



Gilbert "Gibby" LaFave

January 10, 1941 - December 28, 2016

Gilbert "Gibby" LaFave, Sr.,

75, of Iron Mountain, passed away on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at the Golden Living Center in Florence, Wisconsin. Gibby was born on January 10, 1941 at Ford Hospital in Iron Mountain, the son of the late Joseph Napoleon and Margaret (Goulette) LaFave. He attended Iron Mountain schools, graduating from Iron Mountain High School in 1959. He then went on to Barber School in Detroit, completing his schooling in 1962. He returned home and was the owner and operator of Gib's Barber Shop on the Northside of Iron Mountain for more than 18 years.

Gibby was very active in not just the Iron Mountain area, but the county and the entire Upper Peninsula. He served as the Chairman of the Barber's Union Local 979 for 20 years until its end, on the County Board of Commissioners for 15 years, for the Dickinson/Iron/Baraga Community Services for 12 years, and on the Iron Mountain City Council for four years. Gilbert was a life-long resident of Iron Mountain and a long-time member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. In his free time, Gibby loved being involved in politics, spending time at the family camp and was an avid hunter.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Gene "Beany" LaFave, on August 21, 2012.

Gibby Sr. is survived by two sisters, Nancy (Ed) McCarthy of Muskegon, Mich. and Jane (John) Dore' of Lucadia, Calif.; his children, Joseph (BJ) LaFave of Iron Mountain, James LaFave of Capistrano, CA., Gilbert "Gibby" (Crystal) LaFave , Jr. of Iron Mountain, and Lacy (Holden Pinkard) LaFave of Florida; daughter in-law, Mona LaFave of Iron Mountain; grandchildren, Audrey LaFave, Beau LaFave, Brad (Brittany) LaFave, Adam (Heather) LaFave, Gabe LaFave, Evan LaFave, Desi LaFave, Trevor LaFave, and Kayla LaFave, and Kendall Pinkard; great-grandchildren, Courtney LaFave, Caiden LaFave, Carter LaFave, Carsen LaFave, Laila LaFave, and Savannah LaFave; and he is further survived by his first wife of 10 years, Barbara (Beauchamp) Poupore; and his second wife of 20 years, Mary (Drury) Peterson.

The visitation will be held on Monday, January 2, 2017 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain, complete with bagpipes, as was Gib's wish. The Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 11 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on the North side, where Msgr. James Kaczmarek will offer the Mass of Christian Burial, with interment to follow in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park. His remaining living children, Joseph, James, Gibby Jr. and Lacy LaFave will serve as pallbearers. The funeral procession will be led by the Iron Mountain Police Department, followed by three black Cadillac Escalades, as was Gibby Sr.'s directive, followed by the hearse, more cops with lights and sirens, and lastly the procession of vehicles containing the LaFave family patriarch's friends and extended family. He wanted to go out in style.

In lieu of flowers a memorial will be established in Gibby Sr.'s memory.

Gibby wished to thank his good friend Dr. Donald Jacobs for saving his life with the diagnosis of diabetes as a child. It was because of this lifelong battle with diabetes that he donated his organs to the Joslin Diabetes Center of

Boston, Mass. It is his sincere hope that the research institute will be able to change the lives of those suffering from this disease, and perhaps bring us one step closer to a cure for Type I Diabetes. He also wanted to thank his extended family of nurses and caregivers at the Golden Living Center for their wonderful care of him while at their facility. Gibby will be missed, and his death is truly the end of an era.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Gilbert "Gibby" LaFave, Sr. online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.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

Visitation

JAN 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Mass

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
500 Blaine St.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall



“ *Hard to believe it's been almost a year since he's been gone.....he truly was a Godfather type you didn't mess around if he was watching..... Miss Yah Gibby!*

