



## James Merritt

July 2, 1933 - October 26, 2012

James A. "Jim" Merritt, 79, of Niagara, passed away on Friday, October 26, 2012 at Bellin Hospital in Green Bay with family at his side.

Jim was born July 2, 1933 in Oconto, WI, son of the late Floyd and Violet (Boes) Merritt. He graduated from Niagara High School and was a resident of the area for most of his life. Jim was a U.S. Marine Corp Veteran of the Korean War was awarded several decorations & citations for his service to our country which included the U.N. Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with 3 stars, the National Defense Service Medal and a Purple Heart for being wounded in action. He was an extremely proud veteran who never left the house without his Marine Corp hat and jacket and lived by the words, "once a marine, always a marine". Jim married Jean M. Provencher on August 28, 1954 in Niagara, and they spent 58 wonderful years together. Jim was employed at the Niagara Paper Mill for almost 40 years, retiring in 1994. He was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Niagara and in his early years was in the Knights of Columbus. Jim was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. He was also a big Wisconsin Badgers and Green Bay Packers fan. Jim had an appreciation for antiques and collectables and enjoyed frequenting rummage sales to see what he might find. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and will be greatly missed by all.

Jim is survived by his wife, Jean; five children, Julie (Roger) Lantagne of Green Bay, Jeff (Cathy) Merritt of Sobieski, WI, Jay (Amy) Merritt of Quinnesec, Janice Merritt of Green Bay and Jodi (Reiny) Merritt-Klingeisen of Sobieski; seven grandchildren, Brad Lantagne of Los Angeles, CA, Christopher Wallace of Green Bay, Kendra Merritt of Green Bay, JoLee & Jonah Klingeisen of Sobieski, Briana Kemnitz of Niagara and Zach Kemnitz of Quinnesec; four great grandchildren, Evalyn, Alexis, & Chandler Wallace and Syhe Kemnitz; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two infant daughters, Cynthia Marie and Barbara Jean Merritt; a brother, Harlan Merritt; and a sister, Marietta Harke.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Niagara. A funeral mass will follow at 12:00 noon at the church. Fr. Matt Settle will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in the Niagara Cemetery. The American Legion Post 50 will conduct military graveside honors.

The family would like to thank the caring doctors, nurses and staff of Dickinson County Memorial Hospital, Bellin Hospital and Unity Hospice for the excellent care given to Jim.

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

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **30**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church  
1432 River St.  
Niagara, WI 54151

## Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **30**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church  
1432 River St.  
Niagara, WI 54151

# Tribute Wall

DT

“ Jean and Family,  
I am praying that God will comfort you in this difficult time for your family.

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**Damian Taff** - October 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ My sincerest condolences are sent to all . Jim was a wonderful man who enjoyed so much in life , was a loving husband and fathered such wonderful children. I cannot make his funeral as I will be working, but wanted each of you to know how very sorry I am to hear of his passing.

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**Heidi Phillips - Niagara, WI - friend** - October 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Jean and family,  
  
My thoughts and prayers are with you Family is so important. There will forever be an empty spot in your lives but I know that Jim is filling a void in the hereafter and will always be with you in spirit. It's been many years since I visited Niagara but my memories of Niagara will always be of the friends that filled my life. The Merritt family is a part of those fond memories.

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**Mary Smith-Giffel** - October 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Jay, very sad to read the news of your father's passing. Melanie & my prayers are with you & the entire Merritt family. You have our deepest sympathy as I know this is a difficult time. May your dad rest in peace.

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**Mike Sarder - Barnwell, SC - Friend** - October 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Jay,

*My sincere condolences to you and your family at the passing of your father. Father's are suppose to be strong, determined and invincible men to their children. It is not an easy thing to experience when that invincible force is no longer here. In reading your father's obituary, I see he was a very strong and committed man to both his family and our country. A proud American and hard worker. The father of 5-children and an avid outdoorsman. What a wonderful example for those who knew him and what a beautiful legacy of life he leaves in the hearts of your family.*

*Take pride in the life your father led and comfort in the heavenly view he has as you continue your journey in life. Honor him with a wonderful life!*

*All my best,*

*Michelle*

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**Michelle Kolbas - co-worker of Jay Merritt** - October 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Dear Jean and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and we send our sympathy and love to you at this time. Call if you are ever in Green Bay Please take care of yourselves love*  
*9HAvZ*

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**Rose Marie Forrest - Green Bay, WI - High school friend** - October 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM