



## Gloria VanLaanen

January 24, 1928 - January 24, 2012

Gloria Mae VanLaanen, 84 of Iron Mountain, passed away on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at Freeman's Nursing and Rehabilitation Community in Kingsford. She was born on March 10, 1927 in Highland park, Michigan, daughter of the late Arthur and Mae (Tapper) Mars. She attended the Kingsford schools, graduating from Kingsford High School in 1945. She married John E. VanLaanen Jr. on June 29, 1946 in Iron Mountain, and he preceded her in death on August 13, 1978.

Gloria worked as a Nurses Aid and a Physical Therapy Aid at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital for more than 20 years, retiring in 1987. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford where she was very active on the funeral committee, prayer chain, Circle, bible study, and greeter. She was also a member of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club and Oak Crest Golf Club. She was an avid golfer, and made her first hole in one the first year she played golf. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, reading, tv game shows, traveling, and Gardening. She loved her dog, Buddy. Gloria was preceded in death by a daughter, Regina "Gina" Patt; an infant daughter; a sister, Carole Stewart; a grandson, Bradley Halik; a granddaughter, Lisa (Rob) Green; 2 infant grandsons; and a dear friend, Pat Ellingson.

Gloria is survived by a son, Daniel VanLaanen of Montgomery, IL; daughters, Barbara Brown of LaCrosse, WI and Laura (Jim) Kmiec of Naperville, IL; a

brother, Gerald Mars of Calumet; nine grandchildren, Meredith and Leslie Patt, Eric Halik, Valerie (Mike) Young, Tiffany (Curt) Jerome, Brenda (Tim) Zillmer, Jennifer (Scott) Catey, Jimmie and John Kmiec; eight great grandchildren Jordan and Colin Zillmer, Sydney and Noah Green, Natalie, Amanda and Ryan Catey, and Cillian Peterson.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home, and on Saturday from 10:00am to 11:00am at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford. The funeral service will follow at 11:00am at the church. Rev. Michael March will officiate. Burial will be in the Quinnesec Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her memory to the First Presbyterian Church.

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

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 27. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

JAN 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
395 Hamilton Avenue  
Kingsford, MI 49802

## Funeral Service

JAN 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
395 Hamilton Avenue  
Kingsford, MI 49802

# Tribute Wall

EF

“ Dear Barb, Dan & Laura,  
I am so very saddened at your mom's passing. I did get a chance to visit her at the nursing home last summer. She looked lovely, we had a great visit, but she had no earthly idea who I was. I have such fond memories of her and y'all. She and Jack shared many wonderful times with Tom and me and I especially remember the fun we had building their screen house at the lake. Hope I will see you in Milwaukee for the reunion.

---

**Ellie Schmittinger - Atlanta, GA - friend and distant family** - January 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ My sympathy to Gloria's family. My mother(Mildred Eliason) was a good friend of Gloria. Even after my parents moved from Iron Mountain Gloria would often stop at my mother's house in Champion. May Gloria rest in peace.

---

**Earl Eliason** - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Barb, Danny and Laura. You have our most sincere sympathy in the loss of Aun Gloria. She was always such a wonderful lady. You can always reach back in your mind's to relive all of the good time's that will keep your mom cherished forever. Wow can you imagine the party going on now up in heaven with all of the family that we have lost over the year's??? May God Bless . Dick and Gail Dabb

---

**Dick and Gail - Coconut Creek, FL - Nephew** - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ Danny. Laura and Barb....I saw your Mom on January 12 at Freemans and got to hold her hand and smile with her. That smile...beautiful, Hugs and condolences to you all. May her memories be a blessing to you. Mom and I came down to Florida to stay with Kathy and Dan who live here and visit with Francie and Mark who come down here in the winter. Wish we could hug you in person.

God Bless

Red-O Liz and Momma and Kathy

---

**Red-O Liz Creed Holmquist - Iron Mountain, MI - Next Door Neighbor - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

CF

“ My deepest sympathy to you all. Gloria was a good friend of my sister, Rhoda. She had an amazing amount of energy. May she rest in peace.

---

**Cynthia Corsi-Gordon - Iron Mountain, MI - Friend - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

MN

“ I was the family babysitter over 55 years ago when you lived on Kent Street. Always enjoyed the family and Gloria was very nice. When we were in Iron Mountain in October I was at Freeman's and visited with her a little. You have my deepest sympathy.

---

**Martha Nicholls Schinderle - Portage, MI - 25 location neighbor - January 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

L"

“ Dear Barbara,  
*Enjoyed the attached picture...I recall your mom always wearing that beautiful welcoming smile! Nice to have seen her again. May you be surrounded with love and support of family and friends at this time of sadness and loss. May the fun moments, the sweet moments and your many cherished memories, comfort you with laughter and tears and an everlasting presences of her love for you.*  
With sympathy,  
Lana

---

**Lana Antonini Smith - Iron Mountain , MI - Classmate "66"** - January 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Dear Danny, Laura, and Barb:

*So sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She was always so loving, happy and helpful. We will miss her smiling face. May God keep each of you during this vary hard time in your life. Hugs from Mark and I and Redo and Mom are in FL for two weeks and send their love also. Take Care...Love Ya*

---

**Jeanne Creed Berdinner(Francie) - Iron Mountain, MI - Next door Neighbors -**  
January 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Barb, Danny Laura---my sympathy for the loss of your mother

---

**jeff fox** - January 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

Jl

“ Sorry to hear of Gloria's passing she was always a pleasure at the VanLaanen reunions.

*I wish my dad her nephew the late John Colwell, along with Gina, could of been there for her today. Cause they would have.*

---

**John Colwell - Chicago, IL** - January 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Dan and Family:*

*Dan, it's been a long time since seeing you but the time and the distances do not alter the special life our parents provided for us growing up in Iron Mountain. It's difficult to see their generation leaving us, your Mom included. My thoughts are with you all.*

*Bill Kauper, Carefree, AZ*

---

**Bill Kauper - Carefree, AZ - Friend** - January 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Sorry to hear of Gloria's passing, she was one of my sister Rhoda Paronto's best friends. They are together again in heaven, having many laughs and a great time.

*My deepest sympathy to you all.*

*Dahly Corsi Bosley*

---

**Dahly Corsi Bosley - Iron Mountain, MI** - January 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM