



William Henry Juntunen

September 24, 1963 - January 12, 2026

William Henry “Will” Juntunen was born September 24, 1963 to the late Edward Juntunen Sr. and the late Joan Juntunen (nee Dombecki) in Detroit, Michigan.

A proud boy scout in his childhood, Will eventually became the Senior Class President at Byron High School, where he was also in the marching band and participated in drama. He earned a B.A. in philosophy from Michigan State University and was a proud member of the Sigma Nu fraternity (Epsilon Rho Chapter).

Will loved meeting new people. He was proud of his family history and loved his siblings dearly. A loving father, he took his daughter to plays and instilled in her a love of the arts. He bought her as many books as she wanted (which was quite a few), and took her on adventures all through southeast Michigan and the Midwest.

He loved to travel, and when doing so really got to know a place — over the course of his life, he spent time in a number of locations all across the state as well as the country. Within Michigan, he lived in Byron, Northville, Royal Oak, Muskegon, and the Houghton/Hancock area. He also lived in Texas, Albany, New York City, New Orleans, Washington D.C., California, and did a long stint in Streator, Illinois. Will mastered the art of slow travel within the continental

United States. He truly loved public transportation — and, of course, complaining about public transportation.

Will died having returned to Detroit, the place where he was born and where he started his storied professional life.

Though he began as a teacher in Detroit Public Schools, Will would later teach himself computer programming, which opened the door to more than half a dozen jobs across the tech sector. Deeply talented and intelligent in all disciplines, Will was a jack of all trades who did not limit himself to any one field.

To that end, Will was also a writer and artist who lived the true Bohemian tradition. He did quite a bit of freelance journalism and photojournalism, and was an avid writer of blogs, including Rip Van Detroit and Cancer in Detroit. He wrote plays, one of which was performed at the Lake Effect Fringe Festival in 2015.

During his battle with cancer in 2023, Will took up watercolor painting through the art therapy program at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center. There, he developed a very distinct style; he loved to paint nature. In 2024, his paintings were featured in a gallery show in Detroit, and he self-published a book of his daily writings in 2025. Will was also deeply interested in religion and a proud member of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church.

Above all, William will be remembered as a cherished father, brother, and artist.

He was the loving father of Amanda (Emily) Costello, and dearest brother of AnnMarie (Stephen) Stevens, Edward (Allison) Juntunen, Karen-Sue Yagle, and the late Matthew (Jim Crall) Juntunen. He is survived by many nieces and

nephews.

Memorial visitation Friday February 20, 2026 from 4:00pm-8:00pm at Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc., (Shelby Township), 54880 Van Dyke at 25 Mile Rd. A Memorial Gathering will take place at 1:30pm until the time of the Memorial Service at 3:00pm on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Ave, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Rogel Cancer Center Patient and Family Support Services Program, which funds the art therapy program that Will was inspired by: <https://www.michiganmedicine.org/fund/rogel-cancer-center-patient-and-family-support-services-program>.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB 20. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons - Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Memorial Gathering

FEB 21. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
17150 Maumee Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230-1590

Memorial Service

FEB 21. 3:00 PM (ET)

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
17150 Maumee Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230-1590

Tribute Wall



“ *Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of William Henry Juntunen*



Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. - January 29 at 09:49 AM



“ *RoBot sent a virtual gift in memory of William Henry Juntunen*



RoBot - February 22 at 09:06 PM



“ *He was my great uncle, didn't know him long about 2-3 years but he was smart loving, and caring. he loved walks and art. he taught me and my sister chess. it was his favorite game. I just cant see life functioning without him. every steeped he took change life forever. he was a great man and nobody can say otherwise*

RoBot - February 22 at 09:05 PM

CP

“ I knew Will only briefly, after he joined the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church in 2023. We shared a deep interest in history, and we talked several times after I gave lay sermons with a historical perspective. I'm sorry we've lost him so soon and we'll miss him.

Chuck Palmer - February 20 at 10:42 AM

LW

“ Linda and Julie W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Henry Juntunen.

Linda and Julie W. - February 20 at 01:11 AM

MG

“ Mike Michalski & Amber Gerrits purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of William Henry Juntunen.



Mike Michalski & Amber Gerrits - February 19 at 07:06 PM

SS

“ I only had the opportunity to meet him at Emily and Amanda's wedding, but he was very kind and certainly very proud of his daughter. My deepest condolences on your loss.



Sheri Strang - February 18 at 11:22 PM

SS

“ Sheri Strang lit a candle in memory of William Henry Juntunen



Sheri Strang - February 18 at 11:19 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William Henry Juntunen.



February 18 at 11:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Henry Juntunen.

February 18 at 11:03 PM

KK

“ Will was such a warm, talented, charming man. He led the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church’s successful effort to be recognized as a “Green Sanctuary” church, and he was so deservedly proud. It was a joy to be with him that day.

Kathy Konwiak - February 15 at 09:01 PM

GF

“ *Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church friends purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Henry Juntunen.*



Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church friends - February 15 at 08:19 PM

SB

“ *Oh my... I didn't know he passed. I just finished a short play and actually just emailed it to him for his opinion. I am so sorry. I'll miss him. Sue Bradford*

sue Bradford - February 06 at 10:19 PM

CM

“ *Like many, I met you through the In Zer0 cast. Though we may have known eachother through prior Detroit social circles. Always a nice conversation. Always a friendly smile. You were one to check on me through FB messages.. a couple thoughts here and there. I regret to tell you now...that I will truly miss those posts. Thank you for your life. Thank you for your encouragement. May this next world hold onto your beautiful heart and keep it safe.*

Chrissy Morgan - January 31 at 12:05 PM

CG

“ Bill, as he will always be known to me, was a sweet, funny, friend who would give you or anyone else the shirt off his back if someone needed it. He is probably the most wonderful soul you will ever meet. I was so blessed to have him as a friend in high school and so fortunate to have reunited in the last three years doing everything we can to promote art between Detroit and Flint. So blessed to have one of his impressionist pieces he created while visiting the grave of a mutual friend---a memory I can cherish forever. Rest well my friend, you deserve peace. --- Chuck Gurden, BHS 81

Chuck Gurden - January 19 at 12:00 PM

RR

“ Will and I organized a watercolor workshop for a gathering of friends last Fall. I was just getting to know him better and planned another workshop for this coming Fall. He had such a lust for life and talent for really seeing the hidden beauty in many situations. What an interesting, intelligent, and creative person I was beginning to discover, and was looking forward to knowing him better. It's such a shock that he has passed.

Robin Ramsay - January 16 at 12:27 PM

JK

“ What a dear man! I came to truly appreciate Bill when we were cast as Mr. & Mrs. Van Daan in our senior play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*. "My Putti!" Such fun we had! His kindness and delightful sense of humor made him a joy to be around.

Julie (Vince) Kelly

Julie Kelly - January 15 at 08:21 PM

SE

“ To have known Will was to have known one of the most unique, intelligent, and creative people. He was an old soul, even in high school. We chose him as our senior class president for his wisdom, intellect, and his compassion for his classmates. I was lucky enough to reconnect with him on Facebook, reading and listening to his many stories, reminiscent of his school days with all of us, his interesting travels, and his struggles and triumphs with his illness. He had a distinct sense of humor and a way with words that kept us all waiting for the next story. The uninhibited style of his paintings showed how free and creative he was. I will miss him.

Sue Eshelman - January 15 at 04:39 PM

KR

“ I remember as the new kid entering Byron Elementary School in the middle of 3rd grade (Ms Hicks class), Bill approaching me to say hi and welcoming me in a most friendly manner possible. I was friends with him ever since. I got to know Bill especially well through our years in Boy Scouts together, sharing countless adventurous experiences. He truly lived the scout law: "A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent." I believe this epitomizes Bill Juntunen.

What I loved about Bill was you could always count on him. If he said he would do something or be somewhere, he would always follow through. Bill was a remarkable individual and friend that I will always remember very fondly. May he always be at peace.

Kurt Rivard - January 15 at 12:08 PM

ML

Kurt, very nice thoughts on Bill! He had goodness in his heart!

Mar Latimer - January 15 at 02:54 PM

JF

Bill was one of a kind. Glad to call him my friend. I'll never forget calming him down in the 7th grade when he received a grade he didn't like and told the teacher your nuts. Or when we decided to be each other's campaign managers when running for middle school student council. I'll always treasure his friendship. More people should be like Bill. I'll miss him.

Jim Fultz - January 15 at 03:28 PM

VN

Will responded to an opening at Kaydon in Muskegon in approximately 2007 where I was in charge of recruitment. We subsequently hired him and he relocated here. Recently we reconnected relative to my husband's art because he had been an admirer back then and had offered to mount a show for him if ever he wanted to do that. When we spoke, he thanked me again for my part in his being hired at Kaydon and how appreciative he was of that opportunity. It had worked out well for him which I was very glad to hear. We subsequently became FB friends and I, as I'm sure all his other online friends, enjoyed his interesting, humorous and whimsical posts. I'm sorry for your loss, Amanda. I remember how proudly your dad spoke of you and can imagine how you will miss his earthly presence in your life. I'm sure though that he'll always be in your heart.

Virginia Nease - January 18 at 02:07 PM

LC

I only knew Will virtually but he always kept in touch and looked out for me. He sent me two beautiful watercolors for my birthday. I got them a month late, just days after I learned of his passing. So sad. I'll miss you, Will.

xo
Lynn

Lynn Ciesielski - February 04 at 06:44 PM