Edward Olson - September 20, 2017 at 05:21 AM

“ To the LaFave family,

I just found out that Gibby had died, so that is why this message is eight months late. His presence in my early life was so important, I can't just let it go by without acknowledging him. I spent a lot of time at his mom and dad's house. His father, Joe, was a charmer, and Gib took after him in that respect. Gibby was my best friend in our grade school years, and through high school. Like Bob S. (hi, Bob and Martha!), we were altar boys together at IC. We went to seminary together at St. Nazianz until the middle of our sophomore year, when he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, and he had to leave the seminary. Hard to believe now that Gib "Bad News" LaFave was ever in a seminary to study for the priesthood! He was irrepressible and wild in those days, no doubt about it! Gibby was responsible for several "firsts" in my life, which, although memorable, will remain undisclosed (!). We spent a lot of time at his Uncle Frenchy's old ice house on Lake Antoine. If Uncle Frenchy named him "Bad News" (Hi Terry P.), he called me "Sky Pilot". In those days, Uncle Frenchy owned the first Thunderbird car in Iron Mountain, a '55 black two-seater convertible, if I remember right, and he would let Gibby drive it. I remember many a hair-raising ride with Gib in that Thunderbird on two lane roads at over three digit speeds! After seminary, I went on to the Navy and college, while Gibby got married and started a family. I remember often visiting with him and Barbara and their growing family in their little house on Blaine St. Gradually our lives drifted apart, but whenever I came home to Iron Mountain, I would visit Gib at his barbershop, and he would often give me a haircut gratis. Over the years we gradually lost touch with each other, but I never forgot him. He was the most memorable character in my memories of our childhood and teen years. I always thought I would come back to Iron Mountain and see him again for one last time. But God had other plans. Every person's life story is a strange spiritual pilgrimage with twists and turns, ups and downs, victories and defeats, a messy miracle and an improbable mystery. Such was Gibby's life, My condolences to his children, grandchildren and all his family. Goodbye, Gib, old

friend. I will pray for you and I will never forget you.

Vince Rossi

Vincent Rossi - September 18, 2017 at 02:19 PM

KY

“ *Kathy Y lit a candle in memory of Gilbert
"Gibby" LaFave*



Kathy Y - January 01, 2017 at 08:49 PM

KY

I am so sorry for your loose. But it makes me smile because Gibby did want to go out in style. I have known him a long time and he always made me smile. Thinking of him still brings a smile to me. He was a very nice man. God be with his family at this time and know he is still smiling down at and with you. 🙏💙

Kathy Young - January 01, 2017 at 08:57 PM

AC

“ I have known Gibby since I was 14 yrs old (35 yrs) He was a regular at a restaurant I worked at in Iron Mtn. We had many talks while he sat & drank his coffe. I could always count on him for good advice & looked up to him. Over the years I would run into him around town & always got a hug & we would have some laughs. Years later I was working as a CNA at Golden Living Center & who should come through the door..... Gibby! We were happy to see each other & I had the privilege of caring for him for several months. Gibby touched many lives at our facility. The nurses & CNA's loved him as well as the other residents. He brought smiles to all their faces on a daily basis with his outgoing personality. I could always count on him to tell a joke or to tell me a story about the crazy things he did in his youth. I always told him he was a character & that he was! He was one of a kind, touched more lives than I think he realized & I will never forget him. Rest In Peace my friend. I send my condolences to the LaFave family. God Bless.
Amy Chiaverini



Amy Chiaverini - January 01, 2017 at 12:09 AM

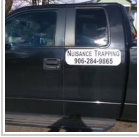
JS

“ Sorry for your loss. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The Harper A&W families.



Johanna Sirovy - December 31, 2016 at 06:35 PM



“ so sorry for your loss you and your family
have my deepest sympathy



Keith Rockwood - December 31, 2016 at 03:32 PM

BS

“ We served as altar boys and fished for bullheads near his home. On my wedding day he cut my hair and gave me my first shave with a straight edged razor. Friendly, fun and kind. For our 1959 Senior Talent Show he memorized the Legend of Sam Magee. Quite a feat!

Bob and Martha Schinderle - December 31, 2016 at 12:39 PM

BS

“ Bob And Martha Schinderle lit a candle in memory of Gilbert "Gibby" LaFave



Bob and Martha Schinderle - December 31, 2016 at 12:32 PM

CG

“ We are so sorry to hear about Gibby. He certainly was one-of-a-kind....a most unforgettable person. He will be missed by everyone. Rest in peace, Gib...our deepest sympathy to you all.

Rod and Cynthia Gordon

Cynthia Gordon - December 31, 2016 at 12:25 PM

TP

His obituary has brought a warmth of the memories of our Teenage years. It was his uncle "Frenchy" who gave him the nickname "bad news" and Glb wore it with an impish smile.

God bless.

Terry Paternoster

Terry paternoster - December 31, 2016 at 01:39 PM