



Harry P. Kleiman

December 10, 1937 - April 30, 2018

Harry Paul Kleiman, 80, of Iron Mountain, went to be with his Lord and Savior on April 30, 2018 with his family gathered around him.

Born December 10, 1937 in Kingsford, Harry was one of six children born to William and Elaine (Erickson) Kleiman. He was a lifelong resident of the area, graduating from Kingsford High School in 1955. He furthered his education at Michigan Tech University, graduating in 1959 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Harry served in the Michigan National Guard from 1963-69, during which he was activated to Detroit in 1967. On June 4, 1966, he married Kristen L. Swanson at Immanuel Baptist Church in Kingsford. They enjoyed almost 52 loving years together, working hard and raising their three children. In 1946, Harry's father began Kleiman Pump & Well Drilling out of their home in the Kingsford Heights. He worked alongside his dad until the 1961 when he assumed ownership of the business. Over the next 50 plus years Harry grew and developed the company to its current size and reputation. It was well known and accepted that Harry never truly retired from the water industry and its people. His desire was to provide clean and safe water to all his customers whether they were a private homeowner, a farmer, municipality, local industry, or mining company. His dedication and professionalism to the water industry was his lifelong passion.

Some of his professional associations included Michigan Water Well Advisory Board to the Governor—serving as chairman periodically, Michigan Department of Public Health Committee drafting policy guidelines regarding

hydrofracturing for wells, American Water Works Association, National Ground Water Association, Society of Mining Engineers of AIME, Michigan Ground Water Association—serving periodically as director and president, Engineering Ministries International, the American Water Works Association, and the Wisconsin Water Well Association. In 1996, Harry was given the honor of being named the Michigan Water Well Driller of the Year. When accepting this award, Harry commented, “Our highly trained employees are the key to our operation. To us, each customer is important. Over 50 years, we’ve drilled wells and sold all kinds of pumps to all kinds of people! We even sold a line shaft pump to John Wayne for irrigating his cotton crop on his ranch in Arizona!”

For most of his life, Harry was an active member of Immanuel Baptist Church, serving as trustee and AWANA leader, and most recently attended Grace Baptist Church. He loved God and was acutely aware of the sacrifice of his Savior on the cross. From that truth, Harry lived a life of thankfulness, compassion, and love for others.

Harry was a people person. No one was ever a stranger to him, and he always enjoyed a charismatic conversation whether waiting on a bench while ‘the girls explored’, or swapping stories with the guys at one of their many weekends at hunting camp, or at a weekly lunch with friends. Harry was well known throughout the U.P. by business associates and customers. It was often said, “If the U.P. had a governor, it would be Harry P.” Hardly a holiday went by when Harry wouldn’t get a phone call from a frantic farmer who needed water for the dairy cows, but the pipes were frozen or a pump had failed. He was always glad to lend a helping hand when it was needed.

He was also involved with the Dickinson County Historical Museum/Iron Mining Museum/ Cornish Pump Museum Board. He enjoyed community service with his fellow Rotarians. He also was a lifelong member of the NRA. For all his accomplishments and busyness with the company, Harry’s most important accomplishment and legacy in life was his family. His love and

commitment throughout the years is a testimony of God's love and grace in his life. Family vacations, saunas, backyard fires, winter evenings by the fireplace and hunting morel mushrooms in the woods at camp were activities to which he looked forward. Back scratching, head rubs, hugs and kisses, and trips to the root beer stand were among some precious memories with his grandchildren. His teasing and storytelling will be deeply missed.

Harry is survived by his beloved and devoted wife, Kristen; children, Lynne (John) Hackert of Rancho Cordova, CA, Erik (Sara) Kleiman of Iron Mountain, and Kimberly (Brett) Shilton of Marshfield, WI; and precious grandchildren, Amanda, Jürgen, Anja, and Jäeger Kleiman and Liam, Sada, Iona, and Méav Shilton.

He is also survived by sisters, Lenore Edwards, Marjorie France, Katherine (Ray) Clemo; sister-in-law, Betty Kleiman and brother-in-law, James Swanson; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Elaine Kleiman; two brothers, Gordon and Terry Kleiman; brothers-in-law, Tom Edwards and Peter France; and parents-in-law, Alton and Ruth Swanson.

Visitation will be on Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at Redemption Hill in Kingsford with funeral to follow at 11:30 a.m. also at Redemption Hill. Pastor Brett Shilton, Harry's son-in-law, will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established at Samaritan's Purse - Clean Water Projects under Harry Kleiman's Memorial Fund, (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/memorial-page/harry-kleiman-iron-mountain-mi>) to provide clean, potable water in impoverished areas while sharing the good news of Jesus Christ who said in John 4:13-14, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." An additional memorial gift will be provided to Bay Cliff Health Camp (<http://www.baycliff.org/donation/>) to provide programming to children in

the UP with special needs.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Harry Kleiman online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the funeral arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Redemption Hill
332 S. Carpenter Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Funeral Service

MAY 5. 11:30 AM (CT)

Redemption Hill
332 S. Carpenter Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

DC

“ *Condolences, just learned of Harry's passing - worked with him many years ago - terrific person.*
Dave Cain, Escanaba, MI

