

Thomas Andrew Hirschberger, 65, of Port Austin, went home to be with his Lord on Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2012, following a short battle with cancer.

He was born on Dec. 28, 1946, in Detroit, son of Paul and LaVerne (Baranski) Hirschberger. He married Linda Bussler on Jan. 9, 1982, in their living room by Judge Richard Knoblock.

Tom owned his own repair business, T & L Equipment. He taught diesel mechanics in Detroit and Bad Axe. He enjoyed repairing trucks, heavy equipment, tractors and farm equipment. He repaired his first tractor at age 12. In the winter, he enjoyed plowing snow and in the summer enjoyed riding his motorcycle "Gold Wing."

Tom was a Port Austin Township trustee, an EMT for Thumb Ambulance, and a firefighter. He was currently Assistant Chief for the Port Austin Fire Department. He was a member of the American Legion and VFW. He was a motor sergeant in Vietnam from 1966-1968 and received many commendations from his superior officers. He attended the Victory in Christ Community Church in Bad Axe.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Linda Hirschberger of Port Austin; two sons, Bradley Hirschberger and his girlfriend, Steffanie LeBeau of Bay City and Jason (Jennifer) Hirschberger of Bad Axe; his mother, LaVerne Watts of Port Austin; father-in-law, Kenneth Bussler of Livonia; one brother, Richard (Betty) Hirschberger of Ray; four sisters, Sandra Hirschberger of Auburn, Ga., Laureen Hirschberger and friend, Robert of Ripley, Tenn., Gayle (Norman) Theaker of Gaylord and Ruth Ann (Kirk) Laas of Auburn, Ga.; one brother-in-law, Doug Bussler of White Lake; three sisters-in-law, Kathy (Rick) Hacko of Canton, Judy Bussler of Westland and Nancy (Ken) Rice of Rockford; one grandson, Andrew Hirschberger of Bad Axe; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and his cat, Boots.

He was predeceased by his father, Paul Hirschberger; one brother, Bruce Hirschberger; and one nephew, Wayne William White.

Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 5, 2012, at the Victory in Christ Community Church, 716 E. Huron Ave. in Bad Axe. Officiating will be the Rev. Stuart Justin, pastor. Burial will be in Port Austin Township Cemetery.

Visitation will take place from 1 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe and from 10 a.m. until the time of service on Friday at the church. A fireman's walkthrough will be conducted at 6 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be offered to the family discretionary fund.