



James O. Friendewey

May 3, 1923 - April 7, 2021

James O. Friendewey, local businessman and civic leader, died on April 7th, 2021, at Florence Health Services while recuperating from a recent fall. He was 97 years old, 26 days from his 98th birthday. He was a resident of Evergreen Assisted Living in Kingsford and had been a longtime resident of Iron Mountain.

Friendewey's contributions to the civic life of the area included his membership in the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Lions Club, for which he served as president. He was also elected district governor of the Lions for the Upper Peninsula and was elected International Director. Friendewey was also active in the Industrial Development Corporation, which promoted the recruitment and support of local industrial businesses. He was a member of the St. Mary and St. Joseph parish and served on the school board for its school. Friendewey was a longtime member of Pine Grove Country Club.

James Orville Friendewey was born in Detroit on May 3rd, 1923. His parents gave him the middle name Orville to honor the pioneering aviator, a decision that would be prescient. Friendewey attended public schools in Detroit, including Cass Tech, and graduated from Hazel Park High School. After high school, Friendewey enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was accepted for flight officers training and became a U.S. Marine Corps torpedo bomber pilot in the Pacific theater of World War II. His first action was anti-submarine patrol during the battle of Iwo Jima.

After the war, Frendewey took advantage of the G.I. Bill to attend Michigan Tech in Houghton, where he graduated in 1949 with a degree in mining engineering. It was there that he met and married his wife, Rose Monticello of Franklin Mine (deceased 2002). After graduation, Frendewey took positions in copper mining operations in Kellogg, Idaho, and Bisbee, Arizona, where his sons James, Jr., and David were born. He later moved to a mining company on the Minnesota Mesabi Iron Range. The family settled in Hibbing, where his daughter Pamela and son Craig were born. He took a position with Abe Mathews Engineering Company in its sales division, Northern Mining Equipment Company. In 1960, he established a branch office in Iron Mountain. Frendewey bought out the Iron Mountain branch and ran it as the independent mining equipment business Northland Equipment and Supply.

It was during his first few years in Iron Mountain that Frendewey had a small role in the history of area snowmobiling. In the early 1960s, Northern Mining sold a rudimentary snowmobile called the Trailmaker, which was introduced by Abe Mathews, a member of the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame. Frendewey was very likely the first person to drive a snowmobile across the frozen surface of Lake Antoine, to the astonishment of local ice fishermen.

Survivors include his four children, nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and his beloved companion in later life, Sue Reath of Grand Rapids.

A funeral mass will be held at 10:00 am on Monday, April 12, 2021 at St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. Fr. Janusz Romanek will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. The Uren-Cooper-Johnson American Legion Post 50 will conduct military graveside honors at Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain following the mass.

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

The family 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

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

APR **12**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church
414 Prospect Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Dear Frendewey Family:

So sorry to hear about Jim's passing. I came to know Jim beginning in 1984 when we were both on the Board of Lions Clubs International. He was always an engaging conversationalist, and made many contributions to Lions Clubs International throughout his life. His many years of service, not only to Lions but also to other community organizations and the nation, will forever be remembered.

A long life well lived.

*Judge Brian Stevenson
Past International President (1987-1988)
Lions Clubs International*

Brian Stevenson - July 13, 2021 at 06:24 PM

SL

“ Dear Frendewey Family,

We were very sorry to hear about the recent terribly sad loss of James. We know he will be sorely missed.

Please accept our deepest condolences at this most difficult time.

We will keep your family in our prayers.

Yours sincerely,

*PID Somsakdi and Somran Lovisuth
LC of Bangkok Cosmopolitan*

Somsakdi Lovisuth - July 12, 2021 at 09:43 PM

MM

“ Whenever I saw your father at Evergreen he had the most wonderful smile! He always was interested in what was going on in our community. He was a very kind and gracious man.

Martee Mendini-Trepanier - April 14, 2021 at 09:46 PM

SM

“ Deepest sympathy & May God comfort you all - the gift of Easter is our constant reminder!

Sandy Meier - April 13, 2021 at 05:27 PM

AC

“ So sorry to hear about your dad's passing ❤️ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. So many great memories of your mom and dad . Always such fun to be around 😊 Love and prayers
Anne and Don Swanson

Anne Swanson Chritz - April 13, 2021 at 03:30 PM

AS

“ I was sorry to hear about the passing of your father. I wanted to attend the service today but had to be at work as we were having a Covid vaccine clinic. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Art Spera

Art Spera - April 12, 2021 at 10:21 PM

KM

“ Kelly Mendini lit a candle in memory of James O. Frendewey



Kelly Mendini - April 10, 2021 at 05:18 PM

KM

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the family.
June Izzo and
Kathy Izzo Maynard*

kathy maynard - April 10, 2021 at 03:54 PM

TA

“ *Terry L Awrey lit a candle in memory of
James O. Frendewey*



terry L awrey - April 10, 2021 at 02:56 PM

MM

“ *All of the Frendewey family - spouse, children, and grandchildren -
were blessed to have a father with the many Christian virtues he
always demonstrated. May God rest his soul and may all of his
family and friends recall wonderful memories.*

Mike Mlinar - April 10, 2021 at 09:09 AM

GS

“ *I always knew you father as a friendly, modest, and fun-loving
person. Always a welcoming smile on his face. I had no idea that he
played such a large role as part of the greatest generation. A life
well lived.*

My deepest condolences to all of the Frendewey family.

Gary Swanson

Gary Swanson - April 10, 2021 at 08:59 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James O. Frendewey.



April 09, 2021 at 02:40 PM



“ Scott & Carrie Dietrich purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James O. Frendewey.



Scott & Carrie Dietrich - April 09, 2021 at 01:59 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of James O. Frendewey.



April 09, 2021 at 11:51 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James O. Frendewey.



April 09, 2021 at 11:38 AM

CS

“ *Champion Charter Sales & Service purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of James O. Frendewey.*



Champion Charter Sales & Service - April 09, 2021 at 11:23 AM