



Benjamin Mathias Determan

June 30, 1930 - March 24, 2025

Benjamin Mathias Determan, 94, of Norway, Michigan, passed away on March 24, 2025, at his daughter's home near Phelps, Wisconsin.

He was born on June 30, 1930, to Benjamin and Veronica in Clinton, Iowa, where he spent many happy and formative hours on his grandfather's farm. He married Victoria Anne "Vicky" Baker on November 20, 1950, and was drafted into the U.S. Army shortly thereafter.

Supported by the GI Bill, Ben graduated from The University of Iowa in 1955 and started his career in the water pump industry. He served as president of The Water Systems Council and as director and vice president of the National Groundwater Association. In his last position as a field service operations manager, Ben managed the U.S., Canada, and Mexico markets, and traveled to Egypt and Saudi Arabia to address complex pump-related issues.

Ben's career took the family to homes in Texas, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana over the years before he retired in 1997. After Victoria's death in 2010 following a happy marriage of nearly 60 years, Ben moved to Iron Mountain, Michigan, to be closer to his two daughters, Ginni and Molly. On December 31, 2017, Ben married Virginia Mae Sundstrom of Norway, and they enjoyed seven years together, traveling and socializing extensively.

Always active in civic organizations, in his later years Ben was a member and director in Golden K and a leader in the Lifelong Learning program at Bay College. He was also active in the Full Moon Concert Series and a member of the board of directors of the Dickinson County Conservation District.

Ben was a man of faith, an optimist and a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather and husband. He enjoyed reminiscing about his life and sharing sage advice, frequently saying that he was grateful for the years he had been granted and that he had NO REGRETS! His signature phrase, "Why wouldn't I?" inspires us all to challenge ourselves and to try new experiences.

Ben is survived by his wife Virginia Mae "Ginny" Sundstrom; two daughters: Virginia "Ginni" (Doug) Henke and Mary "Molly" (Mark) Griffin; nine grandchildren: Ben, Lily (Nick), Sam (Callyn), Colin (Sophia), Bridgette (Josh), Aaron, Andrew (Christina), Colin (Christina), and Kate (Nick); five great-grandchildren; his sister, Betty; and Ginny Sundstrom's family.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Victoria, two sisters, and a daughter, Kathlyn Anne.

Visitation will take place at Erickson, Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain on

Saturday, March 29th at 10:30 AM, with Msgr. Joseph Gouin officiating a funeral service there at 11:30 AM. Ben will be interred at a later date in Dubuque, Iowa alongside Victoria and their daughter Kathlyn.

Gifts in memory of Ben may be sent to Bay College, 2801 North US-2, Iron Mountain, MI

49801, directed to the Benjamin M. Determan Memorial Scholarship.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Benjamin Mathias Determan

online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 29. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Avenue
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-7676
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 29. 11:30 AM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Avenue
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-7676
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com
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Tribute Wall

BR

“ *Very sad to hear about Ben's passing. My deepest sympathy to the Determan Family and to Ginny and the Sundstrom Family. Got to know Ben at Golden K and we workrd together on many GK activities. Will miss having him at our meetings and especially all his contributions to our organization. I am sorry I will not be able to attend on Saturday as I am with family in South Carolina. Take Care and God Bless*

BILL ROBERTS

Bill Roberts - March 28, 2025 at 01:10 PM

CC

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Ben's passing. I enjoyed our visits with this remarkable man. He sure showed us how to live! My sincere condolences to the Determan and Sundstrom families.*
Sincerely,
Colleen Carlson

Colleen Carlson - March 27, 2025 at 07:15 PM

AH

“ *My deepest condolences to everyone Ben left behind-- he was a great example of how to live life to the fullest. Age was not a boundary for him and I have a feeling he left a legacy of wisdom that will guide you in days to come.*

Ann Hruska - March 27, 2025 at 01:46 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Benjamin Mathias Determan.



March 26, 2025 at 08:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benjamin Mathias Determan.

March 26, 2025 at 08:49 PM



“ My name Kimesha, i'm blessed to know Molly the daughter of Mr. Benjamin Mathias judging from the dedicated to helping others loyal great person and one of the kindest hearts I have ever known in my life time you know she was given the best up bringing by the dad she's saying goodbye to for now this week And after reading his ulyogy it sounds like the apple didnt fall far from the tree he was a hard worker dedicated involve in the communities he lived in just and all around awesome Man with this i send my condolences to molly and siblings, family. God please make this burden extra light with the hopes and faith that they will see him Benjamin there dad again in the new life to come amen.

Kimesha - March 26, 2025 at 05:09 PM



What a wonderful life Ben had to leave a message NO REGRETS.. My condolences to Ginny, & all family members. As a Golden K member myself, he will be missed.

Pat Polzin - March 29, 2025 at 08:02 AM