



## Benny Essendrup

May 23, 2008

IRON MOUNTAIN - Benny F. Essendrup, 69, of Iron Mountain, died Friday, May 23, 2008, at ManorCare Health Services in Kingsford.

He was born in Sitka, Alaska, the son of the late Barney and Elizabeth Essendrup. Ben was born and raised in Sitka with his sisters, Bonny and Linda and his brother, Bernard. He graduated from Sitka High School.

Ben joined the U.S. Army in 1962, where he was a sharpshooter. He was discharged in 1965.

Ben worked for Alaska Lumber and Pulp Co. in Sitka. He was also the assistant fire chief for the Sitka fire department for more than 20 years. When the Champion Mill opened in Quinnesec, he was transferred here to work as the control room operator, retiring in 2003.

Ben was a very active man who always liked to try new adventures. A man of many hobbies, he was a private pilot who enjoyed wood carving, leather working, and carpentry. He was a good hearted man.

Benny was a member of the Masons, the Shriners, the Moose Lodge, and many veterans organizations. He really enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ben is survived by two daughters, Kathy (Ron) Mathews of Sitka and Colette (Jeff) Rochon of Niagara, Wis.; one son, Todd (Sandie) Essendrup of Iron Mountain; adopted daughter JoEllen Basso of Loretto; nine grandchildren, Audreanna, Lucas, Jeffrey, Tosha, Joshua, Brenton, Kelsey, Eric, and Amber; adopted grandsons Traveler and Gunnar and three great-grandchildren.

Private family services will be held.

Burial will be in Alaska.

Condolences to the family of Benny Essendrup can be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

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

# Tribute Wall

CE

“ I miss him terribly every day of my life.. I lost my best friend... Unfortunately due to a house fire no longer have any pictures. So I am kindly asking if ANYONE has photos of my Daddy please send them to me my email is [essendrupcolette8@gmail.com](mailto:essendrupcolette8@gmail.com) thank you to all who shared memories. 😞

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**Colette Essendrup** - December 17, 2023 at 03:32 PM

JD

“ To Benny's Family,  
  
*Both my wife Carol Koschman and myself have wonderful memories of Benny and his 57 Thunderbird growing up in Sitka. I lived with Benny's family one school year in Sitka (1959) and enjoyed every moment. Our hearts go out to Bonny, Bernard, Linda, and the rest of the family. Benny will always remain a very fond memory in our hearts for just being Benny.*

*Jan & Carol Dabney*

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**Jan & Carol Koschman Dabney** - June 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ My condolences to Ben's family. He will be missed. It was good to see and talk to Ben at our last class reunion. Our growing up together was a big part of my life and he will be long remembered.  
*Buzz*

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**Buzz Burns** - June 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. As Benny was a important friend in my youth and youth shared with him and his family that will never be forgotten.  
Our condolences are with all of you at this time of sorrow.

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**Dick and Elaine Sunde** - June 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ My thoughts are with your family. I knew Benny in Sitka during our high school years and will always remember his sense of fun and his kindness. May you feel supported by your own memories of Benny's life.

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**Allison Armstrong Keef** - June 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Our prayers and condolences are with your family. We were so glad to be able to renew our old friendship with Benny just a few weeks before he died. Brian worked with Benny at the old ALP and then again in Quinnesec. We both have many fond memories.

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**Brian & Yvonne Clark** - June 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ May God be with your family now and in all the days to come. Our deepest sympathy to your family.  
We both worked with Ben at the Quinnesec mill.

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**Shelly & Jo Ellison** - May 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Colette and todd so sorry to hear about pa. My prayers are with you.  
Pa is a great man. Very fun to be with.

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**Mary Bennett** - May 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM