



James A. Klungness

February 23, 1927 - July 16, 2019

James Alan Klungness of Spread Eagle, Wisconsin died peacefully at home at the age of 92 on July 16th, 2019.

He is survived by his wife of 12 years, Jacqueline, of Spread Eagle; his son, Kraig Alan Klungness (Kate Alvord) and daughter, Barbara Klungness Anderson (Ron) both of Houghton; three grandchildren, Nelson Sommerfeldt (Melanie), Christine Sommerfeldt Cone (Josh) and Lorna Sommerfeldt (Bryan Quello); and three great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Verle Ruth Klungness who passed in January 2004.

Jim Klungness was born on February 23, 1927 to Thea and Alfred Klungness of Kingsford, Michigan. He graduated from Kingsford High School in 1944 and entered the US Navy during WWII, specializing in naval electronics. Upon discharge he attended Michigan Tech University in the Electrical Engineering program, graduating in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. In 1951 James married Verle Ruth Anderson, daughter of Ruth and Ivar Anderson of Iron Mountain.

After college Jim began managing his parent's business, K&G Appliance and Gas Co of Iron Mountain, and started Klungness Electronic Supply. As television became more popular, Jim became an early entrepreneur in the cable television industry, eventually serving a term as president of the

American Cable Television Association. In the early 1960's, James and his business partner, Charles Henry of Iron Mountain, built Iron Mountain's first cable TV system. They went on to found Cable Constructors Inc (CCI), which specialized in constructing cable TV systems regionally and eventually nationally. They also started American Microwave and Communications, which developed and owned cable TV and microwave transmission facilities in multiple regions. James and Charles also co-owned Superior Aviation and WMIQ Radio.

Jim had a great interest in and enthusiasm for supporting higher education. He was a member of the Iron Mountain Board of Education from 1967 through 1975, serving as its president for part of that time. He set up and funded ongoing scholarship programs at Michigan Tech University and Albion College, as well as providing direct financial support. James served on various project committees at Michigan Tech and was on the board of directors for Albion College. In 1999 he gave the commencement address at Michigan Tech and received an honorary PhD in Electrical Engineering.

Jim loved keeping a vegetable garden and thoroughly enjoyed the fresh produce it provided. He had a keen interest in architecture and enjoyed international travel.

A Celebration of Life will be held on July 22, 2019 between 1-3 PM at the Erichson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Please join us in remembrance of James Klungness.

In lieu of flowers we would love to have donations made to The Caring House of Iron Mountain and the local YMCA.

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

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

Cemetery Details

Cemetery Park

Cedar Ave
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **22.** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

SI

“ Jim was an Icon, that me and Doug looked up to; he was an extremely nice guy with a quick wit, he will be missed! Steve & Doug Isaacson (first cousins)

Steve Isaacson - July 20, 2019 at 06:05 PM

DF

“ Doug & Steve Isaacson and Families purchased the With Distinction for the family of James A. Klungness.



Doug & Steve Isaacson and Families - July 20, 2019 at 05:48 PM

JB

“ Our sympathy to the family of James Klungness. I, (Jim Brandt) worked at Cable Constructors for many years, with Jim and Charlie. Many good memories. Prayers for the family. Jim & Ruth Brandt

Jim & Ruth Brandt - July 18, 2019 at 06:57 PM

MG

“ Condolences to the Klungness family for your loss. Prayers, Marilyn Anderson Glover

Marilyn Glover - July 18, 2019 at 11:46 AM