



Fred B. Mortel

September 24, 1944 - June 13, 2022

Fred Blasius Mortel was born on September 24, 1944, to Fred and Sue (Benko) Mortl of Iron Mountain. Earning the endearing childhood nickname "Wowee," given to him by his twin sister Judy, Fred grew up on the north side in a small house on East Smith Street, with his parents, four sisters (Phylis, Mary Ann, Jean, and Judy) and two brothers (Bob and Richard) and attended Immaculate Catholic Church. Fred enjoyed the bitterly cold Upper Peninsula winters and always kept a fire going, making sure the temperature inside never dropped below 78 degrees.

At 17, Fred was almost arrested for unintentionally falsifying records when he enlisted in the United States Air Force as Fred B. Mortl. It was at that point, he discovered that his father had added an "e" to his last name on his birth certificate which established his legal name as Mortel. While Fred was always a comedian, the Air Force did not find this funny, and his last name officially became Mortel from then on. Fred served from 1963-1967, primarily stationed at Amarillo Air Force Base in New Mexico as an aircraft maintenance flight mechanic, attaining the rank of Airman First Class. He was awarded membership status to the Mach-Busters Club after breaking the sound barrier on the North American Super Sabre, the world's first fighter jet capable of supersonic speed in level flight. After receiving an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force in 1967, Fred met his young bride-to-be, Lana (Maraccini), and the two were married at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on

March 2, 1968. The young couple started a family while Fred worked at Lockheed Aircraft Company in Marietta, GA. Shortly thereafter, Fred attended college at Northeastern Technical Institute in Green Bay, Wis., and Northern Michigan University and then worked as a foreman in the rough mill at Khoury Manufacturing. He also spent several years driving truck before enjoying a long career at W.B. Thompson Co., as personal assistant to Bart Berg.

Fred was a lifelong blood donor, giving over a dozen gallons to the American Red Cross. In his retirement, Fred enjoyed cutting and stockpiling wood; hunting white-tailed deer with his brothers, son-in-law, grandkids, and nephews in the woods of the family hunting camp; playing the marble game Wahoo at the dining room table with family; fishing with his grandsons at a not-to-be-disclosed location on the Brule River; tending to his garden in order to protect his status of having the first ripe tomato in town; spending hours on end in his woodworking shop; hunting morel and giant puffball mushrooms on a year-round basis; and spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren and many, many friends who affectionately knew him as "Mort." Kids and dogs were always drawn to Fred because of his friendly personality, terrific sense of humor, and mischievous twinkle that was always in his eyes.

Fred passed away on June 13, succumbing to COVID-19 at the age of 77. His devoted wife, who never left his side during his courageous, decade long battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and his beloved daughters, son, and grandchildren were nearby when he passed.

Fred is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Lana; daughters, Annette (Kraig Walter) Wagner of Iron Mountain and Jennifer (Russ) Livingston of DeTour Village; son, Fred (Johanna) Mortel of Green Bay, Wis.; four grandchildren, Chase (Deanna) Livingston, Devin (Caitlin) Livingston, Cameron Livingston, and Kelsey Wagner; and great-granddaughter Ahri Livingston. He is also survived by his loving siblings, Phylis (Chuck) Williams

of Norway, Mary Ann Anderson (Peter Behnke) of Green Bay, Wis., Judy (Don) Bouffiou of Franksville, Wis., Bob (Monica) Mortel of Escanaba, and Richard (Jan) Mortl of Escanaba, and many nieces and nephews.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Sue Mortl, and his sister, Jean LaBelle.

There will be a visitation at Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home on Friday, June 17, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A memorial service will follow at 12:00 PM at the funeral home, officiated by Fr. Joseph Gouin. The Uren-Cooper-Johnson American Legion Post 50 will conduct military honors following the service. In honor of Fred, blue jeans are welcome in lieu of formal attire.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Fred Mortel online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 17. 10:00 AM - 12:00 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/>

Memorial Service

JUN 17. 12:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Avenue
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Tribute Wall

EG

“ I am so sorry to hear that Fred has passed. My husband, Bob and Fred went thru basic training at the same time in Amarillo and were friends on the North Side. Sending prayers your way.

Elizabeth Glass - June 20, 2022 at 09:51 AM

SS

“ What a beautiful obituary! I learned a lot about my fellow north sider friend. We grew up together on Smith St and shared many memories. What a different life. My heart goes out to the family. RIP Wowee. Sharon(Paternoster) Strom.

sharon strom - June 17, 2022 at 07:16 AM

BW

“ Fred was an instant friend. I was so blessed to have the opportunity.

Bob Walter - June 16, 2022 at 07:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.



June 16, 2022 at 03:50 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.*



June 16, 2022 at 02:27 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.*



June 16, 2022 at 12:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.*



June 16, 2022 at 09:17 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.*



June 15, 2022 at 10:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.



June 15, 2022 at 04:06 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.



June 15, 2022 at 12:35 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray* was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.



June 15, 2022 at 11:10 AM



“ *The Oerlikon Team purchased the Fairest of All* for the family of Fred B. Mortel.



The Oerlikon Team - June 15, 2022 at 09:47 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.*



June 15, 2022 at 08:31 AM



“ *Regina L. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Fred B. Mortel.*



Regina L. - June 15, 2022 at 07:20 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.*



June 14, 2022 at 09:36 PM



“ *Lana and family, I'm so sad to hear of Fred's passing. I'll always remember his bright smile and great energy. I'm so grateful we got to see you all last September - the Mortel family is so full of love, kindness, laughter and genuine joy. I hope you find comfort in the great memories and support from those who love you. Thinking of you.*

-Marie Anderson

Marie - June 14, 2022 at 08:32 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.*



June 14, 2022 at 07:03 PM



“ *Lana, I will never forget the great time we had in Italy when Mary Ann and Peter got married. I always enjoyed his humor and his zest for life! Love you Fred and RIP!*
Carol St Arnauld

Carol St Arnauld - June 14, 2022 at 06:58 PM



“ *Lana and Family. I cannot express deep enough how much i loved Fred and all the hours we spent talking about kids, grandkids, Bart and life in general. I told him i always enjoyed dropping off the car because of the piece of paradise where you lived in Iron mountain. Loved the spot. God called him home where there is no more pain and suffering. Someday I cannot wait to tell stories with him again. He was so much more than a customer to me but a dear friend i will miss greatly. Peace to all. Gods comfort.*

Steve Juul - June 14, 2022 at 06:34 PM

DW

“ Uncle Fred...you always treated me and my family like we were your own. Maddy recalls how you always made a point to tell her you were proud of her. Jack says you were more like a grandpa than a great uncle.

Me? You've been loving me and sweetly teasing me....embracing me and caring for me....since I was a little girl. I will never forget your joyful spirit and your genuine concern ... for as long as I'm on the Earth.

Love you much, Uncle Fred. Rest in sweet peace!!

XOXO

Deb Webster - June 14, 2022 at 06:25 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Fred B. Mortel.



June 14, 2022 at 06:04 PM



“ Dad Fred, I will always remember your smiling face when you saw me and called me Crash! I loved to see you comment on my facebook posts. I thought it was so cool that you cared enough to write on my posts. You were a big part of my life growing up and you will be greatly missed. When you get up to heaven, make sure you look up my Dad and tell him I miss him! Now you two stay out of trouble and don't worry, I will try to watch over Annette for you! I will miss you Dad, Love Crash (Sandy)

Sandy Fontecchio - June 14, 2022 at 04:43 PM