



## James Connors

July 14, 1935 - July 14, 2009

MARQUETTE - James B. Connors, 74, of Marquette formerly of Iron Mountain, passed away on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at Jacobetti Home For Veterans in Marquette.

He was born on May 16, 1935, in Matchwood, the son of the late John and Gladys (Egger) Connors. Jim was a graduate of Bergland High School. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in social work at Northern Michigan University and later his master's degree in social work from Wayne State University. Jim served two years in Germany with the United States Army.

He married the former Rosalie Ruth Hawes in August of 1961, and she preceded him in death. In March of 1979, he married the former Peggy Marie Kolbas.

Jim was a devoted member of the community and began his long and interesting working career in Marquette as the social worker for the Cuban Refugee Program at the Holy Family Home Orphanage for the Marquette Catholic Diocese. In 1966, he served as the director of Catholic Social Services in Iron Mountain. He served as the Friend of the Court in Dickinson County for several years and as a social worker in the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District.

Jim worked as an insurance agent for McGregor Insurance and in 1985 was elected to serve his first of two terms as the state representative for the 108th District. In 1988, he became the district representative for the National Federation of Independent Businesses and also served several years as the district representative and aide to State Senator Don Koivisto.

Jim was a member of Pine Grove Country Club, the Air Force Association Board, Dickinson-Iron Mental Health Social Services, Catholic Social Services Board and the Dickinson County Republican Party chairman. Jim was also a past president of the Iron Mountain- Kingsford Kiwanis Club, the Golden K, Knights of Columbus and the St. Mary and St. Joseph Parish Council.

He enjoyed playing golf, hunting, cutting firewood at camp and enjoying his cottage with family and friends. Jim was also a history buff, enjoyed country music and was an avid Detroit Tigers, Lions and University of Michigan football fan.

He leaves his children, Wendy (Steve) Pelto of Marquette, Jackie (Brian) Mitchell of Alma, Mich., Jay Connors of Denver and Michael Connors of Indianapolis; two sisters, Margaret Barlock and Virginia (John) Huhtala, both of Bruce Crossing; five grandchildren, Trenton and Jordan Mitchell, Mallory Connors, Courtney and Meredith Pelto and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his first wife, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Patrick and Robert Connors and a brother-in-law, Ron Barlock.

Jim loved life and he truly valued his friendships. He will be dearly missed by his children, family and friends.

Visitation will be held on Sunday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held on Monday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. Father Daniel Moll will celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery in McMillan Township.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of James Connors 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 funeral arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ *For the Connors Family  
On behalf of Kiwanis, I would like to express our deepest sympathies. Kiwanis has lost a fine member and the community has lost a valuable man. May his long and vigorous life remain a testimony to the man he was.*

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**Myron H Berry** - July 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *To the Connors Family: You need to know how much Jim meant to me in the 1980's when he was Dickinson County Republican Chair and I was Iron County Chair. The two counties accomplished so much together. He almost convinced me to throw my hat into the ring for Michigan State Representative from my district. Sorry I didn't. My many condolences to his family.*

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**Peggy DePuydt** - July 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Wendy, Jackie, Jay & Mike: So sorry to hear about your dad, we were out of town at the time. Even though he is gone, you will have many memories to cherish. As your old neighbors, we remember all the fun times we had with Jim, and after their move, we still kept in touch. He was a good guy and we appreciated his friendship.  
Sincerely,  
Joe & Karen Fortner*

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**Joe & Karen Fortner** - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ To the Entire Connor Family and Relatives:

*Please accept our sincere expression of sympathy in your loss. Hold on to all of the happy memories over the years to help find peace. God bless.*

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**Dennis & Margaret Christensen** - July 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Wendy, Steve, Courtney, Meredith and the Connors Family,

*Our thoughts are with you and hope you know that we are thinking of you all this weekend...we are not able to be at the service, but hope you know that we all will hug our Dads a little tighter tonight.*

*Lisa, Dan and Danielle Jahnke*

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**Lisa Jahnke** - July 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ Dear family members:

*May the Lord bless you all with the peace and comfort only He can provide during this time of loss in your lives. Eternal rest grant unto James, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he now rest in the embracing peace of the risen Christ.*

*My prayers and love,  
Fr. Dino*

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**Fr. Dino Silvestrini** - July 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Dear Michael, Wendy, Jackie, Jay and your families.  
I am so very sorry for your loss. I have some good memories of Jim at the family parties and I hope your memories will help you at this difficult time. You are in my thoughts.  
Love and Peace  
Karen

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**Karen Bond** - July 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Dear family of Jim Conners, Our sympathy as you go through this difficult time. May God comfort and help each of you as you grieve the loss of your Dad/Grandpa/Brother.

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**Ray & Dolores LaFayette** - July 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Mike and Family,

*Please accept my sincere sympathy in the loss of your dad. During our high school days, I always knew that there would be an enjoyable political discussion with him and, of course, who can forget the 'campaigning' that we did for him?*

*Your dad always added to the fun at the cottage sleepovers with his shared stories and wisdom.*

*I hope that your happy memories will give you and your family some peace at this sad time. Unfortunately, the distance doesn't allow me to attend the services, but please know that you and your dad are in my thoughts.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jared (Lisa) Stanchina*

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**Jared Stanchina** - July 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Wendy, Jackie, Mike and families:

*Millie and I send our deepest sympathy at this sad time. You've all lost a dad and grandpa, and we've lost a very dear friend. Sadly, Millie and I will be away at our family reunion, so we cannot be there with you physically. Be assured that we will be there with you emotionally and spiritually.*

*We visited Jim up in Marquette in the spring, along with the Bietila's, and although he seemed to have failed a lot, there were moments when we believed he recognized us or knew that he was in the company of good friends.*

*Thanks for your sharing Jim all these years with us. Love, Jim and Millie Stearns*

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**Jim and Millie Stearns** - July 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NR

“ Dear Connors family:

*You have my deepest sympathy at the loss of your father. My thoughts and prayers are with you. My God help you through this difficult time. Sincerely, Norma Raboin*

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**Norma Raboin** - July 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM