



Jeffrey "Jake" Champeau

September 9, 1954 - April 13, 2018

Jeffrey "Jake" Champeau,

Jeff was born on September 9, 1954 in Iron Mountain. He was the third child of the late Joseph and June (Deau) Champeau. His eternal life began on Friday, April 13, 2018. Jeff lived his life to the fullest during his sixty-three years with us.

The '73 graduate met the love of his life Laura Sielaff while in Niagara High School. Marrying her on January 26, 1974 was not only a promise to God, but a promise to their future family. Forty-four years of marriage would not be complete without their three children: Jennifer, Joseph and Kimberly.

Busy fishing, hunting, making sausage, traveling, bowling, watching ball games, he always had time to give his children and grand-children life lessons. No matter if it was a Packer's win or a Vikings' loss, the score prediction or a political matter, he would always say "I knew it already". He loved salmon fishing and sharing his expertise. "And another thing", Jeff always knew what to do and how to do it. Hunting and spending time at camp with his son and grandson in the fall was another passion that Jeff always looked forward to. "I will tell ya what" his greatest joy was spending time with his family and friends.

Jake started at the Niagara Paper Mill and later worked for Verso Paper Company and retired as an HR41 coordinator in 2014. Through the years of work, he made many long-lasting friendships. A year later, he decided to share his knowledge and expertise with Niagara Fabrication as a part-time HR/Safety coordinator. He was a member of St. Anthony's Church and was currently the Grand Knight in the Knights of Columbus. Over the years, he has been very active in the Niagara community.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Laura; his children, Jennifer (Nicholas) Huotari of Breitung Twp., Joseph (Shanna) Champeau of Niagara and Kimberly (Bradley) Dumke of Niagara; brother, Terry "Shine" (Sally) Champeau of Iron Mountain; sisters, Cheri (Terry) Sweig of Niagara, Debbie Tauriainen of Niagara and Mary (Bob Anderson) Flatka of Tomahawk, WI; grandchildren, Mercedes and Bentley Huotari, Camryn, Elsa and Aiva Champeau, Preston, Alexander, Brent and Noah Dumke; brothers in law, David (Judy) Sielaff of Granite Bluff and Gary Sielaff of Las Vegas, NV; sisters in law, Peggy (John) Buchanan of Niagara and Mary (Bernie) Silverstorf of Norfolk, VA; extended daughter, Paulina Godlewska of Poland; extended grandchildren, Cilia Reusser of Switzerland, Tim Gaedtke of Germany, Pietro Graziani of Italy and Leon Liebholz of Germany; special friends: Michael Darne of Niagara, Jacob Neuens of Niagara, and Bill "Father" Sweeting of Amberg and many other friends. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

His work here is done. He received a call, an offer he couldn't refuse, for a fishing trip from which he will not be returning. This angling comes with a huge sign-on bonus, a reunion with his parents and sister, Nancy Champeau that he has not seen in a long time. As well as, his brother in law, Clyde Tauriainen.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, April 18th from 9:00am to 12:00noon at

St. Anthony's Church in Niagara. Funeral services will follow at 12:00noon on Wednesday at the church. Fr. Matthew Settle will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Jeffrey Champeau online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com. The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 18. 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

TB

“ Hey Guys,

I am So Sorry for your loss! Always enjoyed hanging out with "Mr. Champeau"- What a great person!

Will keep you all in my Prayers. Tony Broullire

Tony Broullire - April 23, 2018 at 03:52 PM

GM

“ Jeff was a good friend and we had many good times together when we were young. He had a great heart and often showed how he cared about others. My sympathy to his entire family.

Gary Morstad

Gary Morstad - April 19, 2018 at 10:15 AM

KM

“ I am sorry to learn of Jeff's passing. I called last Fall to chat with him and he was away, fishing. He was a kind person. I pray that God gives you strength and healing in the days to follow.

*Sincerely,
Kim Griffin McDonell*

Kim Griffin McDonell - April 18, 2018 at 08:23 PM

DM

“ We are deeply sorry about the loss of Jake. As you grieve, know that we are remembering and honoring him. One of my fondest memories was during our younger years at the Champeau household. Jake and I decided to make maple syrup in the basement. Of course, that is a task that is made easier with a couple of beers. Needless to say, we kicked the table over with the coleman stove on it, lit the main support beam in the basement on fire and darn near burned the house down. I have many fond memories of our younger days and I extend my sympathy to all of the Champeaus- Laurie and family. -Dean (and Betty) Morstad

Dean Morstad - April 18, 2018 at 08:57 AM

JB

“ In the Spring of 1989 I showed up in the Lobby of the Quinnesec Mill to start a new job and met Jake Champeau. I had the privilege of working alongside of Jake for the next 16 years. Jake was a good friend and a key leader and contributor at the mill. There was a lot to like about Jake but three things stand out. First Jake loved to laugh and have fun even if it meant doing crazy stuff like dressing up as one of Santa's Elves. Jake also was always willing to help out both at the mill as well as outside of it. Finally Jake had tenacity and courage. He never saw a problem or challenge that couldn't be overcome and he often had some very good ideas on how to resolve it. He once told me that "there ain't no quite in Jake".

I will miss Jake Champeau.

John Bastian

John Bastian - April 18, 2018 at 08:35 AM

SJ

“ We are very sorry for your loss. we share a lot of great memories with Jeff--all the soccer games.He was a great person--He will be greatly missed.

Shirley, Duane, Jocelyn Johnson

shirley johnson - April 17, 2018 at 09:20 PM

 Amy
Corson

“ We remember all the fun times we had when the whole Champeau family came to the farm to get chickens, eggs, beef, and whatever was ready in the garden. Our sympathy to the whole family from the Stoltenburg girls from Concord, WI

Amy Corson - April 17, 2018 at 08:29 PM

 Bruce
Darne

“ What fond memories we have of our dear friend Jeff. When I was first diagnosed with cancer, Jeff spent many hours at the hospital with my brother Mike watching over me- for this I am eternally grateful. When we said goodbye to Jeff on Thursday before he passed away, he told us that he was going to be alright and we told him that he definitely was going to be. Jeff will be truly missed by all of us as he was such a delightful person that was always willing to share his experiences and his great grilling techniques! Rest easy brother! I am now counting on you to prepare the way for me when it is my time to go home. Love you so much!

Bruce Darne

Bruce Darne - April 17, 2018 at 06:40 PM

MC

“ To the entire family, my deepest condolences in your time of loss. What a beautiful tribute to a fine and wonderful man. What a legacy he leaves behind...he will be with you in another way..God bless and welcome his soul into new beginning...he will still be with you always....

Michael La Count

michael a la count - April 17, 2018 at 01:12 PM



“ To the family of Jeff, my condolences to you on Jeff's passing. My memories of Jeff are and will always be his presence of volunteerism for numerous events throughout the Niagara community. Jeff was an amazing individual that I am glad I got to know. He may be gone but never forgotten.

Scott Pancheri

Scott Pancheri - April 17, 2018 at 08:42 AM

KO

“ Laurie and the family, my deepest, deepest sympathy to you all. May Jeff rest in peace and be embraced in the open arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May God guide you and help you find peace during this most difficult time. God Bless Jake. God's Speed.

Kathy O'Connell

Kathy O'Connell - April 16, 2018 at 04:35 PM



Rick
Henrichs

My deepest sympathy to your family! May God lift Jeff up into his loving arms! God's peace to you all at this difficult time, God Bless, Rick Henrichs family...

Rick Henrichs - April 16, 2018 at 09:43 PM

LR

Our sympathy and prayers are sent to you today and in the days ahead. Jeff was a wonderful husband and father, his memory will live on in all of you!

Linda Rostagno - April 16, 2018 at 10:04 PM

EW

So sorry for the loss of a wonderful man. Beautiful obituary in his honor. Prayers for the family and friends. May your faith not be shaken.

Erin Wilkey - April 17, 2018 at 07:03 AM

SC

So sorry to hear of the loss of "Sarge". My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. Although I have not seen Jeff since high school I retain many fond childhood memories from BB gun fights with the "Hilltoppers" to drinking Schlitz in the woods. He was a joy to be around and will most assuredly be missed by all!

Steve Carr

Steve Carr - April 18, 2018 at 10:43 AM

BB

Jake always brought a smile when he stopped at our market. If fishing was bad there was still a funny story about the weather or another fisherman or boat trouble. He was pretty good about ribbing the other guys when he caught the biggest fish. (which he was good at). We heard stories about the family, how proud he was of the kids and grandkids. He was just a joy. May God's Peace be with you. Bearcat and Linda

Bearcat Berkovitz - April 19, 2018 at 08:57 PM