



Jim Stearns

April 27, 1945 - February 24, 2020

Jim (Whitey) Stearns, 74, of Breitung Twp., passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on Monday, Feb. 24th, 2020

Jim was born April 27, 1945 in Escanaba, son of the late Jay and Elizabeth (Rousseau) Stearns. He was raised in Delta County and was a graduate of Escanaba Holy Name High School. After graduation, Jim attended Bay De Noc College. His education continued at Michigan State University, where he earned his Masters degree in guidance and counseling. Jim married Millie Steinmetz on August 17, 1968 in Escanaba. Jim and Millie moved to Kingsford in 1980, and Jim worked as a social worker and marriage counselor for Catholic Social Services, retiring in 2002. Jim was active in the community. He was a proud member of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Kiwanis Club for over 31 years. He was past president and had served on almost every committee and leadership position in Kiwanis. He belonged to the American Philatelic Society, the Northwoods Philatelic Society and stamp clubs in Green Bay, Escanaba and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Over the years Jim has enjoyed many hobbies and activities. One of the most important things in Jim's life was his love for family and friends. He also loved spending time in the woods deer hunting with the bow and arrow. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, model trains, stamp and postcard collecting. He played adult soccer for many years and was an avid fan

of the Green Bay Packers, Detroit Tigers and all of Michigan State University Sports.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by brothers, Jay and Wally Stearns; sister, Betsy Stearns and brothers-in-law, Pete Steinmetz and Arnie Carrigan.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Millie; children, Jim of Kingsford and Wendy (Brad) Koski of Iron Mountain; brother, Tom (Deb) Stearns of Bark River and Mary Lou Carrigan of Mound, Minnesota; granddaughters, Maddie and Baylee Koski, and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be on Friday, Feb. 28th from 9:00am until 11:00am at the Kingsford Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 11:30am Friday at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Kingsford. Fr. Joseph Gouin will offer the Mass of Christian burial. A eulogy and time of sharing will take place during the luncheon in the parish hall following Mass. Burial will be in the Homestead-Aurora Cemetery in the spring. Pallbearers will be Tom Stearns, Bob Steinmetz, Jim Steinmetz, Denny Deneau, Pat Ness, Jim Stearns and Brad Koski. Honorary pallbearers will be Scott Patterson, Dave Bjorkman and Ray Perry.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Jim's memory to Kathy's House (Hospital Guest House in Wauwatosa, WI), Rio Bravo Mission or Air Lifeline.

Jim's family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Morel and staff, Dr. Shah and staff at Froedtert Hospital, OSF Hospice and the Dickinson County Cancer Loan Closet.

Condolences to the family of Jim Stearns may be expressed online at www.erickson-rochon-nash.com

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

Cemetery Details

Homestead-Aurora Cemetery

Aurora, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 28. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kingsford Funeral Home
1000 S. Carpenter
Kingsford, MI 49802

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 28. 11:30 AM (CT)

American Martyrs Catholic Church
908 W. Sagola Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

SB

“ To Jim Stearns' Family: I was friends with his son and continue to pray for peace for them all. I'm so sorry for your loss.



Sarah Beauchamp - April 13, 2020 at 04:36 PM

MS

Sarah, thanks so much for your condolences! I miss him as much as I did five months ago, but the pain gets less each day. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:05 PM

RF

“ A man who lived his faith and walked the walk. A faithful friend who was always there to lend a hand, a little humor or emotional support. Godspeed! Bob and Patti Forgette

Robert Forgette - March 02, 2020 at 01:12 PM

MS

Bob and Patti, thanks so much for your wonderful comments about Jim. He was a great husband, and I miss him all the time, and I know he is missed by many people!

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:06 PM

BP

“ I knew Jim only through the Green Bay Philatelic Society. Always a gentleman.
Bob P

Bob Petersen - March 01, 2020 at 01:46 PM

MS

Thanks, Bob, for your comment! Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:37 PM

TK

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Jim. He was truly a great person. Millie and kids, you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Tamars Kuder - February 29, 2020 at 06:35 AM

MS

Thanks, Tammy! He WAS truly a great person...and is missed.

