

Leonard Edward Pajula

November 20, 1940 - July 7, 2025

Leonard Edward Pajula, beloved father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully on July 7, 2025, at Talbot Hospice House in Easton, Maryland. He was 84.

Born on November 28, 1940, in Ironwood, Michigan, Lenny—known for his wit, warmth, and adventurous spirit—was the first child of Leonard and Marcella Pajula. The family moved to Chicago during his early childhood and later settled in Oak Lawn, Illinois, where Lenny graduated from Oak Lawn High School in 1958. He continued his studies at Lewis College of Technology and Chicago Junior College, majoring in accounting.

Lenny began his working life as a baker for Nabisco and then as a butcher for the Jewel Tea Company. Though he never made candlesticks, he had a knack for mastering whatever he set his mind to accomplish. In 1963, he entered the trucking industry, a career that would span decades and take him from Chicago to South Bend, Indiana, and eventually to Maryland. Along the way, he served in leadership roles at Safeway Trucking, Shippers Dispatch, and Preston Trucking. He was also proud to serve as president of the South Bend Lions Club and the Shippers Dispatch Credit Union.

In 1976, Lenny moved his family to Maryland, continuing his work with Preston Trucking and later running Preston Salvage. Lenny was an artist, photographer, and antiques collector, and eventually, his lifelong passion for art and antiques became his full-time calling.

A man of many interests, Lenny was a sailor and boardman on the Billie P. Hall log canoe, an IRONMAN race participant, a devoted card player, and a lover of National Geographic, donuts, and a good cup of coffee. He found joy in the outdoors, in quiet creativity, and in time spent with the people he loved.

In 1960, Lenny married his first wife Dee Lilley, with whom he raised three children, and he later married Jane Secrist, who preceded him in death and with whom he gained two stepchildren. Lenny cherished his family deeply and was happiest when surrounded by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Lenny is survived by his children Laura Heikes (Ed), Leonard "Mark" Pajula, and Dan Pajula (Amy); his stepchildren Carl Secrist (Peggy) and Angie Blades (Tommy); grandchildren Stephanie, Katie, Jennifer, Jason, Jed, and Danielle; and eight and a half great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Tom Pajula (MaryAnn) and sister Linette McTeague (Michael). He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Carolyn Bart.

A visitation will be held on Friday, July 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 200 South Harrison Street in Easton. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to your local Hospice

House or Volunteer Fire Department—organizations close to Lenny's heart.

Previous Events

Visitation

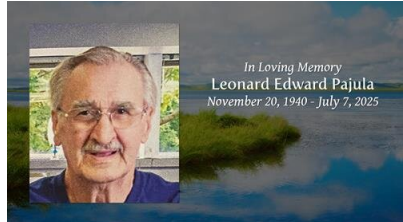
JUL **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home
200 S. Harrison Street
EASTON
EASTON, MD 21601

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Leonard Edward Pajula*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 24, 2025 at 08:00 AM



“ *I just learned of Lenny's passing. He was my boss at Shipper's Dispatch many years ago. A kinder man or better boss I never saw again. RIP Lenny.*

Terry Hutton - August 13, 2025 at 11:25 PM



“ *Leonard and I were best friends in Chicago the first ten years of our life. My name is Leonard Harper. so sorry to hear he passed. harper1957@gmail.com*

Leonard Harper - July 28, 2025 at 10:50 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Leonard Edward Pajula.*

July 23, 2025 at 06:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leonard Edward Pajula.*



July 23, 2025 at 06:54 PM



“ *Marsha Tull lit a candle in memory of Leonard Edward Pajula*



Marsha Tull - July 20, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ *Kay Fairbank lit a candle in memory of Leonard Edward Pajula*



Kay Fairbank - July 16, 2025 at 09:27 PM



“ *Larry And Peggy Cole lit a candle in memory of Leonard Edward Pajula*



Larry and Peggy Cole - July 15, 2025 at 11:23 AM

SH

“ Dear Laura and Family,

I am so sorry for your loss.

I had the honor of meeting Lenny while working at the Talbot County Fair, cleaning glasses for the dime pitch. We spent some time talking as we worked, and I remember how kind he was and how much I enjoyed hearing his stories. He had a warm spirit and left a lasting impression on me in just that short time.

Please know that you are in my thoughts during this difficult time.

With sympathy

Suzie Hensley - July 13, 2025 at 10:04 PM



BG

“ Several times over many years we crossed paths, and each time the two of us seemed to be doing something totally different! I always enjoyed our conversations. I felt honored to know him.

Bryan Gadow - July 13, 2025 at 09:31 PM

EA

“ Eileen De Atley lit a candle in memory of Leonard Edward Pajula



Eileen De Atley - July 13, 2025 at 03:25 PM

MB

“ *Mary Baker lit a candle in memory of Leonard Edward Pajula*



Mary Baker - July 13, 2025 at 01:53 PM

VB

“ *Vickie Bildstein lit a candle in memory of Leonard Edward Pajula*



Vickie Bildstein - July 13, 2025 at 12:25 PM

VP

“ *Virginia Patrick lit a candle in memory of Leonard Edward Pajula*



Virginia Patrick - July 09, 2025 at 05:09 PM

VP

“ *I first met Lennie when he accompanied Jane to help make funnel cakes at the Tuckahoe Steam and Gas Show.....he stayed for those first three days, and for many years afterwards until Jane passed away. He was a lot of fun to be around....don't remember why or how, but we started calling him the "Italian Stallion". He always talked to everyone that came to get a funnel cake and they always left smiling.*

Virginia Patrick - July 09, 2025 at 05:08 PM