. He was a Detroit Lions and Tigers fan. He loved television programs that were related to history, westerns, sports or the outdoors. He enjoyed playing slowpitch softball. Among his teammates he was known as "*Windmill Winkowski.*"

On Oct. 5, 2007, Michael's teaching career came to an abrupt halt when he sustained an injury while playing Q-Tip hockey with his students. He suffered a spinal injury that left him paralyzed. His accident shook the entire community. Friends and family, near and far, rallied together to encourage Michael along his journey. The support continued throughout his next 10 years of life. The Wheelin' Sportsman's Club and all of their volunteers made it possible for Michael continue to hunt and to spend time in the woods, we cannot thank them enough.

Among survivors are his wife, Darcy; daughter, Thea (Justin) Jacobsen of Escanaba; granddaughters, Mya, Claire and Ruby; son, Jarrett (Ashley) Winkowski of Gladstone; granddaughters, Ellie and Piper; brother, Jimmy (Jackie) Winkowski of Gwinn; sister, Lori Wallis of Ironwood; brother and sister-in-law; Fred and Kathy Friedman of New Brighton, Minn.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Marge Clemens; stepfather, Robert Clemens; father, James Winkowski; stepmother, Viv Winkowski; stepbrother, Danny Clemens; nephew, Danny Wallis and In-laws, Ted and Elsie Friedman.

Per Michael's wishes, there will be no formal services. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, May 5, at the Great Lakes Sports and Recreation Club, 5211 19th Ave N., in Escanaba from 3 to 7 p.m. Food will be provided and around 5 p.m. there will be an opportunity to share stories and memories about Michael.

Michael also requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Wheelin' Sportsman Club or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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