## Quinton Bernard Allendale, MI



Hello!

My name is Quinton Bernard. I'm a 25 year old from Zeeland, Michigan. I now reside in Allendale, Michigan with my wife and 13 month old baby girl. I was first introduced to the Edmund Fitzgerald in my 5th grade music class. Here, we were taught how to play the song, The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, on the recorder. Ever since then, the Edmund has been a huge interest of mine. I quickly memorized the song (word for word), had my mom buy me books of the Edmund, and would watch the same YouTube videos of the Edmund over and over again.

This fascination of the Edmund Fitzgerald stuck with me through out the years and I had slowly became a well known local Edmund Fitzgerald enthusiast according to my peers. This past summer, I was lucky enough to visit the Shipwreck Museum in Whitefish point.

Shortly after visiting the Shipwreck museum, I was sent a news article regarding this Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial Swim by a handful of people. I had never swam in open water other than the going to the beach, never swam more than a mile at a time, and never competed in any type of water sport. Despite this, I still knew this was something I needed to do. Now, here we are, swimming in memory of the 29 lost crew members who are no longer with us while raising funds to restore the Shipwreck Museum.

If I'm not singing The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, I stay busy working as a police officer for the City of Wyoming, spending time with friends and family, and staying active. I just completed my first half marathon so, if I survived that, I should be able to handle this!