



## Edward R. Koerschner

July 8, 1925 - November 20, 2013

### Iron Mountain

Edward R. Koerschner,

88, of Iron Mountain, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 20th at ManorCare Health Services in Kingsford.. He was born in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 8, 1925, the second of eight children of Edward Koerschner, Sr. and Hilda E. (Freudenberg) Koerschner. He attended Catholic and public schools in Cudahy and South Milwaukee.

In early 1943 as World War II raged on; while a senior in high school "Ed" was "sworn in" to the then U.S. Army Air Corps after passing initial testing for flight training. After graduation from South Milwaukee High School and then turning 18, he was ordered to active duty, going first through basic training in Florida and then to Butler University, Indianapolis for 5 months of accelerated class work in math, physics, air navigation, military science, etc. along with 1200 other "aviation cadets". Further classification and preflight training followed in Texas before flight training began. After primary, basic and advanced flight training Ed was awarded his "wings" and commissioned a 2nd Lt. in early 1945.

After the war, Ed was employed in 1946 as a Crop Duster Pilot for Flightways, Inc. of Milwaukee. In 1947 he was one of the founding partners of "Air Agriculturists" eventually engaged in Aerial Application work on crop land and forests in more than 10 states in the midwest and south, including Florida, Georgia and Texas.

In 1949, Ed began attending Marquette University in Milwaukee on a seasonal basis while continuing crop dusting and spraying during the growing season. In 1952, not long after the "Army Air Corps" was reorganized into the U.S. Air Force, Ed joined the 438th Fighter-Bomber Reserve Wing as a pilot at Mitchell Field, Milwaukee. In 1957, the Fighter-Bomber Wing was replaced by the 440th Airlift Wing. Ed continued his Air Force Reserve affiliation until April, 1973, retiring as a senior pilot with the rank of Major.

The three younger brothers of Ed became USAF pilots. In 1960, the "Air Force Times" ran an article featuring the "Four Flying Koerschner Brothers" all Air Force Pilots. Three nephews, a cousin and a grand nephew have been or are Military Pilots.

Meanwhile Ed received his engineering degree from Marquette University in 1954 and completed his last summer of crop dusting and spraying. It was in 1954 that Ed met the "Love of his Life" Mary Ann Vignali just before her graduation from Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing. Mary Ann and Ed were married on August 18, 1956 at St. Mary's Church in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They moved to Hartford, Wisconsin where Ed was employed as City Engineer.

In 1957 the couple moved to Appleton, Wisconsin where Ed had accepted a position as Senior Engineer with Wisconsin Michigan Power Co. (then a subsidiary of Wisconsin Electric Power Co.) Later in Appleton, Ed served as assistant to the Chief Engineer and then as manager of the Company's electric operations in east central Wisconsin. All five of the Koerschner children were born while Mary Ann and Ed lived in Appleton.

Ed was a registered professional engineer in both Wisconsin and Michigan. He was a member of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers and the Society of International Electrical and Electronic Engineers. As an active member of the Appleton Chamber of Commerce he served as chairperson of it's Transportation Committee. He was a member of the Appleton Lion's club and chairman of the 1971 Lion's International Wisconsin State Convention. He

was a member of the Scratchers Investment Club. Also he served his church as finance committee member and chairman.

In 1973, Ed, Mary Ann and their five children moved to Iron Mountain, when Ed became Manager for the company's operations and construction in the Upper Peninsula and far northern Wisconsin counties, all of which was merged into Wisconsin Electric Power Co. in 1978.

Ed retired from Wisconsin Electric Power Co. system on January 1, 1990, but continued to be active in community and civic affairs.

In Iron Mountain, Ed served as a board member of the Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce from 1974-1976. He was president of the Chamber in 1976. Ed volunteered on many county and city commissions, including the County Ambulance Committee, the Iron Mountain planning board, the Downtown Development Authority, and the Tax Increment Finance Authority. Ed was elected to the Iron Mountain City Council in 1990 and served for six years , including one term as Iron Mountain Mayor. Since 1973, Ed has been a member of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Rotary Club. Over the years he chaired many Rotary committees and served as Vice-President and President of the club.

Ed has been a Scripture Reader (Lector) at St. Mary and St. Joseph Church for over 35 years.

He was director of "Trees for Tomorrow Resources Education Center" located at Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Ed was one of the founding directors of the Dickinson Area Community Foundation and served 9 years as a director, including one 3-year term as Foundation Secretary.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Rosemary Higgins and Ann Grede; grandchildren, Luca and Ilisa Mangiardi.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Ann; three sons, Fred (LouAnne) Koerschner of Mahtomedi, MN , Bob (Gloria) Koerschner of Iron Mountain and Carl (Michelle) Koerschner of Ann Arbor, MI ; two daughters, Ellen (Mark)

Mangiardi of Lake Zurich, IL and Linda (Bob) Freeman of Niagara, WI ; eleven grandchildren, Sarah (Forrest) Woolworth, Katie, Nathan, David, Phillip, Marc, Claire and Evan Koerschner, Emilia and Michela Mangiardi and Cassandra Freeman; three brothers, John (Jeannette) Koerschner of Houston, TX , Bill (Phyllis) Kerschner of Brookfield, WI and Fred (Fran) Koerschner of Maine ; two sisters, Loretta Plevak of Rochester, MN and Barbara (Howard) Wichgers of Random Lake, WI He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be on Sunday, November 24th from 5:00-7:00pm and also from 9:00-10:30am Monday, Nov. 25th at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Funeral services will be on Monday, Nov. 25th at 11:00am at St. Mary & St. Joseph Church in Iron Mountain. Fr. Daniel Zaloga will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park. Ed's grandson's will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his memory to the Dickinson Area Community Foundation or the Dickinson County Cancer Unit Loan Closet.

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

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

# Cemetery Details

## Cemetery Park

101 Cedar Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **24.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

NOV **25.** 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **25.** 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church  
414 Prospect Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801



# Tribute Wall

RL

“ *Reino L. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Edward R. Koerschner.*



---

**Reino L.** - November 28, 2013 at 09:33 PM

JG

“ *My condolences to Mary Ann and all of Ed's family. I have many memories of Ed, as Ed and Mary have been friends of Joyce and me for over 50 years.. What many do not know is what a goodwill ambassador Ed was for the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Ed and I were executives of Wisconsin Electric Power Company. Ed was district manager of WEPCO's U-P district, and as such he gave a monthly report at our Management Staff meetings, which usually consisted of operations and customer matters in his district. But he always concluded his report with a description of the current beauty and wonders of the U-P, and a recommendation that we come up there to visit. He was so persuasive that many of us did! Rest in peace, good friend! Jack Goetsch*

---

**Jack Goetsch** - November 27, 2013 at 07:04 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Edward R. Koerschner.*



---

November 26, 2013 at 11:24 AM



“ *I first met Ed many years ago in Rotary. Although I knew he was a Major in the military I was not aware of his aviation career. I would have loved to chat with him about his WWII flying experiences and his crop-dusting adventures. One of my memories of Ed was his commanding presence at the lecturn at St. Mary and St. Joseph church in Iron Mountain. If there had been any little people (or big people!) with wandering minds Ed soon had their attention with his forceful presence and authoritative voice!. Ed, we honor you for your service to your Faith, for service to your Family, for service to your Country and for Service to your Community. Our condolences go out to Mary Ann and family.*

*Merle and Betty Parsons*

---

**J. Merle Parsons** - November 26, 2013 at 07:50 AM

MI

“ ed gave me my very first airplane ride on one of their visits to merrill. this was very exciting and provided my first insight into my stomach's unhappiness with airplanes. after a tour around the area, we returned to the airport and came in for the landing. thank goodness, i thought. we flew over the runway and took off again for the rest of the ride.

*mike weiss*

---

**mike** - November 25, 2013 at 01:21 PM

MS

“ I do believe I knew his father-who might have been our familys insurance agent for many years. My sympathies to all the family. m.j. steglich ==gilbert, az.

---

**m.j. steglich** - November 25, 2013 at 09:03 AM

MK

“ Goodbye admired friend. You left us too soon. Have mentioned your name frequently in recent months -- with intent to seek your counsel re the prospect of future reunions of the SMHS Class of 1943. Now you have left us. You will be remembered for your leadership and your enthusiasm --- a "Class" person. Proud to be one of your fellow classmates from 70 years ago. Martin Kachigan

---

**Martin Kachigan** - November 24, 2013 at 07:26 PM

JH

“ Ed was a great boss and mentor.  
*Jerry Herb*

---

**jerry herb** - November 24, 2013 at 11:33 AM

JM

“ *Jeff and Brenda Moran purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Edward R. Koerschner.*



---

**Jeff and Brenda Moran** - November 22, 2013 at 08:37 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edward R. Koerschner.*



---

November 22, 2013 at 08:34 AM