



## Dixie D. Brown

June 25, 1940 - July 23, 2020

Dixie D. Brown, 80, of Iron Mountain, passed away on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at Victorian Pines Estates.

Dixie was born June 25, 1940 in Chicago, IL, daughter of the late Donald E. Larson and Beulah (Coombes) Spigarelli. She graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1958 and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Northern Michigan University. Dixie married Richard "Dick" Brown on September 16, 1961 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Niagara, WI. Dick preceded her in death on Nov. 2, 1999. Dixie was an English, Speech and Special Education Teacher at Iron Mountain High School for 30 years, retiring in 1993. She continued her education throughout her career and earned her Master's Degree. Dixie was a member of the Michigan Education Association and served as the MEA president for the Iron Mountain Schools. She was an active member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Dixie was an avid collector and had many antiques, dolls & quilts. She enjoyed reading, writing, gardening and spending time with family and friends.

Dixie is survived by three children, Jason (Mary) Brown of Iron Mountain, Heather (Billy) Hughes of Houston, TX and Grant (Simone) Brown of Wilmette, IL; six grandchildren, Ricky, Natalia and Avea Brown, Sadie Hughes, and Chloe and Emily Brown; three sisters, Sherry Christ, Sally Beauchamp and Tammy Spigarelli; a sister-in-law, Judy Larson; and many

nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Dick, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Donald "Butch" Larson and Randy Spigarelli; her step-father, Orlando Spigarelli; and a brother-in-law, Jerry Christ.

Private family services will be held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Iron Mountain with Candy Buchcuski officiating. Friends are welcomed at the graveside service held at 2:30 pm on Tuesday at Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain, followed by an outside reception at the family home, 400 West H Street in Iron Mountain.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dixie's memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to OSF Hospice and the staff at Victorian Pines Estates for the care given to Dixie.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Dixie Brown online at [www.erickson-rochon-nash.com](http://www.erickson-rochon-nash.com).

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

# Cemetery Details

## Cemetery Park

101 Cedar Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 28. 2:30 PM (CT)

Cemetery Park  
101 Cedar Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ I have just learned of the passing of my English teacher, Dixie Brown. I was a junior at IMHS when Dixie entered our classroom with a flourish, and I believe as a new teacher at our school. I will always remember her enthusiasm, passion for teaching, and interest in her students. She encouraged all of us to share our thoughts in writing, and I learned not to be hesitant in putting down my thoughts on a piece of paper. I have lived away from Iron Mountain since H.S. graduation, but I will always remember Dixie! Thank you for your enduring encouragement.

Jeanne (Burkart) Williams, IMHS Class of 1965

Jeanne Williams - August 03, 2020 at 06:52 PM

TL

“ Dixie Brown was my very best high school teacher, but more than that, she allowed me to be a tutor in her special education class when she taught at East Elementary when I was a junior and senior. Her early mentorship helped guide me into a 40 year career in education working with people with disabilities. I believe there are probably more stories like mine in Iron Mountain. That is part of the legacy she left.

Tim LaCourt - July 28, 2020 at 12:15 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Dixie D. Brown.



July 27, 2020 at 03:59 PM

SA

“ *The Queen of B-9 's influence went well beyond the walls of that classroom in Iron Mountain High School. Dixie Brown taught more than composition, grammar, and literature. Her influence on the lives of her students stays with them wherever they go. Her enthusiasm for life and the way it was to be lived was evident to anyone who knew her.*

*Dixie was generous of heart and spirit, determined, and willing to put her energies to work for any good cause. Her passion and zest were contagious, and she imbued others to act and share her interests.*

*We were fortunate to have known Dixie. We are thinking of Jason, Heather, Grant and their families as we remember Dixie.*

*Roy and Sharon Arnold*

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**Sharon Arnold** - July 27, 2020 at 02:43 PM

ND

“ *Dear Jason, Heather, Grant and family, Your mom was one of a kind...reader, cook, collector, decorator, gardener, teacher, conversationalist, adventurer, gatherer of friends. But mostly she took pride in the marriage and family she and Dick created. She left her mark. May she Rest In Peace!*

*Nancy and John Daley*

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**Nancy Daley** - July 27, 2020 at 01:55 PM

LA

“ Jason, Heather, Grant and families. We extend our sympathy in the loss of Dixie in your present life. We know she will live on in your hearts as will she in ours.  
She was committed to your Dad and all of you and her family all her life and she was a teacher to numerous young minds.  
She is now with your Dad and the knowledge and love they shared with you will be with you all always .  
Walter and Nancy Lakari and family

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Lakari - July 26, 2020 at 01:35 PM

KW

“ My condolences to Jsason, Mary and kids, and Tammy. Dixie was my neighbor for a few years. She had a beautiful house and garden that she adored!

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Kathy Wilson - July 25, 2020 at 07:56 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dixie D. Brown.



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July 25, 2020 at 06:47 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dixie D. Brown.



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July 25, 2020 at 05:40 PM

LI

“ Dixie taught with my mom and I always loved going to her house, seeing all of the antique dolls, and enjoying her great laughter and Christmas letters. My condolences to all who loved her.

*Lauren Ivory Smyk*

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**Lauren Ivory-Smyk** - July 25, 2020 at 03:29 PM

JT

“ Heartbroken.....Dixie was a treasure!  
Kathy & Jon Thekan  
Bridgette & Brian Beinborn



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**Jon & Kathy Thekan** - July 25, 2020 at 12:34 PM

GJ

“ Garry, Pam and Katie Jurries purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dixie D. Brown.



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**Garry, Pam and Katie Jurries** - July 25, 2020 at 10:16 AM

JJ

“ My condolences to the family and all her friends. Dixie was one of my very favorite and best teachers. She made a real difference to all her students.

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**Jason Julian** - July 25, 2020 at 09:27 AM

CW

“ Sending my deepest sympathy to the family for the loss of your dear mom. Because of her example, I became an English teacher, and every day spent in a classroom, I tried to make her proud! She was the epitome of a friend, mentor, grandmother and mom! She lives on in so very many, whose lives she touched! She and her best friend, Kathy Bunnin are doing lots of catching up right now! Much love to you all!  
Cheryl Wender (Menghini)



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**Cheryl Wender-Menghini** - July 25, 2020 at 08:56 AM

PP

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I was a student of your mothers when I went to IMHS from 1982 to 1986. We were friends on Facebook for many years. She will be dearly missed by the students that she taught.



*Pam Parsons*

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**Pam Parsons** - July 24, 2020 at 07:47 PM