



James R. Laydon

August 7, 1957 - January 26, 2022

James R. Laydon, 64, passed away at home on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, with his wife at his side.

Jim was born on August 7, 1957, in Iron Mountain, the son of Gordon and Delores (Rubbo) Laydon. He graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1975 and married his high school sweetheart, Mel (Applin) Laydon in 1977. Jim attended Lake Superior College, graduating in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He furthered his education, earning his Master of Business Administration from California Polytechnic University. Jim founded his own company, Laydon Technology, Inc., and worked out of his home for many years as a Design Engineer. He was currently employed at Trident Maritime Systems, LLC, as Director of Production Services.

Jim served on the Iron Mountain School Board for 4 years and was a founding member of the first IMHS Academic Booster Club. He helped initiate the F.I.R.S.T. Club, an investment club, 25 years ago. Jim enjoyed his monthly meetings and in spite of themselves, the group was able to eke out a small gain over the years. His co-members have said they will not only miss his role in the spirited and lively discussions during their meetings, but also his lead in the many adventures that occurred after.

Jim was an avid supporter of the soccer programs, coaching at the high school level, but more intensively for the Niagara Northern Stars Soccer Club for over 15 years, serving as the current president since 2018. He was passionate to pass the love and knowledge of the game onto so many over the years and gave of his time freely to assist anyone who wanted to improve their skills. He spent countless hours on the road supporting his grandson and the game he loved. He also was a huge Manchester United fan, rooting them on in every match.

Above all, Jim was first and foremost, a family man. His wife, children and grandchildren meant the world to him. He attended all sporting events and he thrived on intense competition with Gavyn in a game of Casino and challenged Ryken in every board game possible. He passed along his love of camp and nature onto his whole family, with a tremendous amount of time spent by a campfire and enjoying family meals and cookouts. He enjoyed traveling to see his daughter, Ashlie as often as he could. He crossed many people's path in life, whether it was work-related or doing what he enjoyed, but he had a lasting impact on them with his kindness, generosity and good-hearted nature.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Mel Laydon of Iron Mountain; his son, Adam (Danielle) Laydon of Iron Mountain; his daughter, Ashlie Laydon (Garren Andrews) of Bingen, WA; his grandsons, Gavyn and Ryken Laydon; and his brother, John Laydon of Spread Eagle.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Delores and Gordon Laydon.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to a cause near and dear to Jim's heart - The Niagara Northern Stars Soccer Club, P.O. Box 303, Niagara, WI 54151.

Visitation will be held 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Services will follow at 12:00 pm at the funeral home. Rev. Kevin Sullivan will officiate. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

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

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

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

FEB 1. 12:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Avenue
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-7676
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall

DM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Some original members of the academic booster club at Iron Mountain School, in a photo from 1999 -- from left, in front are Brian Truesdell, Lisa Biele, William Yavette and

Diane Schirk McKinnon - February 28 at 04:52 PM

DM

Photo published in the Daily News 2-27-2026

Diane Schirk McKinnon - February 28 at 09:58 PM

RU

“ *To the Family of Jim Laydon*

*I first met Jimmy at Eagle Tool back in the 1980's. He had a wealth of knowledge in the tool making industry that I still use today. He was one of the best tooling engineers that I have ever met, and am very proud to have worked under his direction. I also worked with Jimmy at Kingsford Broach for some time when he was plant manager. Always a pleasure to work with and joke around. I have a lot of great memories of him!
RIP Jimmy you will greatly be missed by many.*



Robert Uren - February 05, 2022 at 01:07 PM

DI

“ *Mel and family—
My heartfelt condolences
May you find comfort and peace in treasured memories that live in
your hearts forever.
Diane McKinnon*

Diane - February 04, 2022 at 08:28 PM

SP

“ *Where to start ? From when we first moved into the neighborhood
and we're welcomed by the Laydon family. To Jim walking Sadie
and us leaving a plate out (that Sadie looked for when rounding the
path) to Remmie leading the walks. Jim and I having neighbor
shares and we would talk for hours about camp, grandchildren, and
work. He was so happy with life. He was truly a great asset to this
community!! As he leaves us with many happy memories and
sorrow, I know that Sadie and Remmie will be happy to reunite !!
Heaven has another Angel. Our condolences to the family.
RIP Jim*

Scott and Brenda Pancheri - February 01, 2022 at 09:12 PM

BV

“ *I had the opportunity to know Jimmy as a friend of his older brother
during our high school years. It warms my heart to see what an
inspirational father, husband, and friend he became. My sincerest
condolences to the Laydon family*

Bruce Voelker - February 01, 2022 at 12:29 PM

TG

“ I have been in the maritime industry for 25 years, and I can honestly say that working with Jim was one of the best experiences I've had. Down to earth, fun to be around, engaging, and most importantly, a good man you could trust. I will truly miss working with Jim.

Business trips to the UP were never complete without going out with Jim, having a few beers, downing some cheese curds, and listening to Jim's stories. Whether he was bragging about the fish he caught, the buck he shot, or how awesome his grandkids are, his stories always uplifted and made you feel like a life-long friend. A humble man who always amazed you with how much he actually knew, and how much he had accomplished throughout his life both at work and at home. I will miss you Jim.

Fair winds and Following Seas.

*Troy Gosswiller
GD NASSCO, San Diego*

Troy Gosswiller - February 01, 2022 at 09:32 AM

ST

“ Dear Mel and family,

My sympathies to all of you, I know Jim will be dearly missed by all. Jim and I worked together for 3 years at IMECO, and we kept in touch periodically since I left there 8 years ago. It was a pleasure to know him as a coworker, but more importantly as a person. I got to know Jim on a personal level when we travelled together a few times for work assignments. I could tell that his family and community meant a lot to him, especially when he would talk about his grandkids and family, serving on the school board, etc.

*Steve Tarnowski
Calumet, MI*

Steve Tarnowski - January 31, 2022 at 04:07 PM

GM

“ *Mel & Family,
I have known Jim for over 31 years both within out outside of work. There is not much that I can say that others haven't already expressed. I can tell you that every time we were together after work or after hours while on assignment for work, Jim never missed a day to talk glowingly about his family, Mel, kids and grandkids!! Kim also knew Jim for over 31 years, mostly at work, and had nothing but great things to say about his knowledge, professionalism and his friendly, caring personality. We will miss him and there is a large hole in humanity now.*

All our love,

Kim & Gary Merrill

Gary & Kim Merrill - January 31, 2022 at 03:42 PM

DM

“ *Jim and I worked together at Trident on many different projects and different roles. Not only was Jim a knowledgeable and professional co-worker, he was personable and fun to be around. I enjoyed Jim's stories about family and friends from Iron Mountain. We will miss Jim tremendously as a business associate but mostly as a friend.*

David Madigan - January 31, 2022 at 01:44 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of James R. Laydon.*



January 31, 2022 at 01:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James R. Laydon.*



January 31, 2022 at 11:15 AM



“ *Dozens of us here in Bath, Maine got to work with Jim as he participated in developing and testing the DDG1000 electric steering system. Jim was a major force in getting the SGAS design completed and that first-of-a-kind ship to sea. While most of us never got to see Jim in his element back there in WI, it will surprise none of us that he was a wonderful family man who was giving in many aspects of life. He will be missed by all of us fortunate enough to have known him. Fair winds and following seas, Jim.*

chris - January 31, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James R. Laydon.*



January 31, 2022 at 10:20 AM

GS

“ The Jim I knew co-sponsored the soccer team above. There are many people who love soccer and cheer for their team, but few took it to the level Jim did. He was supportive with his time and resources. Without Jim that team would not have had the chance to take the pitch and continue to play even after outgrowing the SAY league. I remember thinking at the time that it was a special league to be part of because everyone there was thankful just to play. Some of us even came back from college to play. It remains one of the best soccer memories I have.

In fact, many soccer memories I have can be attributed in some way to Jim. He and Mel would drive four of us to Green Bay, about 100 miles, because it was the closest U19 team we could find. Without Jim and Mel driving through bad weather and listening to books on tape the four of us wouldn't have had that opportunity. It wasn't all somber chauffeuring though. After one tournament Jim happily stopped near by Lake Michigan so I could foolishly fulfill my boast to jump into the freezing cold waters. On another trip it was just the boys. We begged to eat at the “family restaurant” with the “good chicken wings” and he obliged even though he was obviously less than interested. I think watching us crash and burn with the server was worth it to him.

I know I am not alone in remembering a man with a great sense of humor, who loved his family and friends and was willing to step up when the community needed his help. Thank you Jim. I will remember and pay it forward as best I can.



George Stone - January 30, 2022 at 05:41 PM

AZ

“ April Luthardt & Steve Zadora purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of James R. Laydon.



April Luthardt & Steve Zadora - January 30, 2022 at 12:05 PM

TB

“ My condolences to Mel and family. Jim will be missed. I was shocked to hear this news on Friday. He was an awesome coworker at IMECO (TMS), there was never a dull moment with Jim (he always made you laugh).

Terri B - January 30, 2022 at 12:41 AM

SM

“ Mel and family,
So sad to see Jim passed away...many years ago we shared some classes in high school and what I remember the most is how genuinely nice he was to others. Sending prayers your way.
Sandy (Granquist) Meier

sandy meier - January 29, 2022 at 08:00 PM

MK

“ Jim was always a positive force for the community and well informed on so many aspects of life. He always added to long discussions on community and world issues with wit and intelligence. He was a crack shot when it came to ruffed grouse hunting and held his own with some pretty intimidating smear players at camp. He enjoyed life and always had a smile, he will be missed. My condolences to Mel and the kids on Jim's sudden passing.

Mike Kusz

Michael Kusz - January 29, 2022 at 07:09 PM

TF

“ Mel, Adam & Family,

We are deeply saddened to hear of Jim's passing. While we have only know Jim a few years through Northern Stars, the impact and dedication he had for the teams were immeasurable. He will be deeply missed. Our sympathies to you all.

The Adam Family - January 29, 2022 at 07:06 PM

Alan
Karna

“ I remember my second day at IMECO. Flew into Maine after missing the first flight, the second flight getting delayed, and now coming in the middle of the night to a place I'd never been, no luggage (it came on a different flight). I couldn't find the place and Jim guided me to the company's rental over the phone. The next day he showed me the rooes of the job. He was always helpful like that, had a great sense of humor about it, and was a very hard worker. He never seemed to stop, but always full of energy and a positive attitude. He made the job bearable no matter what else was going on. My condolences to the whole Laydon family. He will be missed by a lot of people.

Alan Karna - January 29, 2022 at 05:23 PM

RJ

“ Mel and family, what a shocker!

I'm remembering the many times and ways Jim and I crossed paths over the years. Recall all as positive, constructive and friendly as we tackled different problems together and shared conversations about areas of common interest.

My sincere condolences.

Jim Debelak

RJD - January 29, 2022 at 12:09 PM

GP

“ I worked with Jim at Eagle Tool and he schooled me creating programs using computers. He was a much needed friend. God Bless Jim. Amen

Gary Proudfit - January 29, 2022 at 11:38 AM

KK

“ *Mel, Adam, and Family,*

We are deeply saddened to hear of Jim's passing. He was a lifelong friend and camp neighbor (along with Gordy) who will be greatly missed. Our deepest condolences to you and your family.

*Sincerely,
The Kazianka Family*

Kevin Kazianka - January 29, 2022 at 09:47 AM

WW

“ *Mel I am so very sorry. Blessings and prayers. Jim was a wonderful friend and man.*

Wendy Welch - January 29, 2022 at 09:45 AM

TS

“ *Jim was an awesome man. What a tragic loss to his family and our community, especially our soccer community. I don't believe I've ever seen a more giving individual. I was devastated hearing this news yesterday.*

Rip Jim. I'm pretty sure you were sent to the Pre-check line when you arrived at the gates!!

Tom Sullivan - January 29, 2022 at 09:23 AM

SB

“ We are shocked and terribly saddened. Jim always had an infectious laugh and was full of positive energy! We loved seeing him out in the neighborhood as we tried to keep our dogs under control! He was a huge part of growing soccer in Iron Mountain and leaves a wonderful legacy in so many players he coached. Mel, Adam and Ashlie, please know we are thinking of you and remembering Jim with so much love. -Dave and Steph Brule

Stephanie Brule - January 29, 2022 at 09:18 AM

AS

“ Jim (Dad) was an awesome person, I will always remember him happy and full of joy! There are so many memories with him and the entire Laydon family. I was so lucky to have them as my host family and they will always be in my heart. The world lost a wonderful man. Thoughts and prayer for the family.

Astrid - January 29, 2022 at 08:37 AM

DH

“ Oh no! Mel I am so sorry. Prayers for you and your family

Diane Hulbert - January 29, 2022 at 07:08 AM

NW

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. All my love and support to your family!

Naida Weinert - January 29, 2022 at 07:02 AM

KB

“ I am praying for you, Mel, and your family. I am so sorry. Blessed to have chit chatted with both of you at our grandson's Halloween parade this past year and caught up on our lives happenings. Please give me a call sometime. I am here when you need to just talk or hang out. Jim was an awesome man. I cannot imagine what you are going through. My blessings!

Kathy Borkowski - January 28, 2022 at 09:57 PM

JJ

“ Nothing worse then losing one of your best friends. So many memories from Smokey lake, fishing trip to Canada with brother John and Lenny, late night early/morning road trips around camp and arguing about which color of johnnie Walker was best! Always joked about how I was the third brother. I'll never forget you brother!!!!

jim - January 28, 2022 at 09:50 PM

KS

“ Mel and Family, I am so very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Kris Solda

Kris Solda - January 28, 2022 at 09:30 PM

MP

“ We knew JIM as a devoted son to his parents, our neighbors and friends Gordy and Dee. A wonderful, caring family man, father, and grand father. Our love to his wife and family.

mike and Mary pini - January 28, 2022 at 08:03 PM