



Jeffry A. VanLaanen

March 20, 1956 - October 18, 2020

Jeffry A. VanLaanen, 64, of Iron Mountain, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, October 18, 2020 at Dickinson County Healthcare System in Iron Mountain.

Jeffry was born in Iron Mountain on March 20, 1956, son of the late A. Peter and Elizabeth “Beth” VanLaanen. He was a lifelong resident of the area graduating from Iron Mountain High School in 1974. Following graduation, Jeff worked at Dickinson Homes and the Tilden Mine. On June 10, 1978 Jeff married Ellen Rapaich at St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. After their wedding, Jeff and Ellen moved to Lansing while she attended medical school at MSU and he worked in the automobile industry. They returned to the area in 1982 and he took a position as office manager at Khoury, Inc. In 1986 as Jeff & Ellen started their family, he gladly gave up employment to be a stay at home dad. He found his greatest joy in caring for and educating his six children. As the family grew up and he had more time, he was always available to help family and friends with anything from watching children and pets to providing transportation for the medical appointments or vacations to just being available to fix anything. Jeff served on the Iron Mountain city council and was elected mayor for a period of time. His many hobbies included tending to the family farm, ATV riding and camping trips with friends and family.

Jeff was preceded in death by his father in 1991, and his mother in 2018.

Left to cherish his memory are wife, Dr. Ellen VanLaanen of Iron Mountain; children, Hannah (Sonny) VanLaanen Lee of Manhattan, KS, Colin VanLaanen (Kristi Isaacson) of Houghton, Russell VanLaanen (Allie Barczak) of Iron Mountain, Seth VanLaanen (Victoria Huber) of Denver, CO, Grace VanLaanen of St. Joseph, and Dominic VanLaanen of Albion; siblings, Mary Meerschaert of Rome, NY, Michael (Vicky) VanLaanen of Still Water, MN, Shane Van Laanen (Kelly Goodreau) of Mauston, WI, Jim VanLaanen (Lois Branback) of Kingsford, Sarah (Michael) Stelmaszek of Kingsford; brothers and sisters-in-law, Mark (Elisa) Rapaich of Westfield, IA, Diane Rapaich of Royal Oak, MI, Amy (Bruce) Moser of Madison, WI, and Lisa (Jim) Carollo of Iron Mountain; his great friend, Bill Pummill; as well as many nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

Due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Dan & Cecille Rapaich scholarship fund at Iron Mountain High School.

Condolences to the family of Jeffry A. VanLaanen may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Tribute Wall

KS

“ *Ellen, our sympathies and condolences to you and your family. I just heard about Jeff's passing via Linkedin from Richard. I am so sorry for your loss. His passing was too soon. Sincerely,
Kevin & Lynn Sheahen
Pittsburgh, PA*

Kevin Sheahen - March 15, 2021 at 04:20 PM

CK

“ *Cheryl Krasowski lit a candle in memory of
Jeffry A. VanLaanen*



Cheryl Krasowski - December 02, 2020 at 12:30 PM

SH

“ *Dear Ellen and family,
We were so sorry to hear of Jeff's death. We always enjoyed talking with Jeff over the years. We especially appreciated Jeff hosting the field trips to your family farm with the Catholic school children to see the lambs in the spring.
Please know that you and your family are in our prayers.
Bill and Sue Hasse*

SUSAN CAROL HASSE - November 04, 2020 at 11:53 AM

TD

“ *I am very sorry for your lost, my condolences*

Terry dowdle - November 02, 2020 at 12:44 PM

CM

“ Through my friendship and relationship by marriage to Jeff's sister Mary, I learned years ago what a wonderful person Jeff was, and how family was central to his life. I am deeply saddened to learn of his passing. My condolences go out to his wife and children, to Mary, and to the other members of his family.

Carmen Meerschaert - October 30, 2020 at 09:56 AM

SC

“ Dr. VanLaanen I just heard about your husband passing. I am so sorry. Know that you and your family are in my prayers.

Sally Champeau - October 29, 2020 at 10:39 PM

MM

“ I am so sorry to hear of this. Jeff was a good man and I am happy to have known him. Peace and love to Ellen and everyone in the family.

Mike Meerschaert - October 29, 2020 at 06:16 PM

DL

“ Ellen and family, so very sad to hear about the passing of Jeff. My heart goes out to all of you. Sending lots of hugs.

Debbie Lindgren - October 27, 2020 at 10:47 AM



“ Deepest condolences and hugs Dr. Ellen & family

Mark Young - October 26, 2020 at 03:18 PM

RI

“ I'm still trying to wrap my brain around Jeff not being here. I expected him to out live me, I trusted him with everything I own, and he was a treasured confidant in every aspect of my life. We raised our kids together, fixed things together and shared all our auction treasures and memories. Always a voice of reason when many times few were. Someone you could always count on. He did the drive to Marquette to spend time with me almost every weekend when I lay broken physically and emotionally not able to even feed myself. It meant everything; comfort; healing and hope when life seemed over for me. A man of a thousand projects, and like his life many left unfinished. Brilliant on any topic, and always took time to sit around the fire and just share life. His father's blackboard hangs in my kitchen. It is where we write checklists and memories, now many will be written only in my mind each time I drive past the farm or just need to call Jeff when I can't figure something out. He will be sadly missed and a long time grieved.

Rik - October 26, 2020 at 06:38 AM

DC

My thoughts and prayers are with Ellen and her children and all who knew and loved Jeff.

Denise Christensen - October 28, 2020 at 08:54 PM

DG

“ Ellen and family, I can only imagine your pain at this time. I would like to share with you how much fun it was growing up with you and Jeff. I recall many trips to Traders mine swimming, exploring ghost towns Up North, Cruising with Jeff and Billy George, questioning authority at every chance. What a Grand Life we shared. I will surely miss him and his antics. Love to you.

Dann Geronimi
Palmer, Alaska

Dann Geronimi - October 25, 2020 at 03:27 PM

CW

“ *Ellen and Family,*
We were saddened to hear the news of Jeff's passing. We were always impressed by the fact that he decided to be a stay-at-home dad, and he must have been a great one as evidenced by his children. He was a very intelligent man, and we always enjoyed the conversations we had with him at various gatherings. We know he will be greatly missed by you, but we hope that with time, fond memories will warm your hearts and lessen your pain.

Carol and Milt Wirth

Carol Wirth - October 24, 2020 at 09:49 PM

GK

“ *Ellen and Family, so sorry to hear about Jeff, please know you are in my thought..Love Gay Kellner*

Gay Kellner - October 24, 2020 at 08:09 PM

GK

“ *Gay Kellner lit a candle in memory of Jeffry A. VanLaanen*



Gay Kellner - October 24, 2020 at 08:08 PM

JO

“ *Dear Jeff, it's 2020; can't say I blame you for checking out. To paraphrase the great doctor Huey Lewis, we need a new drug. We'll use your spark to ignite the Bonfire of the Insanities. Rest easy cousin.*

Jimmy O

Jim Oas - October 24, 2020 at 05:38 PM

DR

“ Dear Dr. VanLaanen,

I was so saddened to read of the death of your husband. Having last visited you, we talked about Mohawk, your planned excursions with your husband to the Great Lakes around us (looking at a sailboat possibly), etc. Your love and close relationship was very apparent. My heart goes out to you and during this Covid time, I am sending virtual hug as well as prayers of comfort for you and your family.

Donna Racine

Donna Racine - October 24, 2020 at 03:55 PM

SB

“ *My condolences to you and your family at this difficult time. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Sue Beauchamp - October 24, 2020 at 10:49 AM

KK

“ *Ellen and your beautiful children.. so very sad to hear of Jeff's passing.*

I have been honored and proud to photograph your family. I think now if the farm. We were always going to do that. Ellen, you spoke of the tree you loved .

Hope it is still standing strong.

Wish I knew him better but knowing your children I know they reflect his gentleness and strength .

Your friend Karen klenke

karen Klenke - October 24, 2020 at 10:35 AM

JT

“ Dr. VanLaanen and family,
I send my sincere condolences to you for the
loss of your husband/father. Prayers and hugs
for your hearts. Keep close the memories!
Judy Trethewey



judy Trethewey - October 23, 2020 at 03:08 PM

MG

“ Dr VanLaanen, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. My heart goes out
to you and your children.

Maxine and Andrew Gatien

Maxine Gatien - October 23, 2020 at 12:21 PM

KL

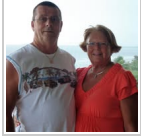
“ Oh..my sincerest heartfelt condolences to Jeff's family..MANY
wonderful memories of growing up with the VanLaanen family as
my grandparents,Fran and Al Corsi, were family neighbors..my
heart hurts for you all

Kristen Lindholm - October 22, 2020 at 09:31 PM

JG

“ So very sorry for your loss Ellen, and your family. My heartfelt
condolences to you all. I will be praying for you all for God's peace,
comfort, and strength, during this most difficult time. God Bless
each of you.

Jay Goudreau - October 22, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ *Dr. Ellen and Family and cousin's!!! Gail and Kurt, Kari and Kory and I send our most sincere Sympathy to you all in your loss of Jeff. It has been a great pleasure in knowing him for so so many year's. The yearly Family Reunion's and Wedding's and Funeral's that brought us all together!!! Prayer's for you all and may Jeff rest in peace with all the Family that has gone before him. Maybe he is starting to plan something to bring them all together again!!! LOVE to You ALL! Dick and Gail Dabb*

Richard Dabb - October 22, 2020 at 05:27 PM

JR

“ *I didn't personally meet your husband/ father, but I can guess he was one heck of a man, from some of the stories I heard from my wonderful doctor Ellen. I am sure this is a huge loss for all of you. Just know we are keeping you in our prayers to get through these hard times now and ahead. Stay safe and God Bless you all. James and Brenda Ring*

James and Brenda Ring - October 22, 2020 at 05:10 PM

MK

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*
Kevin and Mary Kangas

Mary and Kevin Kangas - October 22, 2020 at 04:48 PM

TT

“ *Dear Ellen and extended VanLaanen family, our deepest sympathies on Jeff's passing. May you be comforted at this time of loss.*

Teresa and Peter Trembath - October 22, 2020 at 01:27 PM

PR

“ *My sincerest, heartfelt condolences go out to Ellen and the entire VanLaanen family. Anyone that had the pleasure of meeting Jeff came away a better person for having interacted with him. Jeff went above and beyond as a colleague, as a mentor, and as a friend. My heart is very heavy due to his passing but I am thankful that I had the opportunity to know him, to learn from him, and to call him my friend.*

Patrick Reagan - October 22, 2020 at 01:05 PM

JC

“ *Sending you prayers and peace lots of love from Randy, Jane, Bryan and Bret Carlson*

Jane Carlson - October 22, 2020 at 11:52 AM

CB

“ *Dear Dr. Ellen and Family, I am so sorry to hear of Jeff's passing. Finding a dedicated life partner is difficult enough; losing one is immeasurable. My heart goes out to all of you and my prayer is for your comfort and peace.*

Christine M Burns - October 22, 2020 at 10:55 AM

MK

“ *So very sorry the hear about Jeff. You and your family are in our prayers.*



Marty and Leslie Kadletz - October 22, 2020 at 07:27 AM

DT

“ *Deidre Teikari lit a candle in memory of Jeffry A. VanLaanen*



Deidre Teikari - October 21, 2020 at 11:34 PM

RS

“ *Randy S.Evosevich lit a candle in memory of Jeffry A. VanLaanen*



Randy S.Evosevich - October 21, 2020 at 10:19 PM

GG

“ *So sorry for your loss. Jeff was one of the good guys and will surely be missed. Remembering all the fourth of July gatherings we had. Keeping you all in our prayers and wishing you comfort and strength. Virtual hugs and love. Gus and Gail*

Gail Glaser - October 21, 2020 at 09:42 PM

VB

“ *So sorry to hear about Jeff* 🌸



violet bongi - October 21, 2020 at 09:22 PM

SP

“ *Scott Pancheri lit a candle in memory of Jeffry A. VanLaanen*



Scott Pancheri - October 21, 2020 at 09:18 PM

DH

“ *Debra Hunter lit a candle in memory of Jeffry A. VanLaanen*



Debra Hunter - October 21, 2020 at 08:39 PM

DH

“ *Dear Dr. Vanlaanen and family. I'm so very sorry for your loss. I knew Jeff from Khourys and he was such a good person and from the years you have been my doctor I know how much your family means to you. May God give you the strength to get through this very difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Debra Hunter - October 21, 2020 at 08:39 PM

SF

“ Jeff was such a nice man! He did so much with and for the Pummill family. He was such a big part of Bill's life and was so good to Terry ❤️ I got to know Jeff better when he drove to Montana with Bill when Terry was so sick with stomach cancer. He was repairing fences, installing new electrical outlets, digging stumps... anything to help out. Prayers going out to Ellen and the rest of his family 🙏
🙏 May he Rest In Peace.

Sharon Feeney - October 21, 2020 at 05:43 PM

LL

“ Very Sorry Dr. Ellen I know this is very difficult. Know he is with the Lord and is in great hands and will watch over you and the kids.

Laurie Lee - October 21, 2020 at 04:41 PM

DW

“ Ellen, I'm so sorry to learn of Jeff's passing. A truly good man. You and your family are in the thoughts of my children and me. Let me know if there's something I can do to help you get through this difficult time.

Dennis Whitehead - October 21, 2020 at 04:32 PM

CA

“ Dr. VanLaanen, Larry and I were so sorry to learn of your husband's passing. You have been such a wonderful support for each of us, and I'm sure your family, friends, and co-workers will be very helpful to you in the difficult days ahead. We're sending our love and prayers to you and your children. God Bless, Connie Anderson and Larry Olkkonen.

Connie Anderson - October 21, 2020 at 03:51 PM

DZ

“ I am so very sorry for this terrible loss. Sending prayers of comfort to all. 🙏😊🙏😊💔

Dana Zini - October 21, 2020 at 03:33 PM

HM

“ Holly McCarthy-Biolo lit a candle in memory of Jeffry A. VanLaanen



Holly McCarthy-Biolo - October 21, 2020 at 03:00 PM

KK

“ We were absolutely sickened to hear this news. Dr. VanLaanen, you have been so important to our entire family for so many years (decades) and we absolutely love you. You have been so much more than a doctor and have given so much to so many and now one of the most important things in your life has been taken from you. We are so very sorry. There are no words that could possibly bring comfort at this time, but please know how many people care about you and love you and may God bring some peace to you and your family at this most difficult time. We will be praying for you and your family. God Bless

kathi krans - October 21, 2020 at 01:14 PM

DM

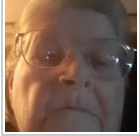
“ I'm so sad to hear this devastating news for Dr Ellen Vanlaanen and her whole family. My heart breaks for you all.

Donna McGuire - October 21, 2020 at 12:50 PM

DH

“ *Dr Vanlaanen and family. I am so deeply sorry to hear this heartbreaking news. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

Diane Hulbert - October 21, 2020 at 11:55 AM



“ *WE ARE SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. JEFF WAS SO KIND TO US THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, NEVER ASKING ANYTHING FROM US, BUT ALWAYS THERE IF WE NEEDED HELP. WE LOVE THE FARM AND ALL THE SOLITUDE, AS DID JEFF. MANY TIMES HE WAS OUT THERE TINKERING ON SOME VEHICLE WHILE WE WERE DOING THE HAY. IF YOU NEED ANY HELP, ESPECIALLY AT THE FARM, LET US KNOW.*

Sandy Wilcox - October 21, 2020 at 11:17 AM

DD

“ *Ellen, our deepest sympathies to you and your entire family. Jeff was a wonderful and caring person and we will miss him greatly. His generosity to share his time and talents to help others was second to none. Please take peace in knowing he touched so many of us in a positive way. We will never forget him and his memory will live on in all of us. God Bless you and your family.*

Derek & Leah Dixon

Derek Dixon - October 21, 2020 at 11:15 AM

SW

“ *Sandra W. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Jeffry A. VanLaanen.*



Sandra W. - October 21, 2020 at 11:03 AM

KO

“ *To Dr. VanLaanen and the Entire Family, My deepest sympathy to all. Jeff will be deeply missed by all. His smile and quite demeanor but the little bit of devil in the twinkle of his eye; that is what I will remember most about him. May he rest in peace and may God wrap his loving arms around you all and help to guide you through this most difficult time. God Bless.*

Kathy O'Connell

Kathy O'Connell - October 21, 2020 at 10:59 AM

JB

Dr. Ellen & Family My Heartfelt sympathy to all. Trust in our Loving God for strength and peace.

June E Berger - October 21, 2020 at 01:21 PM

MP

Ellen, I was so very sad to hear about Jeff, he was a good man and a great husband and father. He will truly be missed. He was such a great friend to my brother Bill, my heart goes out to you all 💕💕

Michael Pummill - October 21, 2020 at 05:45 PM

JK

My prayers for you Dr Ellen and your family. So sorry for this huge loss of your husband. May the Lord give you comfort.

Judy Krieg - October 21, 2020 at 09:07 PM

KS

So very sorry for your loss!! Thoughts and prayers for the entire VanLaanen family!

Kris Solda - October 22, 2020 at 11:46 AM

MF

Dear Dr. VanLaanen I was so sorry to hear that Jeff passed away. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. God bless you.

Marilyn Filer

Marilyn Filer - October 22, 2020 at 04:23 PM

KM

My heart is heavy for my cousins at the loss of your brother. My deepest sympathies for you all, for Ellen and their children. May you come to know peace through God's grace in this difficult time.

Kathryn Morgan - October 22, 2020 at 08:12 PM