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:07 PM

MV

“ *To Jim's family. So sorry for your loss. We have been friends of his family. my name is Maxine (Kalishek) Vallier Gladstone, Michigan*

Maxine Vallier - February 28, 2020 at 10:16 PM

MC

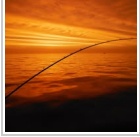
Maxine, thank you for your sentiments. We will all miss him!

Mary carrigan - March 07, 2020 at 04:27 PM

MS

Hi Maxine: Thanks for your condolences....yes, he was a great man and is missed daily. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:37 PM



“ Jim could sleep anywhere. He loved to fish in Canada and one year I joined him. We traveled to a remote island and set up tents on solid rock. This alone would be uncomfortable. However that night it blew, poured rain, thundered and lightning. The tent filled with water, our sleeping bags soaked. There was just no way to be "comfortable", but then ah yes there was Jim snoring away! Love Fred Tryan

Fred Tryan - February 28, 2020 at 01:30 PM

MS

Thanks, Fred. Yes, I can see it now, him not even waking up in the storm! I know that, 'cause he's done it to me! He is greatly missed by all of us. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:39 PM

 Valerie Chacon

“ Jim, Millie and the entire Stearns family will always have a special place in my heart. It was my pleasure getting to know you all. I'll never forget the love that surrounded this wonderful group. May Jim be resting in peace.

Valerie Chacon - February 28, 2020 at 12:23 PM

MS

Valerie, that was so sweet of you to write a comment here! You were one of the most wonderful nurses in the world...you deserve a raise! We miss Jim daily, but we know this was all part of God's plan. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:40 PM

DR

“ Jim Stearns, My Kiwanis venison feed pal, my part-time passenger to meetings. Always being a friend, mentor, and honest by-stander. You will be a soul of the UP that will be missed! Godspeed on your next deer hunting mission!
I hope all the family will be at peace during this difficult time!
Sadly I am unable to attend, but will be there in spirit!

Dave Radosta - February 27, 2020 at 11:29 PM

MS

Dave, I thank your condolences, AND I thank you for all the support you have given us over the years. It would have been very difficult for him to go to Kiwanis every week were it not for you. Thanks again.
Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:41 PM

BS

“ To the entire Stearns family, our deepest condolences to you, you're all in our thoughts and prayers. Bill & Dan Seronko

Bill Seronko - February 27, 2020 at 07:43 PM

MS

Thank you, Bill and Dan. It's hard, and I'm sure you miss Kathy every day as well. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:42 PM

DF

“ We sure will miss Jim. He was a good guy with a great sense of humor and a loving caring heart. Our deepest condolences Millie. RIP Jim.

Darrel and Bobbi Fezatt - February 27, 2020 at 07:33 PM

MS

Thanks, Bobbi and Darrel. I finally feel strong enough that I can say thanks to each of these comments! Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:42 PM

MT

“ *The first thing I think of when I think of my uncle Jim is his amazing train set. As a small child it was so magical. His face would light up in a million different ways when he showed us his absolutely AMAZING set up. He was so passionate about those trains. His eyes lit up the exact same way when he talked about his family~his wife, children, grandchildren. He was an incredible story teller, an avid woodsman, and a wonderful uncle. He had a smile and a calm demeanor that could conquer any room. His memory will live on forever as the warm, loving man that he was. 💕 from many miles away... we are thinking of all of you in our hearts today and always...with all of our love ~Monica, Matt, Marlo and Scarlett*

Monica Tryan - February 27, 2020 at 07:22 PM

MS

Monica, thanks for your lovely comments. Jim was a special man and he had a very special place in his heart for our God-child! Aunt Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:43 PM

AP

“ *Deepest sympathy to Jim's family. I always enjoyed the time spent with Jim and admired his spirit and finding good in all. Hope loving memories will help carry the family through this sad time*

Al St Peter - February 27, 2020 at 07:01 PM

MS

Thanks, Al, for your condolences. Memories are special, and we have many, but we truly miss him every day.

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:44 PM

GW

“ I have known Jim for over 40 years. During this time I have come to admire his quick wit and great sense of humor. It was always a joy to be around Jim whether we were swapping hunting stories at a wild game feast or after a hunt. When Jim retired we lost one of the best social workers in the community. As a colleague in the field of social work, Jim always stood at the top. He will be missed by all of us lucky enough to know this wonder person.

George Wiedenhoef - February 27, 2020 at 06:47 PM

MS

Thanks, George. I'm finally getting strong enough to respond to all these wonderful comments. I know it takes time and not sure we will ever get over the grief, eh? My prayers are with you too. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:45 PM



“ Millie,
We extend our deepest sympathy on the passing of Jim.
Keep your memories close to your heart!!! 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Andrea Sullivan - February 27, 2020 at 06:24 PM

MS

Andrea, I am finally feeling strong enough to respond to all the lovely comments! Thank you and Dave. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:46 PM

MK

“ We will miss Jim's sense of humor and his love of card playing. Many times at our camp Jim went above and beyond with my elder uncles playing Smear until 3 or 4 in the morning. I have many memories of fun time gathering with Jim, Gerry McIntyre, John Torreano, Dick Hansen and many others at Beatons Lake eating Gerry's exotic meals. Rest in Peace Jim. Mike Kusz

Michael Kusz - February 27, 2020 at 10:07 AM

MS

Mike, thanks for your comments! He was a great man, and one of the special times for him was visiting with you in Florida and being a guest! You both treated us royally...We miss him every day. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:48 PM

TB

“ Dearest Millie--my deep condolences to you upon Jim's passing. I have nothing but fond memories of Jim and his brothers from the very early '50s, riding together to our special ed school! Even then, at a very young age, I knew of the kindness of Jim and his family. It made so much sense to me when I learned the two of you married. My thoughts will be with you for some time to come. Love and light, Toni Bal

Toni Bal - February 27, 2020 at 09:41 AM

MS

Toni, my goodness! Nice to hear your wonderful comments! Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:49 PM

LK

“ Love, Mike & Chris Kusz purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jim Stearns.



Love, Mike & Chris Kusz - February 26, 2020 at 05:18 PM



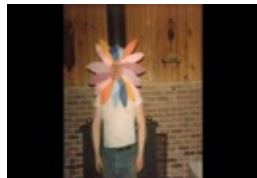
“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jim Stearns.



February 26, 2020 at 02:36 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jim Stearns - February 25, 2020 at 09:55 PM

JK

Great photos. Jim Jr. can never say he didn't have a mullet. I met the Stearns family a long time ago when they moved to Kingsford. Even though I left the U.P. over 30 years ago the family was never far from my thoughts. Jim Sr. was my sponsor when I was confirmed. Likewise, my dad was Jim's sponsor. I was able to see Jim one last time when he visited Arizona. I wil always cherish that time. Millie, Jim and Wendy, I am truly sorry for your loss. He was a great man.
Jim Kraus

Jim Kraus - February 26, 2020 at 11:27 PM

MS

Thanks, Jim, for your wonderful comments! Yes, I love this video as well!!! It was GREAT spending time with you in Arizona. We truly have lots of good memories, don't we? Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:50 PM

AH

“ *We are so sorry to hear of your loss, he was such a wonderful man! Such a helpful person who never passed up a chance to help others! He had such a wonderful sense of humor and shared it with others! Jim and his wife Millie were always such a loving couple and both always ready to help others! Prayers are with Millie and family at this time.*

Jean and Calvin Krooks and Daughter Angela

Angela Howard - February 25, 2020 at 07:13 PM

MS

Jean, Calvin and Angela - We have great memories as well! what a fun time we had when we brought our granddaughters to the farm, both at different times. That was very special to Jim. Thanks for the nice comments. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:52 PM

JB

“ *In this period of great sadness and always, may the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; and may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

Jan and Jim Byrne

Jim Byrne - February 25, 2020 at 05:10 PM

MS

Jim and Jan, I am finally getting strong enough to respond to these comments. Enjoyed our friendship over the years, and, of course, continue to enjoy it, even without my best buddy. Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 01:53 PM

DS

“ *So sorry for your loss. Lots of fond memories of Jim. Especially his sense of humor. Hugs Millie* ❤️



Debby Sullivan - February 25, 2020 at 04:22 PM

MS

Debby, thanks so much for your condolences! I am just now able to respond to warm and fuzzy comments, without getting teary. Thanks again! Millie

Millie Stearns - August 19, 2020 at 08:22 PM