



## James C. Bianchi

April 15, 1939 - November 16, 2018

James “Jim” Clement Bianchi, 79, passed away Friday November 16, 2018 at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain, MI. James was born on April 15, 1939 in Norway, MI, son of Clement and Irene (Poppe) Bianchi. Jim was a Norway Hill Topper. After graduating from Norway High School he enlisted in the U.S. Army, despite a leg defect from childhood polio. He served his tour in Lebanon, Germany and Turkey. When he returned home, he entered the reserves and then worked for the city of Iron Mountain where he met and later married his wife of 56 years, Marilyn (Morelli) Bianchi. He then worked for the Niagara Mill until his early retirement in 1982. He was a member of the St. Mary Queen of Peach Church in Kingsford.

Jim lived by the phrase “Get busy living or get busy dying.” He was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson’s disease at the age of 39. He chose to make the best of his life despite increasing physical disability.

He loved the outdoors; hunting, trapping, fly fishing and spearfishing. He grew a large vegetable garden with many fruit trees. He hunted morels and wild asparagus, made homemade wine, root beer, beer and sauerkraut. He also raised chickens and ducks. He even wrote a sportsman column for his high school paper under the pen name Ed Dodee.

He loved bird watching and could identify any bird. He had an ongoing battle

with the squirrels in his yard, which lasted many years. He was artistic. He loved oil painting, drawing caricatures, basket weaving, and making snowshoes. He made furniture, and despite a Parkinson's tremor, began woodcarving which he realized he had a gift for.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; a sister, Sandy (Gus) Blom of Florida; daughters, Leanne (Mark) Hansford of DePere, WI and Barbie (Dean) DeRidder of Iron Mountain; grandsons, Kyle Hansford, Eric Hansford, Nic (Stacie) DeRidder, and Ben (Audra) DeRidder; one granddaughter, Dayna (Steve) Hodgins; two great grandchildren, Claire DeRidder and Russell Hodgins; a very special brother-in-law, Jerry Morelli; sisters-in-law, Jeanette Morelli and Dee (Harry) Farris; a special goddaughter, Denise Gauthier; and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Clement Bianchi; mother, Irene Bianchi; two beloved nephews, Greg Morelli and Russ Halverson; and a special brother-in-law, Ed Morelli.

He was cared for by many compassionate caregivers towards the end of his illness. He also was blessed to have been a participant at Family Ties where he was treated with dignity and respect.

Visitation will be held from 4-7pm on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Mary's Queen of Peace Church at 11am on Wednesday November 21, 2018. Pallbearers will be Kyle Hansford, Ben DeRidder, Nic DeRidder, Mike Morelli, Mark Hansford and Stephen Hodgins.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's name can be made to Family Ties Adult Day Care Center in Iron Mountain.

A scholarship fund for students of agricultural studies and/or forestry will be set up in his honor.

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

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

# Cemetery Details

## Cemetery Park

101 Cedar Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **20**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church  
600 Marquette Blvd  
Kingsford, MI 49802  
(906) 774-6122

# Tribute Wall



“ 40 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home** - November 19, 2018 at 08:54 PM

SS

*I remember that picture above when Jim came to visit us in Chicago. He was a wonderful person and will be missed. So sorry for your loss. Love Sally & family*

**SALLY STEDMAN** - November 20, 2018 at 09:27 AM



“ 130 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home** - November 19, 2018 at 03:23 PM

JE

“ *Marilyn and Family,  
So very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was quite the guy! He  
had a great sense of humor and always knew how to make your day  
a little brighter! God Bless,  
Jessica Schultz*

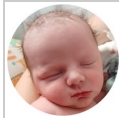
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**Jessica** - November 19, 2018 at 02:15 PM

RI

“ *Roxy And Dan Isaacson lit a candle in  
memory of James C. Bianchi*



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**Roxy and Dan Isaacson** - November 18, 2018 at 03:45 PM



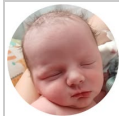
*Thank you Roxt. ❤️*

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**Dayna Hodgins** - November 18, 2018 at 09:17 PM

RI

“ *We are so sorry for your loss.*

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**Roxy and Dan Isaacson** - November 18, 2018 at 02:45 PM



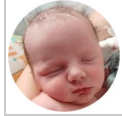
*Thank you so much. ❤️*

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**Dayna Hodgins** - November 18, 2018 at 08:17 PM

LH

“ *I'm so very sorry for your loss. My sincere sympathy to each of you.*

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**Linda Hayes** - November 18, 2018 at 09:57 AM



*Thank you Linda. ❤️*

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**Dayna Hodgins** - November 18, 2018 at 08:18 PM

JC

“ *Joy Carlson lit a candle in memory of James C. Bianchi*



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**Joy Carlson** - November 18, 2018 at 08:22 AM