



## David "Chaps" Anderson

September 16, 1947 - July 26, 2016

David "Chaps" Anderson

passed away peacefully, surrounded with love by family at his home on July 26th, 2016.

Born September 16th, 1947 in Norway Michigan, David is son of the late Robert and Doris Anderson of Gladstone. Raised on East "A" Street in Iron Mountain, David graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1965. While in school, he took an active role in sports, and sang lead tenor a gospel quartet dubbed "The Messengers".

Upon graduation, David attended Bethel College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, receiving a Bachelors before serving proudly in the Vietnam War with the 85th Evac. Hospital situated in Phu Bai. In Vietnam, he worked as a combat medic from 1970 to 1971, receiving commendations for his performance and making friends in arms that remained dear to him for the rest of his life. After his service, he answered a call to the Ministry, receiving a Masters of Divinity degree from Bethel Theological Seminary in 1977.

After graduating from Seminary, he served the Oakdale Community Church in West St. Paul as pastor from 1979 to 1982, and was ordained there by the American Baptist Churches in 1980.

On August 25th, 1978, he married the love his life, Marie (Née Polivka), spending 38 happy years together. David and Marie had two sons, Seth and Nathan, and together the four shared a close relationship that only matured as the years progressed.

In 1986, Rev. Anderson took a year-long residency in clinical pastoral education at the Carle Foundation Hospital and Clinic in Urbana, Ill. A lifelong impulse to serve finally led him back full circle to his cherished community in Iron Mountain, where he served as the Chaplain of the Dickinson County Healthcare System from 1987 to 2014. In one of the crowning achievements of a life devoted to serving God, Rev. Anderson answered a second, late-career call to Ministry at Grace Presbyterian Church in Sagola Michigan, where he served as pastor until the end of his life.

David was a 25 year member and former President of the Kiwanis Club, a local leader in Habitat for Humanity, humble former Caddie and later avid member of the Pine Grove Country Club. He had a deep, spiritual connection to the North Woods, finding abundant, inexhaustible joy in God's creation during the countless fishing and hunting trips he made both with close companions, and on his own.

Through his life and work, he displayed a deep commitment to God, sharing what he learned with others, while remaining humble, ever approachable and supernaturally funny. As God's servant, as father, and as friend, David's absence will be greatly felt by those who loved him, and those he touched during the course of his remarkable life.

David is survived by his devoted wife Marie, his adoring sons Seth (Lucy Joyce) and Nathan Anderson (May Wong), his Sister Mary Jo Valentine of Grand Rapids, Susan Krumlauf of Minneapolis (Steve), and a beautiful group of nieces that were like second daughters to him.

Visitation will be on Thursday, July 28th from 3:00-6:00pm at First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford and from 9:00-11:00am Friday at First Presbyterian Church. Memorial services will be on Friday at 11:00am at First

Presbyterian Church. Rev. Michael March will officiate. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Memorials may be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences to the family of David Anderson may be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

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

# Cemetery Details

## Cemetery Park

Cedar Ave  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 28. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
395 Hamilton Avenue  
Kingsford, MI 49802

## Visitation

JUL 29. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
395 Hamilton Avenue  
Kingsford, MI 49802

## Memorial Service

JUL 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
395 Hamilton Avenue  
Kingsford, MI 49802



# Tribute Wall

KL

“*Dave touched so many. Sincerest condolences to the Anderson Family. Prayers go out to you.*”



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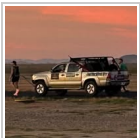
**Ka Lynn** - August 11, 2016 at 07:59 AM

GP

“*Dave's Dad sang at my Grandmothers funeral, 1954. Dave visited with my Dad during my Dad's last days. Dave gave the eulogy for Dad twenty some years ago. Then Dave started the chronic illness support group at DCMH and I with a chronic illness was always at the meetings which Dave always facilitated. During the rest of Dave's employment at DCMH I would stop by to see Dave in his office. That was always a great pit stop. I'm in Rochester MN Mayo clinic and was not able to be home for Dave's funeral but I know where CHAPS is now, so I'm Rejoicing.*”  
*Gary Proudfit*

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**Gary Proudfit** - August 09, 2016 at 01:05 PM



“*Dearest Anderson Family. I had known Rev. Anderson through Church and riding Harley's with him and my ex-husband and lastly through DCH. He was the most wonderful man I have ever met. Just a loving husband, pastor and human being. The world will greatly miss such a man but sometimes God needs the exceptional ones to be with him as well. I will always have such fond memories of him and I wish all of you peace and happiness and wonderful memories in your futures. God Bless you all,*”  
*Sandy (Lantz) Fontecchio*

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**Sandy Fontecchio** - August 02, 2016 at 12:34 PM

AN

“ My prayer's are for Aunt Re, Seth, & Nathan. I'm sorry he is not with us, but I know I will see him again. Uncle Dave showed so much love & care for his family. I remember years ago calling to talk to Aunt Re & someone with the name Dave answered the phone. This Dave that I spoke to claimed that I called the right number & address, but told me that he wasn't married to my Aunt Re. An Uncle told me that Uncle Dave liked pulling tricks. I'm not sure if I spoke to a different Dave that day or if I was tricked. I remember seeing him & Aunt Re years ago & I have memories still of that night we visited with them and other family members. We will see him again. I'm praying for y'all! 1 Corinthians 1:3 & Romans 6 : 23. Love, Angie

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**Angie** - August 01, 2016 at 03:27 PM

LS

“*David: A loving reflection of the love Christ has for all of us; if only we ask. He was a faith filled man, a loving husband and endearing father, held dignified of self, and joyful servant.*

*Dearest Marie, Seth and Nathan,*

*Marie, wherever David traveled, Love abound. David had answered God's call to ministry, matrimony and to procreate a family. He was a humble, faithful servant to his family, his many friends, patients, and parishioners.*

*We are saddened by your loss and send our deepest sympathy.*

*As a joyful happy wife, who was devoted, playful, adventurous and engaging with your constant love enriched David life. You three were his greatest blessings over his lifetime; you made his life worth living.*

*David's beautiful journey was made possible through the love and humble pride he held and received, from and to his family and the dignity he held for self. These actions enable him to enjoy and loving complete his journey throughout his life along with the grace of Peace given before his death. Our heavenly Father called him home. Once again, David answered His call.*

*+ Eternal rest grant unto David, O Lord. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

*It has been an honor to know you and David over all these past years: to smile with, talk with him, laugh with him, love with and pray for him and your family throughout his very difficult and devastating illness.*

*May the Lord strengthen and comfort you through your deepest time of loss and sorrow. Amen*

*Love,  
Jeff and Lana Smith*

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**Love, Jeff and Lana Smith** - July 30, 2016 at 02:59 PM

BB

“ *Bill and Sally Berger purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of David "Chaps" Anderson.*



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**Bill and Sally Berger** - July 29, 2016 at 05:58 PM

WB

“ *Sad news. I was looking forward to seeing "Tree" again at the 85th Reunion this September. Dave was one one of the foundation members that made so much difference in the lives of the heroin addicted GI's in the Half Way House recovery program at the 85th Evac Hospital in Phu Bai, Viet Nam. He will be missed. William Berger MD*

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**William Berger** - July 29, 2016 at 04:46 PM

DP

“ *Hi Marie,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. My*



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**Diane Plante** - July 28, 2016 at 11:14 PM

EB

“ I served with Dave "Tree" in Vietnam and was looking forward to seeing him again. We served as OR Techs at the 85th Evac Hospital in Phu Bai. We reconnected 2 years ago just before our last reunion. We discovered that we have a mutual friend in Chuck Porta. Dave was a real solid guy. He showed his compassion by reaching out to the new guys, including me, and making us feel welcomed. He was a seasoned veteran OR Tech when I got to Vietnam. I learned a lot from him and he helped me set the pace for my deployment. I look forward to spending eternity with Dave.



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**Eddie Brown** - July 28, 2016 at 10:52 PM

DG

“ Marie, "Tree" as we knew him in Vietnam was just that - a stable force against the winds of war. I was very fortunate to have Dave enter the ER at the 85th Evac Hospital when I was working. He looked at my coffee cup with my initials DJG and said your name must be Deeg, and that was the beginning of a great friendship. I'm so grateful that we had the opportunity to connect 2 years ago in Boston. My heart and my wife's heart goes out to you and your family. God needed more than just another angel when He called Dave home, He needed a mighty oak "Tree". God bless you all. Donn "Deeg" and Pat Gates

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**Donn Gates** - July 28, 2016 at 09:44 PM

DW

Well done, good & faithful servant of God. Finished the course He laid out for your life; finished well. Praying God comforts your family as only He can. Praising God for a promised reunion day!

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**Donna Arrowood Wickman** - July 29, 2016 at 12:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David "Chaps" Anderson.



July 28, 2016 at 06:55 PM



“ I grew up on 'A' street with Dave and my husband Tom and I graduated with him in 1965. Although we no longer live in Iron Mountain when we came back to visit we often ran into him and had nice conversations. My mom was hospitalized many times and Dave would always visit and pray with her. He brought much comfort to her. When she passed Dave was there and comforted all of us. We are forever grateful for his kindness. Our deepest sympathy to his family. Tom and Yvonne Sericati

yvonne sericati - July 28, 2016 at 06:20 PM



“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Gus Kappler - July 28, 2016 at 05:35 PM



Dave "Tree" Anderson gave us stability in the OR. Vietnam was a horrible place for these young men. Dave and the rest of the corpsmen were so strong!

Gus Kappler - July 28, 2016 at 07:32 PM

SM

“ *Star Martin lit a candle in memory of David "Chaps" Anderson*



Star Martin - July 28, 2016 at 03:28 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David "Chaps" Anderson.*



July 28, 2016 at 01:36 PM

BD

“ *Chaps was never without a smile, a funny story or a twinkle in his eyes. He will be forever missed by those of us whose lives he touched. It was an honor to have known him. His laughter and kindness will live on. Much sympathy to Marie and your sons on his passing. Brenda and John DeAmicis*

Brenda and John DeAmicis - July 28, 2016 at 01:25 PM

BD

“ *Brenda And John DeAmicis lit a candle in memory of David "Chaps" Anderson*



Brenda and John DeAmicis - July 28, 2016 at 01:18 PM

GS

“ We send our deepest sympathy to the family. I've known David since we were small children. We attended Sunday School, Church and Bible Camp together for many years. My family knew his parents and grandparents well. Over the years, he officiated at many funerals we attended. He was the best of the best. He loved everyone. He listened to every story and never judged or condemned. He prayed for everyone. He has his wings now and will watch over all of us.

*Grace Peterson Sparapani  
Gardnerville, NV*

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**Grace Sparapani** - July 28, 2016 at 01:11 PM

BJ

“ *Bill Johnson lit a candle in memory of David "Chaps" Anderson*



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**Bill Johnson** - July 28, 2016 at 12:46 PM

JC

“ *Pastor Anderson was so thoughtful when my father was in the hospital! I remember him praying with me and listening ! He remembered that our fathers knew each other from the east side and business! It was an honor to know him! May he rest in Peace.  
Jaye L Conn*

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**jaye L Conn** - July 28, 2016 at 12:16 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of David "Chaps" Anderson.*



July 28, 2016 at 11:17 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes*



**Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home** - July 28, 2016 at 11:02 AM

BK

*Dave's funeral service was beautiful and a testament to a life well-lived. Rest in God's peace, my friend.*

**Barb Kramer** - July 29, 2016 at 12:28 PM



“ *46 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home** - July 28, 2016 at 09:43 AM

PS

“ I graduated with Dave and spoke to him on several occasions when my father was in the hospital prior to his death. I have read all of the "memory" entries posted thus far and can only wish that we all could leave a legacy of this type. I am sure that in hearing them, Dave's reaction would be to "give God all the glory" since his efforts were always Jesus inspired.

*Patrick Sherman*

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**Patrick Sherman** - July 28, 2016 at 08:10 AM

MC

“ My family would like to send our sympathies to your family and friends. We will never forget Dave for how kind he was to us and our daughter when she was dying of cancer in DMH ----- his prayers and encouragement meant a lot to all of us. There were times that if not for him helping to give us all strength through Faith it would have been very hard. He served at her funeral and everyone said they thought it was wonderful. I'm glad we've had chances to let him know how much we appreciated him. I'm sure he knew how every life he touched felt about him.

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**Marianne Christensen** - July 27, 2016 at 08:34 PM

 Tina  
Tappy

“ *Dear Marie And Family.  
My soul is profoundly saddened to learn that Chaplain David Anderson moved home with our Lord. I consider it a truly deep honor to have known Dave personally and considered him a wonderful and compassionate friend. He always devoted his life to lifting the broken by offering them support. Whenever and wherever he could to make a positive impact in the lives of others. Anyone who knew him was a better human because of his gift of caring for others. My heart is most heavy for his passing. Chaplain Dave was such a blessing and comfort to myself and our family after we lost our brother and son to suicide. Chaplain Dave was also instrumental in helping my Mother and I organize and facilitate a survivors of suicide loss support group at the Dickinson County Health Care Hospital in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Chaplain also baptized my Grandson. Heaven received a true Angel when God sent Chaplain Dave home to be in peace. My loving prayers during this most difficult and painful time.*

*Love In Christ ~  
Tina & Paul Tappy*

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**Tina Tappy** - July 27, 2016 at 08:13 PM

BM

“ *A kind, lovely man, with a sense of humor, and deep compassion for all he knew. God keep you in the warm embrace of his arms.*



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**BERNADINE Moland** - July 27, 2016 at 06:58 PM

KH

“ Marie and boys, we feel so honored to have been given blessings by Pastor Dave-he married 4 of our 5 children and baptized 3 grandchildren. By doing so he was so instrumental in the strong faith we have. We all will miss him dearly and plan to keep connected to you. Our sympathy and love, Larry and Kathy

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**Kathy Holsworth** - July 27, 2016 at 06:27 PM

DW

“ Dawn Whlstrom lit a candle in memory of David "Chaps" Anderson



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**Dawn Whlstrom** - July 27, 2016 at 06:14 PM

BM

“ Marie, Nate, and Seth,  
I had the honor of having Chaps as a co-worker, my pastor, my client , my friend. I believe that there are angels that walk among us and we are blessed to have them in our lives. As much as he will missed by many I am happy that God finally gave him wings. Until we meet again Dave,  
Barb Merrill

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**Barbara Merrill** - July 27, 2016 at 05:30 PM

JC

“ There are no words to express the gratitude I have for Dave. I am the daughter of one of his former teachers "The Colonel" George Trebilcock. Dave was at my side for my mothers long grueling battle with cancer and also with my fathers illnesses as well. He was at the hospital for almost every stay. He then helped with the funeral arrangements for both parents. He took my hand and guided me as only Dave knew how to do. I was very young to have lost both parents and he taught me that it was okay to feel the way I felt, but to eventually move forward. He again was at my side for the death of my first grandson. He has been my strength.



When Dave officiated my fathers funeral, I had more people tell me that it was the best funeral they had ever attended. Dave's sermon was completely from the heart, as he shared stories of my father from his own experiences. He took my two young sons and asked them what their grandfather had taught them. They looked at Dave with innocence and sang an old army song that my father had taught them. The song had a swear word in it and told the boys that it was okay to sing the song. So on David's command he asked my sons to stand up and sing the song. My husband and I had no idea that he had planned this and when it came to the part where the swearing came in my husband and I grabbed them both and put our hands over their mouths. The entire room of over 100 people burst out laughing and we continued to celebrate my fathers life. Dave took one of the most painful days of my life and made me realize that I would laugh again and it would be okay.

This is just one story that I share. I have more fond memories than I could ever count. Dave Anderson was a hero to me. And a hero he shall forever remain.

My prayers are with you his family during this most difficult time.

May God grant you peace during this most difficult time.

*Sincerely,*

*Jane Trebilcock- Carlson*

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**Jane Carlson** - July 27, 2016 at 05:27 PM



“ *We feel so blessed to have known and loved Chaps and Marie. I enjoyed Marie's stories of her Dave, Nate and Seth when I worked with her years ago. God Bless you all and I hope there's good fishing in Heaven. 🙏🙏. Liz and Jerry Holmquist*

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**Liz Holmquist** - July 27, 2016 at 05:19 PM

JD

“ *I have so much love for this man - he was always there when I worked in the ER, can't even remember how many times I told the HUC to page Chaps. He was also the wonderful minister at my daughter's wedding and such a good friend to both my daughter and son-in-law. I truly believe God has a new angel and his spirit will always be with us.*

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**JAN DAVIDSON** - July 27, 2016 at 04:53 PM

KD

“ Dear Marie and family, Albin and I send our deepest sympathy to all of you. Having Dave in our lives was a true blessing. He was so supportive to us when our dear son died by suicide many years ago. We were so proud to have you both attend our 50th wedding anniversary and to have Dave speak about Albin and me. He was such a kind, compassionate, gentle soul with a terrific sense of humor. Heaven has surely received a precious angel. May God Bless all of you and be by your side through your grief.



*Albin and Kay Dill and family*

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**Kay Dill** - July 27, 2016 at 02:24 PM

MP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Mike Patterson** - July 27, 2016 at 12:53 PM

AD

“ Marie and Family,

*My deepest sympathy to you all. We all know Chaps was welcomed into Heaven not only by God but by all the people whose lives he touched who passed on before him. We all shall cherish the wonderful memories we have of Chaps, I shall especially cherish his dancing with Rob Martignon at the Christmas Party! Hugs to all of you.*

*AmyDixon*

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**Amy Dixon** - July 27, 2016 at 12:32 PM

KO

“ Dearest Marie and family, my deepest sympathy to you all. Dave was such a great man and everyone who came in contact with him has a part of his goodness in them. May God Bless each and every one of you and may he welcome his son Dave with open arms.

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**Kathy O'Connell** - July 27, 2016 at 07:32 AM

EY

*The world was definitely "a better place" with Chaplain Anderson in it. He helped my husband transition 15 years ago, filling his hospital room at DCMH with much needed laughter during his multiple hospitalizations. (A stage 4 colon cancer diagnosis craved occasional levity, so good-natured joke telling was appreciated.) When our son courageously came out as gay, Dave connected us with a couple experiencing similar issues with their, too, beloved son. What a relief to realize you don't have to journey alone! Our brokenness began healing; our smiles returned.*

*Attending the Grief Support Group Chaplain Anderson facilitated, as well as other grief groups in Arizona, also helped mend my heart when both my husband and son passed. Thank you, Chaplain Anderson, for your unconditional non-judgmental loving ministry. Thank you also, for sharing the deep gratitude and pride you felt for your beloved wife and sons. God bless,  
Elyce Yunowich*

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**Elyce Yunowich** - August 29, 2016 at 06:13 PM