



Dennis Walter Ziemba

May 14, 1948 - May 14, 2013

Dr. Dennis Walter Ziemba, 65, of Kingsford, died Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at his home.

Dennis was born February 8, 1948 in Harvey, IL, son of the late Walter and Katherine "Kay" (Baciak) Ziemba. He graduated from Mendel High School in 1966 and went on to attend North Dakota State University where he completed a pharmacy degree in 1971. Dennis married Carol Polasky on May 27, 1972 in Tappen, ND. They moved to Illinois where Dennis worked as a pharmacist at Walgreens and later at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. While working at the college, he also continued his education and graduated in 1979 with a Doctorate Degree in Osteopathic Medicine. In 1980, he and Carol moved to Kingsford where he started his medical practice.

Dennis was also the resident physician for Blackwell Job Corps in Laona, WI for 20 years and the medical director at the Golden Living Center in Florence, Maryhill Manor in Niagara and the NorthPointe Group Homes. Dennis was a member of American Martyrs Catholic Church, the American Osteopathic Association, the Knights of Columbus, the National Rifle Association and the United Sportsmen's Club in Merriman. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, shooting, canoeing and spending time at camp. Dennis collected model trains and was a HAM radio operator. He also was a Chicago Bears Fan. Dennis was a truly caring man and loved to spend time with his family and friends.

Dennis is survived by his two children, Amanda (Mason) Randall of Austin, TX and Steven Ziemba (Leah Gussert) of Kingsford; a grandson, August Mason Randall; two sisters, Barbara Poi and Dorothy Pajor; special friend, Pam Behnke; several nieces and nephews; and his dog, Wolfie.

He was preceded in death by his wife Carol in 2009, brothers-in-law Joseph Poi, Joseph Polasky, Edward "Jimmy" Polasky and Dennis Polasky, and sisters-in-law Jeanne Polasky and Xiomara Polasky.

Visitation will be from 3:00 to 7:00 pm on Sunday at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Parish prayers will be recited at 7:00pm on Sunday at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Monday at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Kingsford. Fr. Joseph Gouin will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in the Norway Township Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be William Winton, Jonathan Schelke, Robert Koski, Nels Olson, Thomas Tomaszewski, Joseph Rahoi, Thomas Dubose, Douglas Villa, Daniel Benishek, David Atkinson & Joseph Poi, Jr.

Honorary pallbearers will be John Loewen, Dennis Whitehead, Daniel McMahan, Ellen VanLaanen, V. Mahadev, W.B. Carlson, Donald Jacobs, John Cook, Vijay Singh and Carl Reininghaus.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Dr. Dennis and Carol Ziemba Fine Arts Memorial Scholarship Fund at Kingsford High School.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Dr. Dennis Ziemba online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 19. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Prayer Service

MAY 19. 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

American Martyrs Catholic Church
908 W. Sagola Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

DG

“ I am saddened to learn of Dennis's death. I just now learned about it from the NDSU College of Pharmacy News. Dennis was my room mate at NDSU and we had great times together, We studied and partied and eventually graduated. Dennis was in my wedding party in 1970 when I married my wife Maureen of 43 years.

Dennis was a true friend and companion and we will miss him dearly. He always had a positive and great attitude. Maureen and I extend our very belated sympathies to your family and will pray for him in the heaven he deserves. I will never forget his great sense of humor and laughter we often shared.

Dick Gaffron

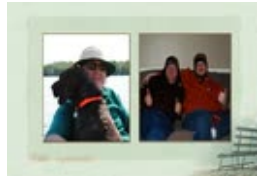
Rollingstone, Mn 55969

rgaffron@charter.net

Dick Gaffron - February 18, 2014 at 12:41 PM

MN

“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Video



Matt Nash - October 17, 2013 at 01:21 PM

LW

“ Amanda, Steven, & families -

I was so saddened to learn of your father's death. He was a wonderful physician, practicing his art with compassion, respect, and knowledge. He made a difference in the lives of many, many people, and he will not be forgotten.

Lori Friberg - Florence, WI - May 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear Amanda and Steve,

Your Dad was on in a million. He had the most amazing sense of humor, and with his wit and sarcasm, could make absolutely anyone laugh and smile! I adored his perspective on serious situations and life in general. He was incredibly kind and compassionate, and never needed attention in return for his generosity, which was extensive. That is a very special person, and I have many fond memories of my friendship with your mom and dad...My heartfelt condolences to you and your families. He will be missed by so many people, and that is a wonderful way to leave this world.

SUE REITEN - Seattle, WA - friend - May 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ My condolences to Dennis' family. Wish I'd had opportunity to spend more time w/ him. We talked about canoeing together at least a couple times, but it never happened. I appreciated his minimal intervention & not subjecting me to excessive, unnecessary tests when I went to him 20+ yrs. ago or so w/ modest chest pain & another concern, "Ahhh, you're young & healthy, it's nothing to worry about.", which apparently was the case, having no further problems for twenty some yrs. now.

*Fondly,
Mark Young*

Mark Young - Iron Mountain, MI - friend - May 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ My sympathies to the family of Dennis. As president of the Bellin Medical Group I worked with Dennis on the executive committee. He was a great asset to the committee as he represented the physicians from the Upper Peninsula on the committee. He had great input and presented it in a gentle but meaningful way. His presence will truly be missed.

Robert Mead - Green Bay, WI - co-worker - May 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ My deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Zeimba, thoughts and prayers to all of you.

Dr. Ziembra was my doctor for over 20yrs. He was so kind, caring, and compassionate. He always greeted us with a big smile. What amazed me the most was whenever I brought my kids in when they were sick he always told me before we left, "If you need anything or have any concerns after hrs., just call me at home my number is in the book". Even on his time off he would take the time to help someone out.

I was into see him last fall. He came in the room smiling from ear to ear, he couldn't wait to tell me that he was going to be a Grandpa, he was so exited. I brought my daughter in to see him in March and he had that same excited look on his face. This time he was leaving at the end of the week to go see his Grandson. He loved his children very much.

We are going to miss him so much. Heaven is blessed with such an angel.

Tricia Dani - Hermansville, MI - patient - May 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Dennis and I both went to Mendel High School - he graduated 11 yrs. after me and when I found him in practice in Iron Mtn. I became a patient telling jokes and making each other laugh. He was great person as well as Doctor. I introduce my son Michael to him and we will both miss him greatly. I moved south several years ago, but when I visited Iron Mtn. I always stopped to say hello and laugh again. My sincere sympathy to his family and friends.
Matt Gregg, Mendel Class of 1955

Matthew Gregg - Largo, FL - Friend and Patient - May 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dear Amanda, Mason, Steve, and Leah:

We are so sorry to hear about Uncle Dennis's passing! We pray for you that God's promises will carry you...comfort for your sorrows. Courage for each day. Strength to face this journey. God's peace to fill your heart. We love you very much.
In Christ,
Cyndy (Motl) & Jeff Klein

Cyndy & Jeff Klein - East Dubuque, IL - Niece & spouse - May 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ Uncle Dennis always had a fun and different outlook on life's events. And so laid back. I remember his sage advice when I graduated from high school - "Go out and enjoy, experience life." His advice made an impact as I have traveled a good portion of the world.
Prayers go out to the Ziemba Family. Uncle Dennis will be remembered with cherished memories.

Steve Motl - Waconia, MN - Nephew - May 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Goodbye dear friend. Good luck on your next great adventure.

gloria krejsa - lowell, IN - close friend - May 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ My condolences to the family of Dr. Dennis Ziemba. Not only was he an excellent physician, but he was also a good friend. He took good care of my health problems and during my visits we always enjoyed talking about deer hunting. We exchanged alot of stories. I will really miss him.