Dave Cain - June 13, 2018 at 04:28 PM

SB

“ *Always appreciated Harry's professionalism and sense of humor when working with him on the MWDA board. We are sorry for the loss too the Kleiman family of such a fine man, but we know you can celebrate a life well lived and be proud of Harry's accomplishments and goodness. We will donate to Samaritan's purse in honor of Harry. Steve Buer & the Buer Well Drilling team.*

Steve Buer - May 05, 2018 at 12:52 PM

JK

“ *Our sincere condolences to you Kristen, Eric and family. I'm sure Harry had an abundance of work related war stories he shared with family and friends. Best wishes to all of you in your time of sadness.*
John, Jane, Garret Kopecky, Susanne(Kopecky) Barr

John Kopecky - May 05, 2018 at 10:18 AM

PS

“ *My most sincere condolences to you all. I apologize for not being able to be there in person. Your entire family holds a special place in my heart. You are in my thoughts.*

Patti Solis-Powell - May 05, 2018 at 09:29 AM

CS

“ Many fond memories with Harry, Jim Jurmu and Gerry Ekdahl brook trout fishing in Canada. So many laughs. I feel blessed to have shared those times with Harry. A wonderful friend.
Charlie “Chuck “ Sundberg

Charles Sundberg - May 04, 2018 at 07:36 PM

RL

“ I first met Harry in 1978 when I worked for the Minatome Corporation that had an office on Carpenter Avenue. Being a staff geologist, Harry and I worked on many projects together, drilling exploration wells and/or blasting outcrop exposures. Lots of good memories. It was people like Harry that made Iron Mountain feel like home. Rest in peace my friend.

richard lassin - May 04, 2018 at 05:10 PM

JW

Dear Kristen we all will miss Harry. We have many fond memories. Harry and Jim had such good conversations during the digging of our well. And then 20 years later after Jim had died and the well needed attention - Erik came back and fixed it all up. Also remember our times at Suzuki camp at Stevens Point. You all are in my prayers. Martha and Maggie send their prayers also. love, joylyn wahla

joylyn wahla - May 07, 2018 at 08:47 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harry P. Kleiman.



May 04, 2018 at 02:33 PM

DH

“ Just learned of Harry’s passing here in Bullalo, NY. We were friends from Immual Baptist Church. I left Iron Mountain and never looked back. Harry’s passing brought back pleasant memories that I had forgotten about. The conversations that we had. The well that was drilled at the airport and flying! You could say that Harry and I went in opposite directions, he went down into the earth and I went up into the blue. So Harry thanks for the memories. God bless to your family.

Daniel F. Hutchens

Daniel F. Hutchens - May 04, 2018 at 10:52 AM

BR

“ Our sympathy for your loss. I first got to know Harry at Tech, then working with him when I was at Tilden and at Niagara Paper. Working with Harry felt more like working with a friend than a contractor. His response to emergency situations was fantastic. Take comfort that as a Believer, he is in great shape Bill & Ellen Roberts

Bill Roberts - May 04, 2018 at 10:31 AM

SS

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Harry Kleiman through my work at the DEQ and UP Engineers & Architects over the past 17 years. Harry was a leader in the drinking water and well drilling industries. He impacted many lives and communities. He was a good man and speaking with him was always entertaining and educational. I will share one short story.

One cold winter afternoon, we were exploring a location for a new township wellfield. Harry and I were in the cab of his two-track "bombi" (think small, partially enclosed Bombardier trail groomer). Two others rode in the open back. The bombi overturns onto the driver's side. I ask Harry if he is OK. Harry, as if nothing had happened, responds, "I'm doing well, and yourself?" Suspended by my seatbelt and holding my weight up and off of Harry using the hand hold on the door, I reply, "I'm hanging in there." Harry adds, "We have the easy part", as the other two guys push the vehicle upright. We were back on our way in short order. The other two fellows know who they are. Thanks to them for getting us "shiny side up". There's more to this adventure, and I treasure the memory.

The Kleiman family has my family's sincerest condolences and sympathies. The world is a better place for Harry having been a part of it.

Scott Swenor - May 03, 2018 at 05:36 PM

CB

“ My sympathies for your loss. At least we can be comforted with the knowledge that he is now with his Savior. I spent many hours with Harry taking drawdown measurements at wells and had many pleasant conversations with him between readings. Solid state data loggers have eliminated that opportunity for fellowship. Thousands of people will never know that the water they take for granted comes from wells he drilled. I am proud to say he was a friend and only wish I knew 5% of what he knew about wells and groundwater.
Carr Baldwin

Carr Baldwin - May 03, 2018 at 11:44 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Harry P. Kleiman.



May 02, 2018 at 03:17 PM

JJ

“ Our condolences to Harry's whole family. Harry brought me to Christ through Christian Service Brigade at the Baptist Church around 1970 or so. I'm grateful for his friendship and Christian leadership.
John and Dianna Jamar

John and Dianna Jamar - May 02, 2018 at 02:49 PM

RG

“ We are so sorry to hear of Harry's passing, Harry was so much more than a business partner to us - more like part of our family "team". He will be missed greatly. Sincere condolences to the family from your friends at Marquette Charter Township.

Randy Girard - May 02, 2018 at 12:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Harry P. Kleiman.*



May 02, 2018 at 11:17 AM