



## Geraldine E. "Gerry" Kukuk

March 16, 1926 - March 17, 2020

Geraldine E. "Gerry" Kukuk, 94, of Iron Mountain, passed away on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at Freeman Nursing & Rehabilitation Community in Kingsford, MI.

Gerry was born March 16, 1926, in Marquette, daughter of the late Charles and Lucille (Epper) Beaudry. Gerry was a graduate of Marquette Graveraet High School in 1943. She worked at Franz Menze Construction Co. and in the Treasurer's Department of the Marquette County Courthouse. Gerry loved the outdoors and enjoyed skiing and skating. She was named "Queen of the North of the Upper Peninsula" and was crowned at a ceremony at Michigan Tech University in 1946.

In 1948 she married her highschool sweetheart, Ed Kukuk. They lived in Stambaugh for 17 years and moved to Iron Mountain in 1965. She was a very dedicated wife and stay at home mom. She attended all of the school and sports activities with her husband, Ed, who was a teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools. Gerry was a caregiver to family members and was always there to give a kind and compassionate helping hand to neighbors and friends. Attending daily mass and working on church projects at Blessed Sacrament Church in Stambaugh and St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Iron Mountain was most important in her life. She instilled in us her strong Christian beliefs and love of Jesus. In her spare time she loved to go

camping at Golden Lake, swimming, fishing, and hiking. She enjoyed spending time at camp, working in her flower garden, cooking, knitting, sewing, and especially treasured time spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She attended all of their school activities and could always be heard encouraging the teams with her chant, "You can do it" no matter what the score. She loved nature and told us to pay attention to the beauty that God had created. She always said that the pretty sunsets were God's last smile of the day.

Gerry is survived by her son-in-law, Ron Tass of Iron Mountain; three grandchildren, Brian (Anne) Tass of Novi, MI, Michelle (Tom) Phelps of Kingsford, and Steve (Nicole) Tass of Nashville; five great-grandchildren, Mya and Macy Tass and Tyler, Logan, and Makayla Phelps; six special nieces and nephews and their families, Mike (Liz) Quilliam, Pat (Jim) Covitz, Carol (Mick) Birkett, Kaye (Ralph) Scrivo, Dave (Cathy) Quilliam, Diane (Craig) Swanson.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ed Kukuk in 2006; her daughter, Julie Tass in 2017; a sister, Dorothy and (Mike) Quilliam; and a brother-in-law, Norman "Boots" and (Grace) Kukuk.

A special thanks goes out to the dedicated staff at Evergreen Assisted Living and Freeman's Nursing and Rehabilitation Community for the wonderful care they gave Gerry.

A private family mass will be held at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Iron Mountain. Fr. Janusz Romanek will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Catholic Church, St. Vincent DePaul or the charity of your choice.

Condolences to the family of Gerry Kukuk may be expressed 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

Cedar Ave  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ Dear Ron~  
We are sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Kukuk. She was a sweet lady & it was always a pleasure to see her & visit. May God's love and all your cherished memories comfort you. Our sincere sympathy to you and your family.  
Sincerely~  
Sid & Janet

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**Janet Dye** - March 28, 2020 at 10:16 PM

LJ

“ Dear loving family, how blessed you've been to have a woman such as Gerry to claim as your own! Gerry, Ed and Julie were a family friend since the beginning of my memories and now these three exceptional people are reunited once again. Gerry's unshakable faith, limitless compassion and joyful laughter remains in my best memories of her, though so many wonderful memories beyond this fill my mind. You each have my sincerest condolences. May the merciful and comforting eternal light now shine brightly upon, sweet Gerry! ❤️ Linda Ongaro Janicki

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**Linda Janicki** - March 22, 2020 at 11:51 AM

KM

“ Ron and family..Our condolences on Geri's passing. Sweet lady and glad we had interaction with you and her when Mom was at Freeman. God bless you Ron for faithfully visiting daily and taking such good care of her. Kathy Maynard and June Izzo.

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**Kathy Maynard** - March 19, 2020 at 03:28 PM

OW

“ Ron and children, and all who loved Gerry,  
My sincere sympathy in the loss of a  
wonderful mother in law and grandmother.  
To know Gerry was to love her. Just a  
beautiful lady inside and out. So it was hard to  
see her not the same when the GK sang at Freemans'. Always still  
though a sweet smile when she saw me. I really got to know Gerry  
through Ed at First Lutheran where she and Julie often came to  
church and events there.  
Saddened to read her obituary, but also much relief that she is now  
in her heavenly home already prepared for her by the Lord who she  
loved and served daily. Gerry exemplified the very best in Christian  
faith. SO glad to have known this beautiful lady over the years. MY  
prayers are with you and your family. May you find comfort in  
knowing she loved you. You were of comfort to her in how you  
handled your loss and hers of Julie. God Bless you.  
Orice Walters



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**Orice Walters** - March 19, 2020 at 02:31 PM

TC

“ Mrs. “K” was a SPECIAL LADY. When I was a young teacher Mrs K  
and Ed, the Swanson’s, and the Weber’s invited my wife Pat and I  
to their get togethers. They were wonderful friends. I would never  
call Mrs K by her first name because of the tremendous respect and  
admiration I had for her. I’m sure GOD has a SPECIAL PLACE for  
Mrs “K”. Tom and Pat Clarke

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**Tom Clarke** - March 19, 2020 at 02:02 PM