



Derek William Montey

November 20, 1968 - March 12, 2026

Derek William Montey, 78, of Channing, Michigan, passed away on March 12, 2026. He was born April 18, 1947, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Derek proudly served in the United States Army from November 20, 1968, to February 8, 1972. He was deployed to Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), where he served as an infantryman in active combat operations from May 1969 to November 1970, during some of the most demanding periods of the war.

His military service was distinguished by extraordinary bravery and dedication to his country and fellow soldiers. He was wounded in action and continued to fight under intense enemy fire, at one point, while wounded, taking over a machine gun position to defend his unit. In another act of heroism, he entered a burning helicopter after a crash and rescued the soldiers inside, risking his life to save others. For his actions, Derek received numerous military honors, including the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Soldier's Medal for heroism, two Purple Hearts, the Air Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. His service reflected courage, sacrifice, and a deep commitment to duty.

Beyond his military service, Derek was a friend to many, especially his fellow veterans. He was a proud member of the American Legion and the VFW. His

life was shaped by both hardship and strength, and his service and sacrifices left a lasting impact on those who knew him.

Derek was known for his kindness and generosity and was always willing to lend a helping hand. He enjoyed using his trucks to tow floats in Fourth of July parades and spending leisure time with fellow veterans.

He was preceded in death by his father, William J. Montey; his mother, Barbara J. Montey; his brother, Dale Montey; his brother-in-law, Butch Ehmcke; and his son-in-law, Zachary Jors.

He is survived by his children, Tyler Montey, Robert Montey, Barbara (Jon) Moser, and William Montey; his grandchildren; his sisters, Sandra Ehmcke of Amberg, Wisconsin, and Vicki (Mike) Eisch of Las Vegas, Nevada; many nieces and nephews; his longtime partner, Mary Martin, and her children, Garred (Ali) Martin, Jack Martin, Magan (Josh) Pfiester, and Katie (Aaron) Cloud; as well as his former wife, Katherine Montey.

The family extends a very special thank you to Derek's caring community and his close neighbors who were always willing to lend a helping hand or a listening ear.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm on Saturday, April 18th at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. The Funeral Service will take place at 2:30 pm at the funeral home. Pastor Walter Reichle will officiate, followed by food and fellowship at the American Legion on River Avenue.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Derek W. Montey online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (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

APR 18. 2:30 PM (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



“ I've only met you a few times but I'm very honored to have met the man who helped create some of the kindest, nicest people I've ever known.
I am terribly sorry that we didn't get to talk more. I do recall you helping haul some of my stuff with that very nice truck ❤️
Thank you for being so kind to me.....I'll never forget how nice you were to help someone you hardly knew.
Until we meet on the flip side.....may you rest in peace. 🙏😭❤️

Justice Lisa - April 17 at 12:18 AM

BM

Thank you for sharing that Lisa, I really love hearing how kind and helpful he was. 💕

Barbara Moser - April 17 at 01:34 PM

MA

“ Mary,Magen,Josh,Katie,Aaron&families purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Derek William Montey.



Mary,Magen,Josh,Katie,Aaron&families - April 15 at 11:21 PM

MT

“ Mary Jo Trepanier lit a candle in memory of Derek William Montey



Mary Jo Trepanier - April 14 at 09:57 AM

SC

“ *Shawna Cudnohufsky lit a candle in memory of Derek William Montey*



Shawna Cudnohufsky - April 13 at 11:05 PM

SC

“ *Barb and family, I wish there were words to express my sympathy for you at this time. My thoughts and prayers for peace to be with you as God will guide you at this time. All my love, and wishing I could be with you*
Auntie Shawna

Shawna Cudnohufsky - April 13 at 11:04 PM

BA

♥♥ *Thank you. Miss you!*

Barbara - April 16 at 03:46 PM