



## "Beany" LaFave

August 21, 1961 - August 21, 2012

Gene "Beany" LaFave 51, of Iron Mountain, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, August 21, 2012. He was born on April 27, 1961 in Iron Mountain, son of Gilbert "Gibby" LaFave and Barbara Poupore. He attended the Kingsford schools, graduating from Kingsford High School in 1979. He then went on to attend Grand Valley State University. He was a lifelong resident of the area. Beany married Ramona "Mona" Pilon on March 1, 1980 at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Iron Mountain, and had been happily married for more than 32 years. He was a self-employed builder and entrepreneur. He had his hands in many things, and was always busy. Gene was a faithful and active member of the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, where he served as an usher. He was the former President of the Men's Local Softball League. He enjoyed playing basketball, softball, throwing horseshoes, and camping. He loved spending time with family and friends hunting and fishing at his camp in Northland. He was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Robert Pilon; grandparents Francis Beauchamp, Joseph and Margaret LaFave; an uncle, Rick Beauchamp.

Beany is survived by his loving wife, Ramona "Mona" LaFave of Iron Mountain; his sons, Bradley LaFave and fiancé, Britany of Iron Mountain, Adam LaFave (Heather Finley) of Gwinn, and Gabriel LaFave of Iron Mountain; his grandchildren, Courtney, Caiden and Carter LaFave; his father, Gilbert "Gibby" LaFave of Iron Mountain; his mother and step-father, Barbara (Robert "Nort") Poupore of Quinnesec; Mother-in-law, JoAnn Pilon of

Kingsford; Grandmother, Martha Beauchamp of Iron River, Grandmother in-law, Violet Pilon of Iron Mountain, and step-Grandmother, Jane Poupore of Iron Mountain; brothers and sisters, Joseph (BJ) LaFave of Iron Mountain, James LaFave of Capistrano, CA, Heather (Tom) Poupore-King of San Francisco, CA, Gilbert "Gibby" (Crystal) LaFave of Iron Mountain, Lacy LaFave of Marquette, MI; brothers in-law and sisters in-law, Jennifer (Michael) Carlson of Ishpeming, MI, George (Stacie Whitley) Pilon of Kingsford; He is further survived by many Special aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The visitation is scheduled for Sunday, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. The funeral service will follow at 5:00 pm at the church. Rev. Stephen Cowen will officiate. Burial will be in the Quinnesec Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers a memorial will be established in his memory.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Gene "Beany" LaFave online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com) .

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **26**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Funeral Service

AUG **26**. 5:00 PM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ *Mona, I have been thinking of you so much over the last several days. I still can not wrap my mind around all of this; I feel so much for all of you. Please know that we are here and our thoughts & prayers are still with you. Weird as it is, the last time we spoke with Bean (one week prior to the day); out of the blue he told us (Scotty & I) how much he loved you, he said “I love her as much as I did the day I asked her to marry me & the day we said the I Do’s, not sure why I felt like sharing that but I did & I do, I mean it” God bless true love. Love & prayers*

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**Marcie/Scotty - felch, MI - cousin/family - September 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

T7

“ *Ramona and family,  
I am so very sorry to learn of your tragic loss. My prayers for peace and comfort go out to you all. May the loving arms of Jesus envelope all who are hurting.*

*God Bless,*

*Tangerine*

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**Tangerine Murray (Dupuis) - Escanaba, MI - class of 79 - September 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

TF

“ *Barb & Nort  
My most sincere condolences . My heart grieves for the both of you and for all of the family . Love to all .*

*Terry Q.*

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**Terry Quarless - family friend - September 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

EC

“ *Mona, Uncle Gibby and boys  
This loss is heartbreaking. I have a lifetime of great memories with Beany. He took me to my first "R" rated movie and faced my parents when they found out! He also let me hang at his skate shop whenever I wanted and flirt with his worker! His laughter and energy will forever be cherished and missed. Please know I am here whenever for whatever reason... I love you*

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**Erin mcCarthy - hermosa beach, CA - Cousin** - September 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *We will never forget all the kind memories we have of Beanie, you and Gabe at Baseball, BB Camp, and snowmobiling up at your Camp for New Year's, my girls loved the time we were invited to spend with you up at camp, and I will always remember with a smile Beanie pulling up to our house to get Scion for BB Tourneys in his beloved camper! He will be sadly missed, and you are really good people.*

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**Angela Petrick - Iron Mountain, MI - friend** - August 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ *You are in my thoughts and prayers. I am so very sorry for your loss.  
Sincerely,  
Dave Carpenter  
(Heather Finley's Uncle)*

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**Dave Carpenter - Portage, WI - Friend of Adam** - August 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Joe,

*Don and I are so very sorry to hear about your recent loss, and want you and BJ to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you as well as the rest of your family, please accept our condolences.*

*He who has gone, so we but cherish his memory, abides with us, more potent, nay, more present than the living man.*

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**Donald and Joan Arms - Hermansville, MI - August 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

KC

“ Dear Mona and family,

*We were so saddened to hear of the tragic loss of Beany. The world will be missing his fun loving spirit. He could always light up a room with his golden smile or by telling a good joke or pulling a prank. He sure enjoyed life and I always enjoyed the time I spent with him. He will be sadly missed by all of us who loved him. And we send all our love and prayers to you and the boys and Uncle Gibby as you mourn this loss.*

*All our love,*

*Kelly, Jeff, Sophia & Kaleigh*

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**Kelly McCarthy Clark - Spring lake , MI - Cousin - August 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

SM

“ *Mona,  
We were so saddened to hear of Beany's accident. Our thoughts and prayers have been with you daily. I am so glad that we got to see both of you a few weeks ago! We'll hold that memory of Beany forever.*

*With love,  
Stephanie & Terry*

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**Stephanie (Liscomb) West - Lexington, VA - Classmate of Gene & Mona -**  
August 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Dear Mona and Family,  
I was so sad to hear of your loss. Beanie was such a great person. I hope that the love and memories of all yours together will bring you peace in the days ahead.  
My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Lori*

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**Lori (Palmcook) Cornell - Kalamazoo, MI - Cousin -** August 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Mona and Family, Today you are in my thoughts, Tonight I will remember you in my prayers. With Deepest Sympathy, Joyce*

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**Joyce Loveridge - Quinnesec, MI -** August 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Ramona and Family, I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you.*

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**Sue ( Sailo) Kafka - IRON MOUNTAIN, MI - classmate -** August 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ Barbara, Bob and the Poupore family, Mona and family; I have not met "Beany" but I have heard wonderful things about him. My heart is with all of you during this very sad time. Speaking on behalf of the Poupore Family, he was greatly loved by all of them. I grew up with his step father Bob, my first cousin, and I knew Barbara as well. I have sons his age, so I can imagine how devastating it must be for everyone. Please forgive me if I have forgotten to mention some of "Beany"s family members. My prayers are with you. Glenna and the Durand Family and the Paulich Family.

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**Glenna Marie Paulich Durand - Reno, NV - Cousin of Robert Poupore** - August 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

C'

“ My deepest sympathy goes out for the family of Gene "Beany" LaFave and I'm praying that the "God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3) will surround you all with His presence in a very real and heart-felt way. I remember Mona since the sixth grade and Gene from the 7th. It was so good to see former classmates come together on Friday to comfort Mona and her and Gene's family and share the good times we remembered from school, and to celebrate Gene's life. He will be greatly missed by many, but not forgotten.

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**Cindy Lee Jacobson - Kingsford, MI - Classmate (Class of '79)** - August 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ My heartfelt condolences to Mona & family for their tragic loss. God Bless you all & you will be in my prayers.....

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**Arlene Mohr (class of 1979) - Niagara, WI - high school classmate** - August 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ Dearest Family: The loss of Beany is such a tragedy for all of us, but most especially, dear Mona and his children. I have so many special memories of B from childhood to adulthood. He was a loving, tender-hearted child with a smile that lit up the world. As an adult, he was kind and so extremely generous. His main goal in life was to make life better for others by helping when needed. I'll never forget his selfless offer to be a kidney donor for my husband, Rich, if we needed him. Not many would ever make such an offer. He would give the shirt off his back if you needed it. He truly accomplished his work on earth and even though he will be greatly missed, his loving spirit will live on and his light will continue to shine for all of us. Aunty Nancy

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**Nancy McCarthy - Whitehall, MI - Aunt** - August 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ I am so sorry to here of your loss, be strong thru all this as I know you can be.

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**Gary Curnow - Crystal Falls, MI - friend** - August 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Mona and Family.*  
I've so many fond memories of Beany. He was always the life of the party every time we got together. I just wish we could have spent more time with you all the last few years. I will miss him. My thoughts are with you and your families.  
Bud

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**Bud Duke - Rocklin, CA - Friend** - August 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *The Ski Patrollers at Cannonsburg and Pando down in West Michigan were deeply saddened to hear of Gene's death. He was one of our favorite vendors at our annual fundraiser - so friendly, honest, laid back and willing to help everyone. His son, Brad, is a chip off the old block and our deepest sympathy goes out to you....*

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**Becky Steiner - Rockford, MI** - August 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Barb, Mona & Family, God Bless You in your time of Sorrow So sorry to hear about Beany, have very many Fond Memories from my visits there. No words can express the loss you are feeling, there was a lot of Love in the Family. He is in the Arms of Jesus sleeping now, God Be with you.  
Bob Goloversic*

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**Bob Goloversic - Muskegon, MI - Friend of Family** - August 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Dear Mona,  
We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Beany. This must be very difficult for you. You and your family are in our thoughts and our prayers.  
Gene was such a kind person, who will be greatly missed by all who knew him.  
May God bless you and your family during this time and always.*

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**Kelly Potter Love (and Yafei, Tyler, Carli, Jessica, Sam, Jun Ju - Atlanta, GA - Friend** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ We send our deepest sympathy on the death of your son and husband, Gene.  
You are in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Martha and Bob

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**Martha and Bob Schinderle - Portage, MI** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ I was so shocked to read about "Beanie" in the paper. I grew up with Joe, Beanie and Jim on the northside when we were all younger. Although I never met Gene's wife, children or grandchildren I would like to send my sincere sympathy and blessings to his family. Gibby, Barb, Joe & BJ and Jim and families my thoughts and prayers are with you as well.

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**Karen (Langford) Powers - Iron Mountain, MI - childhood friend and neighbor -**  
August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

"F

“ Dearest Mona & Family,  
Please accept my deepest sympathy to all through your grieving process. I can only hope that the fondest memories and time heal your broken hearts. For the loss of your husband, father, son and brother - I will morn with you all.

Respectfully,  
Gordon Badish

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**"Gords" - Huntington Beach, CA - Friend of the family** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Mona Gibby and family  
You will be in my thoughts and prayers!!! You have alot of support  
and people who care for you a great deal - that is the blessing!  
Beany will be missed by ALOT of people! A quote from "Tony"  
before he was killed that fateful day on the bridge  
Goodbye's are inevitable, but I will see you again! NEVER forget the  
simple fact that I will always love you! Those words he put in his  
yearbook only a month or so before have kept us all strong! I dont  
believe any other words could be so true!! Im here for you Mona &  
Gibs - please DONT ever hesitate to call if you need ANYTHING! A  
shoulder, an ear, or just someone to sit in silence with you!!! We will  
ALL help you get through these days to come!!  
Love  
Spig*

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**Spig - Niagara, WI - friend** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *Mona, My deepest sympathies.*

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**Bill Tuomela - Colorado Springs, CO - cousin** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Mona, so sorry to hear of Gene's loss. Anne and I pass along our  
condolences to you and your family.*

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**Richard Ziehm - Bellevue, NE - Classmate** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ *Mona and Family,  
Sending prayers, hugs and blessings to you and your family at this  
time. I wish there was more that i could say to take away your pain.  
God Bless!*

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**Wendy Buff Kletschka - Kingsford, MI - classmate** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ So very sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time of deep sorrow.

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**Mary (Konopacke) Michner - Okemos, MI - Classmate** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ I was so sorry to hear about the tragic accident. I am hoping and praying for some comfort in the coming days, weeks, and months to help deal with everything you are going through. Live each day to its fullest as Beany did and keep all of your happy thoughts and memories close to your heart.

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**Lisa (Barkle) Richards - Fort Worth, TX - Classmate of Gene and Mona** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ Please accept our deepest sympathies in the loss of your husband and father.

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**Rich & Arlene Johnson - Gwinn, MI - friends of Adam's** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ Barbara: I felt so bad to hear of the loss of your son. I know from experience there is nothing worse than losing a child. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

*Love and prayers,  
Norine*

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**Norine Bickford - Coon Rapids, MN - Friend of Barbara Poupore** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ Sorry about your loss our thoughts are with your family at this time of need...

Harper Families - iron mountain, MI - friends - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Mona,

*I was so sorry to hear of Beany's accident. I know the grief and pain that you are feeling and I wish I could say something to make you feel better. Know that your family is grieving Beany and love you.*

Jodi - Champlin, MN, MN - Cousin - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Mona, Brad, Adam and Gabe,  
*I am so sorry for your loss. Words cannot describe how hard this must be for all of you. I know how close you all were from the many stories Heather has shared with me. Please know you're are in my thoughts and prayers.  
I will be here for Adam if he needs anything.  
God Bless.....Amy (Heather's Mom)*

Amy Barglind - Marquette , MI - friend - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Mona and family - there are no "proper" words to send - just how sorry we feel for your great loss. May you and your family dwell in many happy memories of Beanie's life. God Bless You All.

Bud & Dorothy Duke (Grandma & Grandpa Duke) - Niagara, WI - Friend - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

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**Jackie Schiavo and Family - Iron Mountain, MI** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this tough time. Stephanie and Jim Schuls*

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**Stephanie Schuls - Florence, WI - friend** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the LaFave family. God's peace be with you.*

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**Tom, Cathy & Jess Menza - Iron Mountain, MI** - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM