



George LaPointe

October 29, 2006

QUINNESEC - George A. "Chum" LaPointe, 57, of 1213 Ledge St. in Quinnesec, died Sunday, Oct. 29, 2006, at his home.

Chum was born June 25, 1947, in Iron Mountain, son of the late George B. and Zenaide A. (Bastian) LaPointe.

He graduated from Kingsford High School in 1965 and was a lifelong resident of the area. He obtained his master's degree in education from Northern Michigan University.

He taught English at Kingsford Junior High and High School for a total of 33 years, retiring in 2002. He also taught for Bay College West Campus for 10 years. Chum truly loved his teaching and coaching career at Kingsford and was very involved with the school. His love of teaching encouraged his daughters to pursue degrees in education also. He coached sports in all of his years at Kingsford which included freshman football, wrestling, soccer, and Babe Ruth and Little League baseball.

Chum loved reading and was a great story teller. His favorite listeners were his grandchildren. He was a former member of the Beagle Club. He instilled the love of fishing and hunting in all of his children. One of his favorite pastimes was watching sports of any kind, but he really cheered for the

Packers and the Tigers. He also enjoyed traveling, camping, gardening and boating with his wife and best friend, Elizabeth.

The warm and caring person Chum was made everyone feel at ease. He was very approachable to friends, family, students and fellow teachers. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

Chum is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; three children, Cheri LaPointe (fiance, Dennis) of Marquette, Nicole (Joe) Gasper of Newaygo, lower Michigan and Paul J. LaPointe of Germany; three stepchildren, Tim (Marlene) Daniels of Mosinee, Wis., Kathleen (Steve) Wiese of Moline, Ill. and Theo J. Daniels of Roseville, Calif.; a sister, LoAnne (Gerald) Smith of Bolingbrook, Ill.; 11 grandchildren, Naya and Elli Gasper, Kelcey and Bridget Daniels, Mikayla, Abby, Audrey and Maggie Wiese, Kristen and Allison Stafford and Courtney Kalisch; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a nephew, J.J. Smith and a step-grandson, Aaron Kalisch .

Friends may call from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday at the Tondin-Ross and Freeman Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

Parish prayers will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 10 a.m. at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Kingsford. Fr. Joseph Gouin will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will be in Quinnesec Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of George "Chum" LaPointe

online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Tondin-Ross and Freeman Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

LL

“ *Nicole and Family,*

*I am so sorry to hear about your Dad. I know this is such a difficult time for you all; with so many wonderful and happy memories, He will always be with you. Remembering his smile will keep your memories fresh at heart. Take care,
Our prayers are with you, - Les & Mindi (Bonikowske)Lorenzoni*

Les & Mindi Lorenzoni - November 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Dear LaPointe Family,*

My prayers are with all of you. Chum was an excellent teacher. I still use the lessons he taught me on a weekly basis. I hope I am able to reach my students like he was able to reach me. He was a "catcher in the rye" for many students - able to reach them when others couldn't. The Kingsford community lost a good friend. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Jesse Bjorkman - East Lansing

Jesse Bjorkman - November 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Dear LaPointe Family,
My prayers are with you. I taught with Chum at BTS, we double dated during college days when he dated a friend of mine, and my dad was a fellow beagler from the beagle club. So my memories of him go back aways. The picture I carry in my mind is that of an always happy, upbeat, and friendly man. My two daughters, Andrea and Margot Ouimette, had "Mr.LaPointe" as their English teacher. He was caring and dedicated. It is so hard to believe that someone as vibrant and full of life is no longer on this earth. I'll bet he's eating some of Zenaide's good cooking and telling beagle stories right now. For his family and friends left behind, may you find comfort in your wonderful memories and the grace of God. The world is a richer place because of him. He has left a wonderful legacy (his family) behind.
Alice (Brosio-Ouimette) Reed

Alice Reed - November 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Dear Lapointe Family, please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. Mr. LaPointe was my favorite teacher at KHS. He taught the subject that I hated the most, but it was the class that I most looked forward to every day. Whenever I get into a conversation about beagles, I think of him (I had a beagle also). He was a very inspiring man and will be missed by all who knew him. Respectfully, Calvin Formolo - Virginia Beach, VA.

Calvin Formolo - November 04, 2006 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ I, too, want to express my sincere thank you to all the friends and family who gathered to pay my dad respects and for all who have written such special messages to us. My dad was such an incredible father, who loved his children and wife more than himself. He was very passionate about everything he did, especially teaching grammar, reading, sports, hunting, and fishing. He was a handyman, who fix anything, as well as, a man who wanted to help everyone. He believed in honesty and not being judgemental. He made an extra effort to let his students know that he only judged them on how they were in his classroom, not based on what others would tell him. He loved telling stories about his family and always had a sense of humor. He was very social and loved to drive around Quinnesec to see who was outside waiting to chat. We are so saddened because we will miss making more memories, and my daughters won't have the opportunities to see Papa Chum anymore. BUT...I am grateful to have his legacy to pass on, and he will remain in our hearts. I am so glad he is resting peacefully and am missing him so terribly that I can hardly stand it. Please continue to keep us in your prayers at this very difficult time.
Nicole (LaPointe) Gasper

Nicole Gasper - November 03, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Our deepest sympathy in the loss of Chum. What a great guy. We really got to know Chum during Brad's freshman year when Chum was the coach. What a guy, he molded the foundation for this group of kids to be so close with such comardary.He taught them to not only to be team mates but to be friends on and off the field. Which in turn made all us parents so much closer. We had lots of parties and that Chum was just the best sport. We have so many memories and shared so many laughs. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this trying time.

Kris and Jean Koski - November 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear LaPointe Family - Please let me express my deepest sympathies. As with many, I had Mr. LaPointe when I was in Junior High. I can remember cooking food in Home Ec. Class and "fighting" with other classmates as to who was going to be able to bring Mr. LaPointe something we had just made. My thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless.
Mary Kay (Mainville) McKenney Atlanta, GA

Mary Kay (Mainville) McKenney - November 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

VL

“ Please accept sympathy from our family. (Adam and Jim are in Canada hunting so they have not heard of Chum's passing.) I believe three of my four son's had him as a teacher and I do remember hearing fond stories of him when school memories are brought up. I'm sure he made a positive impact on many students and will be missed by all those who knew him. You're in our prayers.
Valerie Lucas (Jim, Adam, Andy, Allen & Austin)

Valerie Lucas - November 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ Dear LaPointe family: My condolences for the loss of Mr. LaPointe. I was fortunate enough to have Mr. LaPointe as an English teacher in high school, and will always remember how he made efforts to learn something about each of his students. He was always encouraging students to read, and he recommended many good books. I also enjoyed his many stories. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Angie Edberg - November 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Dear Betty, it is the saddest time when we lose a good friend and companion. Loving and being loved by a person so dear is like losing a part of yourself, leaving a void that can never be filled. Chum will be sorely missed by us all and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to you and to Chum's family for the loss of such a good man and loving husband. The mystery of God's ways are bolstered by faith in the knowledge that we will all be reunited for time immemorial. My thoughts and prayers are for you and the family.
Your brother, Rick

Rick Dumser - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ To the Lapointe Family,
I have been away from the area for many years, however, growing up in IM/K was a very special time, with some very special people. I knew Chum and his kids pretty much my whole life beginning when my family lived in Quinnessec. I also was taught and coached by him. He was in fact a very warm, funny and smart man; an inspiration to all who knew him. I always knew-- just by looking at him and speaking to him that he TRULY loved his job and the difference he made in many lives over the the years. I also know that he was very fond of his kids. Nicole and Cheri...whom I pretty much grew up with.. I am very sorry for your loss. Your dad is surely looking down on you and is more than likely smiling..

Jim Hagerty - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dear LaPointe Family, I am saddened by the loss of a very special person. Mr. LaPointe was an exceptional teacher who inspired so many of us through the years. He will be remembered by many and never forgotten. - Jodi Formolo-Pineau, Negaunee

Jodi Formolo-Pineau - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Dear Nicole, Cheri, Paul and families, We were very sorry to hear of your loss. We have many good memories of Chum, as he was so good to our children while in KHS. He was always willing to do extra tutoring where needed. And he was so proud of his students accomplishments, always asking about them in the years after graduation. Am sure you will miss him very much. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. Sincerely, the Westphal family

Anita and Glen Westphal - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Mom, Paul, Cheri, Nicole and Family,

Comfort is better communicated by presence than by words. Since I am not there with you please know that I love you, pray for your comfort, and I would like to share a thought:

We have many experiences of joy in this life... perhaps these joys are merely shadows something spectacular.

I have wondered why we are so often unmoved by pain and tragedy and yet a slight act of kindness or act of love and beauty brings tears. Logic tells us these responses are reversed. Perhaps the good of this life faintly whispers of the joy to come and our longing for this joy is aroused and we ache to know it. And so we cry in anticipation. Love of friends and family carries us through this life but death ushers us into joy inexpressible. Death is therefore a severe mercy of a loving God.

Chum was first my coach, then my teacher, then my mother's husband and stepfather, and then my friend. I miss him.

Theo - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Dear LaPointe Family:

Mr. LaPointe will be remembered as one of the best educators at KHS. He not only made learning English enjoyable but also infused laughter into his classroom. He was such a joy to have as a teacher. And his concern for his students didn't end when they graduated from his class. He is directly responsible for my acceptance into the court reporting program at Ferris. When my high school English grade did not meet the prerequisite for the Ferris program, Mr. LaPointe took it upon himself to organize and teach a summer English course resulting in my acceptance into the program. He inspired many a struggling student, and to him we are all eternally grateful. I pray the Lord will comfort the LaPointe Family with wonderful memories.

Rhonda (Westphal) Snyder

Rhonda (Westphal) Snyder - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Dear LaPoints

I've known Chum for many, many years. What a good man and friend he was. Remember all the good times and laugh at the funny things you will remember. We all will survive our pain of loss through remembering all the good of our loved ones. Dixie Peterson, Hardwood, MI

dixie peterson - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Dear LaPoint, I am sorry for your loss and send my condolences. know that my family and I are praying for you in this difficult time. Mr. LaPoint was a wonderful man and teacher.

Jerry Trumbley - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Dear LaPointe Family, I am very sorry and am saddened by your loss and offer my condolences. I was a former student of Mr LaPointe in English and saw him many times around Quinnesec. I grew to love attending his English classes and always looked fondly upon the time that I spent at Kingsford with him as my teacher. I can truly say that I will never forget his many hunting stories he told us during class and after. He was an honest and true man that will be sadly missed. Please know that my family and I will be praying for you all at this time. Jenny (Johnson), Rich, Aly and James Gonzales

Jennifer Johnson-Gonzales - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear Lapointe Family,
My heart is filled with sorrow for the loss of a great man, father, grandfather and son. I had Mr. Lapointe in school and so did my brother, Scott. We both want to send out condolences to the family and friends for the loss of such a great man. I had many teachers in High School but only very few do I remember but I remember Mr. Lapointe. Please accept our condolences.

Sandra and Scott Fontecchio - November 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear LaPointe Family,

Greg and I are truly sorry to hear about your loss. We both had him as a teacher in High School and he really knew how to get the class motivated to learn.

I personally have known the LaPointe Family since i was a child. Sheri and Nicole use to babysit for me. Paul and my brother Brian were very good friends and still are to this day. I remember Chummy coming over to my dads house on several occasions wether it was just to talk or to work on something in the garage with my dad. If it had not been for Chummy continuing to push me in High School i would never of graduated and for that i will always be thankful.

Chummy will be be forever missed and may god bless you all during this difficult time.

*Respectfully,
Jeanne & Greg Howell*

Jeanne (Grimord) Howell and Greg Howell - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Dear LaPointe Family,
My condolences on the passing of Chummy. I believe he is one of the reasons I went on to pursue my masters degree. We all liked him as a teacher because he was down-to-earth and made difficult concepts seem easy. When I went out for freshman football and later quit, he told my dad that was not tough enough. It hurt bad, and I was not very fond of him for sometime for telling my dad that. However, he was right. Once I acknowledged that, I began to take on those things in life that once scared me. To this day, I wish I had played football all four of my high school years and did it with more tenacity and determination. Chummy knew what it took, and I was too dumb to listen. His life should be celebrated and not mourned. My deepest sympathy. Respectfully, Don (Bucko), Chrissy, & Allyson Barribeau, Huntsville, Alabama

Don (Bucko) Barribeau - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ To the family of Chum LaPoint,
I had the opportunity to have Chum as an instructor for my first year of college a Bay de Noc Community College. I was from Crystal Falls and traveled to Kingsford to attend class. I was 23 years old at the time, and was trying to make a decision on a different career. I was going into engineering and was trying to "get my feet wet". Chum motivated me to go on and become a Mechanical Engineer. I consider him one of a handful of instructors that I call genuinely caring, motivating and inspiring.

God Bless you Chum.....

You've touched the hearts of all you've come in contact with.

Sincerely,
Mike Nantelle
Escanaba, Mi.

Mike Nantelle - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Dear LaPointe Family, I am very sorry for your loss and offer my condolences. I was a former student of Chummy both in highschool and the baseball field. He was a great man and will be missed. Respectfully, Pat Casey - Cass City, MI

Pat Casey - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ Dear LaPointe Family: I am very sorry for your loss! I had Mr. LaPointe as an English teacher as did my daughter when she was in high school. My mother had her for an English class at Bay College and was so happy with him that she bought him a briefcase at the end of the year. He inspired everyone who knew him with his kindness and concern. He will be missed. Sincerely, Pamla M. (Gendron) Tyner

Pamla (Gendron) Tyner - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Dear Lapointe family, I am very sorry for you loss.. I had Mr.Lapointe for one sociology at bay.. i really enjoyed him, and i also knew him from kingsford high school.. he was a very good man, and he will be missed very much.. god bless you all

Sincerely,
Cathy-lee Carne

cathy-lee carne - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

K(

“ Dear LaPointe Family, my deepest sympathies on the loss of such a wonderful man. I was fortunate enough to have Mr. LaPointe in high school for english and again in college for sociology. I also had the privelege of having Ms. LaPointe for science in middle school. I just want to express my admiration for Chum. I really looked up to him and enjoyed every story he told us. He was the kind of teacher that you knew truely cared about you and was always there if you needed to talk. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to know him. The lessons that he taught all of us will continue to guide us through life. My God bless you and be with you all in your time of sorrow, Katie Wright (Larson)

Katie Wright (Larson) - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Dear LaPointe family: I am very sorry to hear of Mr. LaPointe's passing. Like so many other people have stated, he was my English teacher in high school. I will forever remember the first day of class when he tried to learn something about everyone and simply asked me which Strutz I belonged to because he graduated from high school with my uncle John (Butch) and knew many other members of my family. I really enjoyed being in his class and continuing to chat with him after I no longer had him as a teacher. He was a wonderful guy and will be missed. Sincerely, Toni Strutz, Kalamazoo, MI

Toni Strutz - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dear LaPointe Family, I am extremely sorry for your loss. Mr. Lapointe will forever go down in my history books as the man who loved his grammar and Great Gatsby! I had him during my freshman year at Kingsford and also my junior year. My brother Ryan, and sister, Heather had him for a teacher. He attended all of our graduation parties and even some 4th of July parties. Also, I had Mr. LaPointe for a baseball coach. He loved his family and loved his students, what a great man! Let's all be thankful that we knew him.

Justin Fayas - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ As Chum's first child and very proud daughter, I want all of you who send an e-mail to know we appreciate all the love and support you and others are giving to our family during this very difficult time. My father was my friend, mentor, and fishing buddy. He was also my teacher for English and in life. I never expected to lose him so soon--esp. so soon after he retired. We had big plans to go out fishing and catch the big bass and walleye. But, life didn't cooperate as such. I knew that most of his former students would send very warm e-mails. He inspired my sister and me to pursue our degrees in education. Thank you for taking the time to send your sympathies and to share a memory or two about my father. This means so much to our family and to me. He was a wonderful father who dedicated his time to teaching his children about the world--not just in a classroom. I would give anything to cast one more line out with him and for him to catch a bigger fish!!!! I know that my dad--CHUM--will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him and loved him. "Catch the big one in Heaven, Daddy! I love and miss you so much. Your love of fishing and hunting will continue thru your children and grandchildren." Thanks to all of you. With love and thanks, Cheri

Cheri LaPointe - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

S(

“ Dear LaPointe Family, I offer my condolences for your loss. Chummy and I attended KHS together and I remember him as a good friend and remember many good times. Sincerly, Sharon Bright (O'Leksy)

Sharon A. Bright (O'Leksy) - October 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM