



Bruce Wixtrom

September 24, 1935 - September 24, 2011

Bruce Dale Wixtrom, 76, of Witch Lake, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, at his home after a lengthy illness.

He was born on Dec. 1, 1934, in Witch Lake, son of the late Seth and Mae (Doan) Wixtrom. He was a lifelong resident of Witch Lake.

Bruce married Arleen Laskowski on Dec. 15, 1956, and spent nearly 55 wonderful years together. Bruce owned and operated his own construction and excavating company for many years. He loved to work, and was a true craftsman when it came to any kind of building, especially the many cottages he built in the Witch Lake area.

Bruce is survived by his loving wife, Arleen Wixtrom of Witch Lake; his children, Catherine (William) Stratton of Witch Lake, Gary (Amy) Wixtrom of Witch Lake, and Julia Wixtrom of Palatine, Ill.; grandchildren, Kelley (Jeremy) Stark and Elise Wixtrom; great-granddaughter, Dana Stark and baby Stark due in March 2012; sisters, Marcelle Houlmont of Marquette, Donna Erickson of Republic, and Nancy (Fred) Spanton of Republic; a brother, Bill (Luana) Wixtrom of Republic; a sister-in-law, Helen Wixtrom of Witch Lake; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, June Laakso, and brothers, James and

Jack Wixtrom.

Visitation is set for Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon (Eastern time) at the First Baptist Church of Witch Lake.

The funeral service will follow Wednesday at 12 noon (Eastern time) at the church. Tim Spanton will officiate.

Burial will be in the Republic Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Paul Stanolis, Aaron Wixtrom, Eric Wixtrom, Will Wixtrom, Jack Mattila, and Mark Spanton.

Honorary pallbearers will be Marvin Koski, Wally Helmila, Gregg Wixtrom, and Mike Wixtrom.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the First Baptist Church of Witch Lake or the Maranatha Assembly of God Church in Kingsford.

The family would like to thank everyone who helped Bruce during his illness. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Condolences to the family of Bruce D. Wixtrom may be expressed online at ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **28.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Witch Lake
2962 Hwy M95
Republic, MI 49879

Funeral Service

SEP **28.** 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Witch Lake
2962 Hwy. M 95
Republic, MI 49879

Tribute Wall

RF

“ We wish we had words to comfort and ease the pain but all we can say is our thoughts and prayers are with Bruce's family and friends.

I've known Bruce and Arleen for many many years. The first time I'd met Bruce he was doing some work for my Grandfather, Al Thompson. I shook Bruce's hand and my hand disappeared. Quite an impression he made on me at such a young age.

Over the years, Bruce did a lot of work for my Dad (Gordon) and Mom (Louise) and I often had the pleasure of watching him do what he loved.

He'd let us hunt his property off the Fence River road for Grouse and sometimes he'd join us.

So many fond memories of Bruce that I could go on and on.

He was a gentle giant and soft spoken man and always willing to help.

He will be truly missed by all.

Bruce, thank you for all you did for my me and my family....rest in peace my friend!

Bob

Robert & Laurie Glaysheer - Batavia, IL - Friends - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Saddened to learn of Bruce's passing. You have my sincere sympathies. I have fond memories of Bruce from the 1950s when we played on the same baseball team. Was able to reminisce about those days with his brother Bill at the Ballplayers Reunion we held in Republic a few years ago. Apparently, Bruce was having some health issues at that time. Bruce was a great teammate and friend. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Don Mikkola

Don Mikkola - Toivola, MI - Friend - September 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ To the Wixtrom family,
My heart goes out to you in your loss. I pray happy memories will ease the sorrow you are feeling. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Val Paulson - Negaunee, MI - friend - September 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Arleen,

We have missed seeing you and Bruce in church and especially the fellowship with you afterward. Bruce was a truly wonderful man who will be missed by so many. His good work building Maranatha Messengers is truly appreciated each Tuesday and Wednesday as we work there. It will remain a tribute to his memory. Please stop in to visit us one day soon.

You continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Roy & Sue Ruohomaki

Roy & Sue Ruohomaki - Iron Mountain, MI - Friend - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Dear Arlene and family, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I will always treasure the memories of growing up in Witch Lake. Bruce was one of the kindest, gentlest men I have ever known. He and Arlene always welcomed a bunch of noisy kids into their home. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Beth Heliste - Republic, MI - friend - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Dear Arlene and family,
My heart go out to you! Thinking of Bruce fills me with wondrous memories. When I was a boy, my mother told me that I had been named for him. When he worked on our house, I was awestruck by Bruce's physical strength and skill in construction. I hoped that I would grow up to be just like him. Then, as an adult, I admired Bruce's ability to continue to work even as his physical powers began to diminish.

Most of all, I will miss his kind and generous heart.

Katherine joins me in sending our deepest condolences.

Love,
Bruce Larson

Bruce Larson - Columbus/Witch Lake, OH - Son of Bruce's cousin Ruth -
September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ While we didn't know Mr. Wixtrom, we see the legacy of faith he leaves behind in the person of his daughter Cathy and his granddaughter Kelley. To Mr. Wixtrom's family: you are in our thoughts and prayers during this time of loss and sorrow. And, as our family has experienced often, having a new baby to look forward to is such a blessing from the Lord at a time like this.

Linda & David Bimel (Ma & Pop to Kelley, Jeremy and Dana)

David and Linda Bimel - marquette, MI - friends of Kelley & Jeremy Stark -
September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ I was saddened by the news of the passing of Bruce. While I didn't know him well, his character and generosity made a profound impression on me. Several years ago I purchased some gravel from him for a project at my camp near Chief Lake. (I learned he built the addition on the building in the '70s) He not only almost gave me the gravel, but lent his trailer so I could get it to my project. He wasn't feeling well then, but we sat and had a very nice conversation on the porch of his house. He didn't know me well either, but his integrity and kindness was obvious. I enjoyed the conversation and it will be a memory that will stay with me. Since then I have also witnessed his excellent craftsmanship in building projects around Chief Lake. He will surely be missed.

My deep and sincere condolences go to Arlene and his family.

Kevin Caliguri - Hesperia/Republic, MI - A Witness - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ On behalf of my mother, Pat Phare, and our entire family, I offer our sincere sympathies on the loss of Bruce. My dad, Sid Phare, prayed for Bruce regularly and each Sunday in church as we worshiped side by side. After Dad passed away in March of 2010, I continued the prayers on his behalf. Bruce was a great friend to my dad, and tho I know his loss to all of you will be great, I know God had another plan for Bruce in heaven. We have said that God must have wanted the two friends and carpenters in heaven together. We are unable to attend the funeral as my daughter is getting married on Friday, and we have commitments with the planning etc. But Mom is recalling many memories at Bat Lake with Bruce and Dad, and we certainly will have Arlene and all the family in our thoughts and prayers for much time to come. May you be comforted by the love of our Lord Jesus and the many friends who hold you up in prayer. May Bruce rest in peace.

Susan (Phare) Boback - Ishpeming, MI - friend - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Arleen & Family,

Dave & I have been thinking about you & praying for you daily. We talked about coming up for the funeral but have decided against it for the moment. We will come to see you when we do make it up to the UP.

We have so many wonderful memories of you & Bruce. I think about the first time we met you -- way back in the 70s at a 4th of July picnic I think. And of course there were the many times since then that we traveled up there, especially during hunting season. Dave enjoyed his time at the camp so much -- he talks about it often. And I can't forget the winter that you came south to remodel the house in Howe.

Bruce will be missed.

Love & peace,

Dave & Ann

Dave & Ann Bricker - Howe, IN - Friends - September 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ Arleen,

Our deepest sympathies are with you and your family. I remember when Bruce was building your house - Cathy had sleepovers as the house was being built. It was so exciting to sleep in a room that wasn't quite finished. You and Bruce were also so warm and kind to us. Even though I haven't seen Bruce in a while, I will miss him. Our thoughts are with you always.

Beverly Carriere - Stevens Point, WI - niece - September 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM