



## Dennis LaBelle

March 29, 1943 - February 21, 2021

Dennis Michael LaBelle was born in Saginaw, MI, in 1943 and passed away at the age of 77 on February 21, 2021, in Traverse City, MI. After fifty-two years of marriage to Patricia LaBelle, they have four children, ten grandchildren, and a remodeled house - displaying his master carpenter skills. Dennis is recognized for his public service, with 29 years in the Grand Traverse Prosecutor's office, with 16 years in the elected position of Prosecuting Attorney. Dennis and Patricia made many life-long and treasured friends during his first campaign for county prosecutor in 1988. He retired in 2004.

Dennis graduated from the University of Detroit and Wayne State University Law School while also working at the Michigan Court of Appeals. After graduation, he worked for the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission before moving to Traverse City in 1975. During his time as Prosecutor, the office's programs expanded to include victims' assistance, domestic violence, truancy, juvenile crime, and much more. Dennis served as an adjunct professor at Northwestern Michigan College.

Remodeling the family home on East Bay was an expression of his intense interest in woodworking and his desire to keep his wife happy. He was a member of the Grand Traverse Men's Shed, a nonprofit organization and Rotary Club. Dennis also had published articles in Fine Woodworking Magazine. Practicing a quiet faith, he was a parishioner at St. Francis Church in Traverse City.

Dennis is survived by his loving wife, Patricia, their children Suzanne Schulz-Parmeter (Dan Parmeter), Michael LaBelle, Sarah Smith (Chris Smith), and Matthew LaBelle; and their ten grandchildren; his brother Dale (Ginny) LaBelle, sister Dena Herlick, and mother-in-law Suzanne Carnegie.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the staff members at French Manor Lafranier, Mary Free Bed, and Palliative Care at Munson, along with Hospice of Michigan, for their tremendous support and guidance, in addition to thanking numerous neighbors and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to Hospice of Michigan.

Visitation will take place on Sunday February 28, 2021 from 4-7pm at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home. A Memorial Mass will take place on Monday March 1, 2021 at St Francis Catholic Church beginning at 11:00am.



# Cemetery

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**Oakwood Cemetery**  
1325 East Eighth Street  
Traverse City, MI, 49686

# Events

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- FEB**  
**28**

**Visitation**  
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

04:00PM - 07:00PM
- MAR**  
**1**

**Funeral Mass**  
St. Francis Catholic Church  
1025 S. Union, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

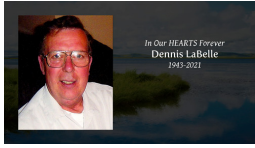
11:00AM

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - February 24 at 03:54 PM

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“ Dear Pat, We just learned of Dennis' passing and are sorry for your loss. Years ago when Jan was out for a run and Dennis was in the yard, he'd always acknowledge him by saying "Hi, Counselor". Dennis would always respond with a smile. From our perspective, he truly enjoyed taking his family boating during the summer throughout the years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Sincerely, Karen and Jan White

**Karen White** - March 08 at 10:21 AM

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“ Bethlyn Babel lit a candle in memory of Dennis LaBelle



**Bethlyn Babel** - March 03 at 03:37 PM

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“ I so enjoyed my visits with your sister-in-law, Gail Richardson, and had great conversations with Dennis on the beautiful backporch he enclosed. He was a wood working genius! He will be greatly missed by all!! A great guy!  
Lynda Strong (Miller)

**Lynda S Strong** - March 01 at 08:08 PM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. I enjoyed the time working with him and all the memories from those years. It didn't seem like that many years ago until I saw the tribute and how grown up the kids are and then their children....the years have a way of passing! My thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Jean Donley

**Jean E Donley** - February 28 at 03:27 PM



“ Pat, I am so sorry for your loss, you have so many wonderful memories and I hope they bring you some peace! P DeYoung

**Patricia DeYoung** - March 07 at 12:35 PM

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“ Linda and I were saddened to hear of Dennis' passing. He was a co-worker, a friend, a good lawyer and a good person. I enjoyed the video tribute, Some of the pictures brought back memories from when Dennis and I were a lot younger ! Rest in Peace Dennis; you have earned it !!  
John Foresman

**John Foresman** - February 28 at 11:30 AM

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“ Pat, we've been very fortunate in having such a nice man as our neighbor. We loved Dennis' stories and sense of humor. We could always count on Dennis having the odd tool that we needed to borrow. We'll miss him. Steve and Lisa Henderson

**Steve & Lisa Henderson** - February 27 at 04:35 PM

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“ So sorry to learn of Dennis' passing. We thoroughly enjoyed our time as Prosecutors, and laughed often when we met! He was a good one. A very fair minded man.  
Dennis Swain

**Dennis Swain** - February 27 at 11:10 AM

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“ Michael Estes lit a candle in memory of Dennis LaBelle



**michael estes** - February 27 at 08:48 AM



“ Pat: so sorry to hear about Dennis. Above all, he was a very fine person.

**michael estes** - February 27 at 08:49 AM

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“ Pat,  
So sorry to hear that Dennis passed away. You and the family are in my thoughts and prayers. I always enjoyed seeing Dennis at the Civic Center-- at that time w/Oliver. Those chats were always interesting. Dennis will be missed by many. Just know that I'm thinking about you, knowing that God blessed you with a wonderful husband for so many years. May our loving Lord wrap His arms around you and give you His comfort, strength, and love in the days ahead. RIP Dennis.

Darlene Miller



**Darlene A. Miller** - February 27 at 04:35 AM

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“ Rose Fox lit a candle in memory of Dennis LaBelle



**Rose Fox** - February 26 at 04:13 PM

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“ Pat, so sorry to hear of Dennis' passing. He used to be doing yard work every time I'd be outside. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Sincerely, Connie Christopherson

**Connie Christopherson** - February 25 at 05:22 PM

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“ Dear Pat,  
We are so sorry to hear about Dennis' passing. We found out through the Men's Shed notification. I'll always remember caring for you and Dennis and talking woodworking with Dennis and always sharing what our kids were or are doing. I will always remember Dennis in a fond light when he and you used to see me at my office.  
Again, for you and your children we would like to express our sincere sympathy.  
Russ and Sue VanHouzen

**Russ VanHouzen** - February 25 at 04:43 PM

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“ Neta Jewell lit a candle in memory of Dennis LaBelle



**Neta Jewell** - February 25 at 10:42 AM



“ Thank you!

**Sarah Smith** - February 26 at 02:51 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Dennis' passing. To all the family, I am sending love and hugs. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

**Anne Haines** - February 25 at 07:37 AM



“ Remembering Dennis and thinking of his friends and family. Every encounter I ever had with him was productive, kind and meaningful.  
Peace and love,  
Susan Odgers and Tom Mair

**Susan Odgers** - February 24 at 07:05 PM