



## James K. Kerkela

September 22, 1941 - February 14, 2018

James K. Kerkela, 76, of Kingsford, passed away on February 14, 2018 at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain.

James was born on September 22, 1941 in Republic, MI, son of the late Arne and Aili (Carlson) Kerkela. He was raised in Republic and was a 1959 graduate of Republic High School. James joined the United States Army in 1962 and served in Korea until his honorable discharge in 1965. Jim worked as a diesel mechanic at Cummins diesel for over thirty six years, retiring in 2001. He married Roberta Larson on October 23, 1981 in Iron Mountain. He was a member of the U.P. Whitetails organization and enjoyed attending their fund raising banquets. Jim loved to hunt and fish. He spent lots of time with family and friends at hunting camp in Republic. He also enjoyed times with family at the cottage at Cosgrove Lake. Jim was an expert mechanic and all around handyman who could fix everything. He took great pride in his flower gardens. Jim especially loved spending time with his children and grand children.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Roberta; his children, Leah Kerkela of Kingsford, Kevin Kerkela of Phoenix, AZ and Ricky Hixon of Cedar Rapids, IA; brother, Robert (Nancy) Kerkela of Republic; sisters, Dorothy Heinonen of Republic, Shirley Martin of Washington State, Bernice (Kenny) Hannula of Hurley, WI, Darlene Kerkela of Ishpeming and Donna Mattila of

Republic; grandchildren, Mary Lee (John) Greer and Lisa (Matt) Flynn; six great grandchildren; sisters in law, Lauren (Bob) Demko of Aurora and Judy (Guy) Doda of Spread Eagle. Also by many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, James was preceded in death by his sister, Diane Kerkela and brothers in law, Elmer Heinonen, Dale Martin and Jay Mattila.

The family will receive friends from 11:00am-1:00pm Monday, Feb. 19th at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain.

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

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

# Previous Events

## Gathering

FEB **19**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home

901 Carpenter Avenue

Iron Mountain, MI 49801

(906) 774-7676

[nashfuneralhome@gmail.com](mailto:nashfuneralhome@gmail.com)

<https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ Our sympathy to all of Jim's family. Ray had many good times with Jimmy at the Big Fence Camp. May happy memories bring you comfort and peace.  
Ray and Brenda Mattson

---

**Ray and Brenda Mattson** - February 19, 2018 at 08:11 PM

MT

“ Dear Berta, I was so sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Mary Trombley

---

**Mary Trombley** - February 18, 2018 at 07:30 AM

JV

“ Jim sorry to have you leave us.  
We had a lots of good times together I'm sorry and was surprise to here about .

---

**James Voegtline** - February 16, 2018 at 10:10 PM

CA

“ Kevin, Sorry to hear of your fathers passing. Its never easy to lose a parent but I hope good memories will help to ease your loss. My deepest sympathy to you and all of your family. Chris Alberti

---

**Chris Alberti** - February 15, 2018 at 10:14 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James K. Kerkela.



---

February 15, 2018 at 03:09 PM