Ernest Barnett - Crystal Falls, MI - friend - May 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Dear Amanda, Mason, Steve, and Leah:

We are friends of Tom and Paula Tomaszewski and met your dad while we were all in our teens. We have great memories of both your mom and dad - your mom's vivaciousness and your dad's sense of humor will be with us always. We just saw your dad last weekend at Tom T.'s wedding and are grateful we had an opportunity to share some laughs while we recalled past good times. As all have expressed, your dad's sudden passing has shocked and saddened us. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Love,
Lee and Jan Kooi*

Lee and Jan Kooi - Orland Park, IL - old friends - May 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ My memories of Dennis goes back to the fifties when when he with his family would come up from Chicago for a two week stay on Grandma Baciak's farm, in Norway, Michigan. Each Summer, since I was 10 years old, I stayed on the farm right after school Summer vacation started. Dennis is five years younger than me. Dennis was a kind of 'Dennis the Memace' back then, and very intelligent. To me he was a smart aleck. He was the city slicker, I was the country kid, to him. I worked while I was on the farm. He played. Yet, I always looked forward to Aunty Kate and Uncle Walter, along with Barbara, Dorothy and Dennis, came to stay. There was a lot more activity in the farm yard with them there. Dennis and I recently would recently reminisce on the wonderful memories of the farm as kids.

Never in my wildest dreams, did I ever imagine that Dennis, the city slicker, would move to this area to live. After being out of touch for many years we finally, as grown ups, got to know more about each other. As it turns, we both enjoyed the woods and Nature. I visited his cabin on Carney lake and he came to our camp Northwest of Randville. Last October, along with two of my boys and a grandson, my brother Jim and his son, another cousin and Dennis, bird hunted for three days at our camp. We had a wonderful get together of relatives. Our plan is to do it again this year, but sadly Dennis and his dog Wolfie, won't be there.

We were becoming like a flower just blossoming, taking more time to get together more often and sending emails back and forth. He was no longer the city slicker I once thought he was. He didn't dress like one, and he didn't act like one. He was a simple caring man. I am not a medical person, but I think Dennis was meant to be a doctor. Not too long ago, Dennis took care of his wife Carol in her last remaining days and then took care of our Aunt Minnie in her last remaining days. I can only imagine he provided the same loving care for all his patients.

Ken Sikora - Green Bay, WI - First cousin - May 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Dr. Ziemba; was our family doctor for over 29 years.. He was the most caring compassionate man that ever became a doctor. He was not only our doctor but our friend as well. We will miss him, his laugh, jokes and his infectious smile that could light up a room, the world.

Scott Connie and Jordan Lindstrom - Carney, MI - Family Doctor - May 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Amanda, Mason, Steve and Leah,

We are so deeply saddened by the sudden loss of your Dad. He was such a kind, caring, and compassionate man. He always seemed to have a smile on his face when we ran into him. He was a cousin and a good friend, and he will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this most difficult time.

Al and Bonnie Baciak - Kingsford, MI - First cousin - May 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Shocked & saddened to hear of Dr. Ziemba's passing. A smile that will never be forgotten. Thoughts and prayers are with his family & friends.

Susan Andary - Marquette, MI - May 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. This man was GREAT and has left quite the legacy. I have so many wonderful stories about his compassion and care. When my son was in the hospital and only 2 years old he was refusing to eat anything - Dr. Ziembra came in and told him he would bring him anything he asked - my son asked for an egg. Dr. Ziembra who I am certain was tired as it was around 7 p.m. left the room and came back with an egg for my son. As the Lead Patient Advocate of the VA I share this story with our new staff hoping that they will go the extra mile like Dr. Ziembra always did. My daughter when she was 5 got into a terrible patch of poison ivy - Dr. Ziembra had to cut all of her skin off her leg - my daughter came home and the only thing she remembered was how funny Dr. Ziembra was - he had asked her if she was married and wanted to know about her husband. We knew he was trying to distract her...it worked. Finally when my husband was in the hospital with a terrible accident - it was Dr. Ziembra who came in and visited us and answered all our questions and gave me a much needed hug. Dr. Ziembra was an amazing human being and he will be missed.

Maryanne Gibler - May 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Amanda and Mason, we were all saddened to hear about your father. Our prayers are with you and your family.

All your friends from Austin - Austin, TX - Friend - May 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Amanda, Mason, Steve and Leah-

My husband and I know all too fresh the deep pain of losing someone you love and we are so saddened that it has happened to you all as well. Your dad was a lovely man, caring and always with a smile. When we moved back home he cared for our son briefly and was so gentle and kind! Please know we will hold you all in our daily prayers. Take comfort in knowing your father is with your mom, happy and smiling down on you all from heaven!

Stephanie and Mike Covitz - Iron Mountain, MI - Friend and patient - May 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *Dr. Ziemba was a wonderful doctor and friend to me. When I worked in Medical Records he would come to do his charts. He always had a beautiful smile and always sweet and kind to me and everyone he come in contact with. When Ellen wasn't in the office I would get to see Dr. Ziemba and like Ellen he took his time with you and I always felt better when I left the office. He was one of those people you meet in your lifetime that you never forget. Thank you Dr Ziemba for all you did for me and I will hold your memories in my heart for my lifetime.*

Gail Dabb - Coconut Creek, FL - Good friend - May 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Julie and I were very saddend at the abrupt loss of such a kind and caring man. He has been our "family" health provider for over 30 years. He had become much more than that as the years went on. The health care industry and the world has lost a "gem" amongst us. He always took the extra moments in our care to make us feel as though we were his only patients. I can only imagine the many many more who felt this way. Our prayers go out to al his family members as they try and move on. We will find a new health care provider, I can only hope this person is half of what Dr. Z was to all who knew him.

Bob & Julie Butler

Robert and Julie Butler - Niagara , WI - Patient/Friend/Admirer - May 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dennis and I were friends from the time we met over 20 years ago. We needed each other constantly about politics, but always wound up laughing over it. (We called each other "Comrade Doctor.") Our differences only served to deepen our friendship.

Dennis asked me several years ago if I would take him flying around the area to take some pictures, which I was delighted to do. After that I always gave him a call whenever I felt like taking a jaunt. He lived right near the airport, and he'd usually appear at the hangar right after I put down the phone. He especially liked flying along the Menominee River. One calm evening we took a spin around the Copper Country, and on the way back we flew low between the hills of the Huron Mountain Club. The orange sunset lit up the landscape like a impressionist painting. We often discussed how beautiful that evening was.

He was a good doctor, a good friend, a good man. How could you not love someone with that smile and infectious laugh? I miss him already.

Dennis Whitehead - Iron Mountain, MI - Friend and colleague - May 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Amanda, Mason, Steve and Leah-
There are no words to express my sadness at hearing about your beloved father's death. Sometimes things in life just don't make sense....and how such an amazing man could be taken far too soon is definitely one of them. My heart goes out to all of you and you will be in our prayers for healing and comfort. His smile, his heart and his love for you all will never be forgotten. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask. Sending hugs for you all!
Gen

Genevieve Angeloff - Kingsford, MI - May 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Dr. Ziembra was an honest, humble, and caring person. In conversations with him, he was always interested in what was happening in your life and he did not draw attention to himself. The world has lost a great man. I pray for the Lord's mercies for his family.*

Love,

Dave Will

Dave Will - Laona, WI - co worker - May 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *Dennis was a gentle and kind man; a wonderful husband and father; a dedicated doctor; and a friend to many people. His loss leaves a vast emptiness in the hearts of those who knew him. We are glad that we got to see him happy, healthy, joking, and smiling Friday night at Kari and Joel's pre-wedding mixer. Our thoughts and prayers to all of Dennis's family, friends, co-workers, and especially to Steve and Leah and Amanda and family. In sympathy, Gordy and Alice Reed*

Alice Reed - Iron Mountain, MI - friend - May 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *He will be missed by his patients as well as many of us in the medical community. The ethics of medicine require that physicians show consideration, compassion and benevolence for their patients. This was Dr. Ziembra all the way. Condolences to his family and staff.*

Donna Deskis - Iron Mountain, MI - May 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM