



James S. Fontana

August 23, 1949 - April 20, 2018

James Steven Fontana, 68, of Iron Mountain, MI, died Friday, April 20, 2018 at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain.

He was born August 23, 1949 in Iron Mountain, son of Joseph and Frances (Larson) Fontana. Jim graduated from Kingsford High School and went on to attend Northern Michigan University on a full art scholarship. He served in the US Army and was stationed in Alaska

Jim was first and foremost an artist. He was a very accomplished painter and guitar player. He loved spending time with family. Whether hunting, fishing, rooting for the Packers, or sitting around a table of homemade Italian food he had a big smile.

Golf was his passion and he is certainly golfing in heaven today.

He is survived by one sister, Kay Steinbrecher of Norway, MI and one brother, Peter (Annette) Fontana of Faithorn, MI; six nieces and nephews, Joseph Fontana, David (Sherry) Fontana, Matthew (Nora) Fontana, Nicole Verrette, Maria (Nick) Rowell and Peter Fontana; two great nieces and a nephew, Ashly Fontana, Haley Steinbrecher, Marcus Verrette, and Joseph Verrette; one great-great niece, Paisley Fontana.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by three brothers, Joseph, Mark and Thomas Fontana and one half sister, Rosalie Bailey.

Graveside services will be held at 1:00 pm Friday, April 27, 2018 at Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain. Pastor Paul Strom from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his memory.

Condolences to the family of James S. Fontana may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family of James S. Fontana 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

Tribute Wall

JH

“ James was a student of mine at NMU in my printmaking classes.....he was a dedicated student and did some wonderful lithos in my class. I just learned today of his passing, and so I am late in posting this. A wonderful guy who brought me some deer stakes to take home and eat.....bless him. It was a joy to have him as one of my students.....

john hubbard - November 23, 2024 at 11:51 AM

BH

“ Jim was my man for 3 years...
I miss him very much..
I would like to know where his grave is if that's okay.. prayers for family.

Barbara Hull - August 11, 2022 at 02:16 PM

DH

“ I think I have this correct, a little history first. I arrived in Iron Mountain January 1969 flying for Orion Airways on mail routes out of IMT, of course I met the Fontana family and Fontana Aviation. Orion was replaced by Fontana Avition on the mail routes and I went to work for Fontana Aviation, and if I'm correct James was pumping gas for the Co aircraft. So Tom was WX observer and Joe was chief pilot until Joe was an aircraft accident and Mark took over Co. Is this correct? Oh yes those were leaning times, I leaned flying while working for the Fontana's. My aircraft was N73FA BE H18. Those were some fine times. So God bless to James family.
Daniel F. Hutchens

Daniel F. Hutchens - May 04, 2018 at 11:17 AM

TB

“ My sincerest condolences to Jim’s family - what a surprise to hear of his passing. Jim and I were good buddies in high school (back in the ‘60’s - wow!) - we all hung out with Pete Calo, John Barkle & others. Jim was always fun to be around and was creative, adventurous, spontaneous and was a genuine friend. I left Iron Mtn-Kingsford in the early 70’s and never returned but the precious memories will always remain.

Tom Briggs
San Antonio, TX

tom briggs - April 29, 2018 at 05:39 PM

BK

“ It’s been many years since we’ve crossed paths, but Jim was a friend who you only needed to meet once or twice and would never forget. Great person with a genuinely infectious glow! RIP Jimmy.

Bill Kauper, Carefree, AZ

Bill Kauper - April 26, 2018 at 08:17 PM

DA

“ Very sorry to see this news today; Jim was a friend in the early days and was always a positive and kind soul to his friends. My sympathies to all. Darcy Geronimi McKenzie, Va. Beach, Va.

darcy - April 26, 2018 at 10:59 AM