



## Allan W. Houghton

December 29, 1937 - January 23, 2020

Allan Warren Houghton of Saline, MI, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, January 23, 2020. The cause of death was Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. Allan was born on December 29, 1937 to Warren W. and Velva Jean (Routh) Houghton in Detroit, MI. In 1960 he married Mary (Bakita) Houghton, and together they had three children. Sadly, Mary passed away in 1986. In 1987 Allan married Barbara (Pearson) Houghton and she survives. They were married for over 32 wonderful years. Allan is also survived by his three children: Eric (Lynnette) Houghton, Lisa (Bob) Sparrow, and Douglas Houghton, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, brother and sisters-in-law, several nieces, nephews and many long-time friends. Allan was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Mary, and his brother Donald Houghton. Allan was a member of the Michigan State Police, retiring as a Detective Sergeant in 1985. He subsequently worked as a private investigator until he closed Houghton Investigative Services in 2012. He loved going to his farm in South Dakota each fall with many good friends joining him for pheasant hunting season. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline, MI with Rev. Norman Dufrin officiating. Friends may join the family for a time of visitation from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at 11:00 A.M. Burial will follow the service in the Oakwood Cemetery in Saline. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills, MI and envelopes will be available at the funeral home. To sign Allan's

guestbook, to leave a memory, or for directions please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Cemetery

227 West Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

## Funeral Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

## Graveside Service

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JAN 31. 12:15 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services

301 E Michigan Ave

Saline, MI 48176

(734) 429-9760

[rbfhsaline@hotmail.com](mailto:rbfhsaline@hotmail.com)

<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Allan W. Houghton*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *After 45 years of dealing with the public in the printing business I can honestly say Alan was on of my favorites. His orders weren't big but he always was happy and made me feel good. RIP my friend.*

**Mark Boone** - June 28, 2021 at 04:27 PM



“ *Al was the first friendly neighbor we met when we moved to Saline 25 years ago. He was really nice man and very good with our children who remember him fondly.*

**Lee Bourgoin** - January 31, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ *I will always remember how kind Allan was. He was a beautiful soul.*  
*Sharon Sears*

**Sharon Sears** - January 30, 2020 at 10:32 PM



“ *I graduated from the 86th Recruit School and my first Post was 26 - Ypsilanti in 1974. Allan was a Detective Sergeant. He was always very friendly and helpful. He had me accompany him on an extradition to Jersey City, NJ. It was my first flight in a commercial airline. I enjoyed working with and knowing Allan. He always found the time for a witty and interesting conversation.*

**Greg Sebring** - January 30, 2020 at 07:06 PM

SB

“ Steve, Joan, Ross and Lauren Blackley purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Allan W. Houghton.



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**Steve, Joan, Ross and Lauren Blackley** - January 30, 2020 at 11:06 AM

JT

“ I worked with Al my first two years in the department at Ypsi.. Although a lot of time has passed, I remember what a great guy he was. Al treated everyone the same and was always there to help. What a great representative of the MSP. I still have an MSP shield Al had mounted on old barn wood and cut in the same shape of the shield. It's hanging in our home, and I always think of Al when I see it.

*John Turnquist*

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**John Turnquist** - January 29, 2020 at 05:20 PM

DH

“ I never wked with Al @ Ypsi as I arrived after he retired but did talk to him occasionally. When I retired and wked for an insurance co. he was doing PI wk and we did exchanged information frequently on the sly. When he became ill we again exchanged emails and I related the following to him which he appreciated and I think best described him i.e. (When I was still in the Dept I had the occasion to talk to another Dept. member whose name I don”t recall. He said Al was his senior officer, said many good things about Al and related that AL was everything a SENIOR OFFICER should be & still remember that to this day.  
God Bless Al and his family  
Don Hoder.

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Don Hoder - January 29, 2020 at 11:34 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Allan W. Houghton.



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January 29, 2020 at 08:59 AM

KA

“Gordy and I each had so many fond memories of Allan, so we decided to submit ours separately. Allan was truly an amazing neighbor and dear friend. Allan reminded me so much of my own father, since Allan was such a kind, generous, and wonderful man. Allan would definitely give you the shirt off of his back. In fact, Al gave Gordy many shirts that he bought at the second hand stores in town. As many of you know, Allan loved to go to garage sales, and was always willing to share his treasures with everyone. I loved when Al would call over to our house and say, "Did I wake you? This is Allan Houghton from 410 Saline River Dr., Saline, MI." Then if I answered the phone, Al would ask if he could speak to "the king" (Gordy) or the "other homeowner." It always made me laugh. When I would be lamenting to Allan about something like the price of a pair of eyeglasses or a dental crown, Al would always say, "it only hurts once." When Al was telling us a story, he would often use the word, "bingo," if you happened to know the outcome before the story was finished. When I would ask Allan how he was doing, he would respond, "I couldn't be better if I was a twin." I always loved talking to Al when both him and I were out in the yard. If I was out in the yard pulling weeds, then Al would say, "are you collecting some salad greens for dinner?" Also, Allan and I loved to swap desserts with one another. He made such wonderful lemon meringue and apple pies, and he always was willing to share with Gordy and I. Our neighborhood will never be the same without him, but I will cherish the fond memories that I have of him.

Karen

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Karen - January 27, 2020 at 01:59 PM

GO

“ Al was the best friend that I ever had, and I miss him so much already. Al & Barbara moved next door to us over 30 years ago, and we became friends right away. Al and I had so many things in common: cars, projects around the house, and politics. We worked on a lot of things together, and when Al was not up to doing as much in the past few years, then he would still be by my side helping with his knowledge and experience. There were always lots of laughs. I was so grateful that Al was willing to go with me on my Ebay/Craig's list pick-ups. I would call him and ask him if he was up for a ride to help me pick something up that I had purchased, and he would ask, "do I need to bring my gun?" I loved to go over to visit Al's "command center" (his office) that overlooked our street, and to watch an old Western movie. Al loved Westerns. In his office, we would share what plans we had coming up, and then talk about his days as a policeman/private investigator, and my career as an auto mechanic. Al seemed to really enjoy the stories that I would tell him, and I got such a kick out of his stories as well. We also enjoyed an occasional "adult beverage" during our visits. Many have said that Al was "one of a kind," and they were so right. I loved Al like a brother, and I will miss him dearly.

Gordy

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Gordy - January 27, 2020 at 12:42 PM

AY

“ How do you put 49 years of laughter, tears, great memories and great trips into a few paragraphs? We met Al and Mary shortly after they moved into their home on Stony Creek through our kids becoming friends. Al and Adrian both worked at Metro airport, Al with the State Police, Adrian with REA Air Express. They would have coffee together and run into each other through their work at Metro. On one occasion, Al offered to pick us up on a return trip from Idaho - he was waiting for us at arrival wearing a chauffeurs hat, suit and tie, carrying a sign with our names on it. "Our personal chauffeur" did not go out of character until we arrived home with our luggage in hand and opening our doors. These different characters appeared at our neighborhood canoe trips, progressive dinners and hay rides. One memorable character was Devin, his twin brother with a blond wig, and unsophisticated demeanor. So many memories. Adrian and I were with Mary during her last days at St. Joe's. Al, knowing how close we were to Mary, asked for our blessings when he asked Barbara to become his wife. We welcomed his love for her and spent many wonderful hours with them. Enjoyed Barbara and Al's hospitality at many dinners in their gracious home. Memorable trips to Mexico and Vegas. Barbara loved and cared for Al through all of his humorous antics and throughout his illness with grace, love and care. We will hold our memories of our dear friend/brother close to our hearts. Adrian and Yvonne

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Adrian and Yvonne Yribar - January 27, 2020 at 11:21 AM

SM

“ I can only say Amen and reiterate all the wonderful and true all these thoughts are about the person of Al. God truly broke the mold when He sent Al into our world. I was a uniform desk sergeant at Ypsi with Al. Never a dull conversation with him. I will confess that a lot of the investigative suggestions I wrote on the complaint supervision sheet for my troopers, came from Al. He was never ever too busy to listen to me. And, Al, I thank you for all the complaint reports YOU submitted...they never needed correction...ever! I hope no angel does anything wrong up there because if God wants an investigation...I know who he'll go to. Because no one belongs in heaven more than you!

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**Sandy Miller** - January 26, 2020 at 12:06 PM

GK

“ I am so sad to know that Al has passed. He was one-of-a-kind, a friend and mentor to me when I was a newly promoted detective at the MSP Ypsilanti Post. He always made time to listen and to help. When I had a decision to make on a case, he would always say, "well, what's the worst thing that can happen if you do such and such?" "If you can live with that, then do it. If not, maybe we need to find a different way." Wise, funny (like Bob Newhart funny), unflappable, he made coming to work fun. Always good company. He was a great investigator, and had a great heart. People liked to talk to Al. Not a mean bone in his body. Although I know he suffered in his last years, he never complained, and tried always to be positive. He was the best example I've ever seen of how to handle illness and adversity. The world is a better place for Al having lived, and it is less because he is no longer here. I, like so many others, loved that man. Last week we talked about having lunch sometime soon. Guess that'll have to wait now.

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**Garry Kregelka** - January 25, 2020 at 09:23 PM

BZ

“ Sorry to hear of Al's death. I have so many fun memories of times at the farm in South Dakota. His humor always brought smiles to our faces. He always made it a fun time. He will be missed. I am in Florida so wont be able to attend the service but know my thoughts will be with you. Bill Zimmerma

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**Bill Zimmerman** - January 25, 2020 at 03:45 PM

ML

“ I will miss him greatly. I enjoyed his e-mails & jokes & recent darling dog pictures!!Allan was my first boy friend in Okemos H.S. What a wonderful person! With Sympathy,Marianne (Bosworth) Lucas

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**marianne lucas** - January 25, 2020 at 01:18 PM

QD

“ I met Al when I was in high school, as he offered to be a mentor during a semester-long project my senior year. As an aspiring police officer, my project was about crime investigation. Although I had never even met him, I was invited to his house where I found that Al had a full crime scene reconstruction and mock police investigation planned for the day. Without asking, he went above and beyond. Although I only knew him briefly, this speaks volumes about his character and dedication. Now, 8 years later, I am several years into my law enforcement career and Al is one of the individuals who I have to thank for where I am today.

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**Quinn D** - January 25, 2020 at 11:39 AM

JH

“ I met Al when I was 15 yrs. old. My dad was transferred from Elgin, Ill., to Lansing, Mich. We lived temporarily in a rented apartment in Lansing while my parents were in the process of buying a home in Okemos, Mich. I was enrolled at Okemos High School and trying out for the football team, and met Al. I had a transportation problem at the time going from Okemos to Lansing to our temporary Apt. home. Al had a motorbike then and when he learned of my transportation woes he offered to transport me from Okemos to Lansing, which he did many times. I never forgot his kind consideration which was a trademark characteristic of the man. Ever the gentleman. His very serious illness seemed to come out of nowhere and his prognosis was grim from the beginning, BUT he never let anyone feel sorry for him, and he never complained. He spent hours at his computer sending out interesting and sometimes humorous things. His transmissions were always positive and offered hope and inspiration to all of us. He felt he and we, were fortunate to be here and he was right. Everyday is a blessing and a gift from God. I will miss his frequent emails, his bouyant, never give up, determination, and friendship. He will be missed, his silence noticed. Rest In Peace forever good man. Jerry Hunter

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**Jerry Hunter** - January 25, 2020 at 10:14 AM

JP

“ Al was a living legend. Loved by everyone he brought into his world. The stories, laughs, jokes and good times he somehow always created will be remembered and retold for a long time. Thanks for letting me be a part of the South Dakota trip. I will miss the random emails of things and jokes that he found online. What a great guy. I am going to go make a Houghton special and have a drink to Al. Cheers Al.

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**Jeff P.** - January 24, 2020 at 11:51 PM

AM

“ I will miss Al’s weekly supply of interesting tidbits from the internet, even as late as last week. Some how I got Al’s name as an investigator, and as I was then a lawyer needed his services. One of the first cases I asked him do investigate was a case where a motorcyclist hit a cow on a rural road and was injured. He brought him me back an accident reconstruction and I was excited to see it. He handed me a piece of black construction paper and explained it was an overcast moonless night, a recently black topped road with no lines yet painted, and a black angus cow who had escaped from his farm enclosure. He saw humor in daily life and always shared. I am sorry that I am out of state and not able to attend his funeral. He told me several times How he had planned it and I am sure even from heaven he has another joke or two to tell. Condolences to Barbara and I hope the memories of his many kindnesses will comfort you. Andy Muth

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**andy muth** - January 24, 2020 at 10:28 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Allan W. Houghton.



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January 24, 2020 at 07:29 PM

CP

“Have you ever met anyone you can make an instant connection with? That was Al. He was a social genius; could talk to everybody and learn all about them. He had a knack for sustaining relationships. Al made all of our lives better. I will cherish his many editions of the South Dakota Hunter journal and the annual hunting caps. I will remember the fun times including the Annual Awards Banquets, his world-class hunting dogs, afternoon manhattans on the veranda, driving around Winner, South Dakota with “Flat Al” (a full-size poster cut-out of Al) and facetimeing him in Saline so he could see all of the reactions of the store clerks and customers. He said he felt like he was there with us! Going “garage sale’n” with Al and Adrian, and Al stopping the car, with the engine running, and as we got out, saying “Leave the doors open. This probably won’t take long.” 15 seconds later, we were back in the car. No items of interest to buy.

I will miss the phone calls from Al starting with “This is Allan Houghton from Saline, Michigan” and ending with “Keep your hat on, so I’ll know you.” His stories starting with “Stop me if I told you this before, but I want to hear it again myself.” Al always remembered our birthdays with funny email notices to all. We weep for ourselves, but Al is no longer suffering. We weep for the loss of our companion and leader. He had such a positive impact on us all. He will always be with us in our hearts. Let us rejoice in the memories that he left us.

*Chris Polaczyk, Plymouth, MI*

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**CHRIS B POLACZYK** - January 24, 2020 at 07:15 PM

LS

*Flat Al better be present next Friday! I truly appreciate your comments, as well as those by our other loved ones. I have expressed to many that we are just heartbroken. I appreciate all the love pouring out for our wonderful father/relative/ friend. He truly was one of a kind.*

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**lisa sparrow** - January 24, 2020 at 07:29 PM

MH

“ My sister, brought Al to introduce him to our family when I was in my teens. We didn't scare him off. I remember there was some teasing going on and a lot of questions. He was a special person, one who took the time to let a you know he was really interested in and cared about you. He had a wonderful sense of humor. My brother Dan's comments summed up our family's admiration and love from him. He loved and honored our sister Mary, who died from cancer in 1986. Fortunately, he met & married Barbara the following year. She saved him from his grief. My heart goes out to Barbara, who has been devoted to him throughout his terminal illness. She has my deepest sympathy. As do Eric & ILynette, Lisa & Bob, & Doug, the grandkids & great-grands.

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**Margaret Hendrick** - January 24, 2020 at 06:04 PM

TJ

“ Before we moved to Colorado, Al was our neighbor. He constantly had a canine companion, and our favorites were "Ben and Emma." His love for dogs, transpired to our daughter Laura, who would sneak across the street to see Al, and his dogs, and be treated to a bowl of ice cream. He inspired our family to adopt a Labrador, Jack and we had a trio of Lab's on the end of Saline River Court, many years ago. Al had a sense of humor. After the city cut down many trees on our street, due to an Ash illness, Al waited for the city to replace the trees. Louise, another neighbor down the block, found an new "tree" planted in front of her house. She continued to water it, and care for it, until Al finally confessed to her, it was a dead tree branch he had stuck in the ground, and the city did not plant a tree in front of her home, yet. Best neighborhood joke, ever! If you ever needed a stiff drink, Al was always ready to make one for you, as you sat on the deck overlooking the river, to enjoy. He'd tell us to enjoy our cocktail, as we only had to walk across the street to get home. Al was chauffeur, when our oldest daughter, Alicia got married. He polished up "Caroline" and drove Alicia and Chris to the nuptials and reception in his Caddy. Always giving of himself. Once I had a garage sale, and had many men's neckties for sale. Al asked me if he could have them, if they didn't sell. I gave him about twenty, and he took them to his farm, hunting, and I understand, each hunter had to wear a tie to dinner one night, as it was a "formal dinner!" Our other two children, JJ and Harrison were lucky enough to have Al around. Or should I say I was lucky enough, when JJ locked himself into the bathroom, wouldn't come out, and Al came over to somehow, help me get him out! Bob and I will miss Al, but as you can tell, we have humorous, and happy memories of the best friend, and neighbor, ever, Allan. May Al be baking pies, in Heaven. Our love and thoughts sent to Barbara, and Al's family.

*Theresa and Bob James, Castle Rock Colorado*

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**THERESA JAMES** - January 24, 2020 at 05:31 PM

DB

“ *Well Al was a favorite in all Mary’s seven siblings and in her parents household. Al had a good nature, keen sense of humor, and was a hard working gentleman. I visited Al last week for over an hour, when leaving I gave him a big hug and told him how much he was loved by the entire Bakita families, he replied “I know that”! Sympathies to Barbara, Eric & Lynette, Lisa & Bob, Doug, Al’s grand and great grandchildren. It seems there was always a dog in his household which brought him much joy. He will be missed by many, May He Rest In Peace.*

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**Dan Bakita** - January 24, 2020 at 03:32 PM