



## John "Butch" Tabaka

August 21, 1951 - August 10, 2011

John Paul "Butch" Tabaka, 59, of Sagola, passed away on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at his home.

John was born August 21, 1951 in Iron Mountain, son of the late John and Marie (Arnold) Tabaka Bertoldi and the late John Bertoldi. He graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1970 and was a lifelong resident of the area. John owned and operated the Iron Mountain Gas Company, along with his father, John Bertoldi. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters #328, the Iron Mountain Elks Lodge #700, Ducks Unlimited and Wildlife Unlimited. John loved fishing and hunting, and he especially enjoyed entertaining at camp for his buddies in the "pork chop" club. John was also very active with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowling fund raiser. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

John is survived by his sisters, Mary Couper and Jane (Dennis) Santini of Iron Mountain; several nieces and nephews, Scott Couper, Becky Couper, Angela (Jason) Hall, Kristina (Wayne) Fredrickson, and Louis Santini; 7 great nieces and nephews; his special friends, Joe (Mary) Spigarelli, and Kris (Dave) Mulder.

He was preceded in death by one brother, David Tabaka, in 1991.

Visitation will be Monday, August 15th, from 11:00-1:30 pm at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Rev. David Anderson will officiate. Scott Couper, Louis Santini, Bruce Toretti, Pete Tomasoni, Dick Bennett and Steve Wentarmini will serve as pall bearers. Honorary pall bearers are Ross and Jack Nord, Dave DeGroot, Mitch Leinen and Ted Hamm. Burial will be at Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain.

Condolences to the family of John Paul "Butch" Tabaka may be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 15. 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

AUG 15. 1:30 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

SE

“ I met John Paul when I started as his secretary at the Iron Mountain Gas Company up until the day he sold it. He had an old soul and loved 40's music. He was an interesting person and I am glad that I got to know him. He was always fair to me and I will miss him. My deepest sympathy to your family.

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**Sue Messina - Duncan, OK - None former employee** - August 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Mary, Janie and Kids,  
We'll all miss John Paul...he loved Joe and Al and thought of them as nephews. He always taught them respect, which they showed by calling him "Uncle Butch". Please know that we are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers through this very difficult time.

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**Pete, Cathy, Joe & Al Tomassoni - Iron Mountain, MI** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ Dear Mary & Janie:

*Please accept my sympathy in the death of your brother John. Mary, I only wish that I could be there to hug you just as you were there for me last month when my father died. Although I didn't know John well, I always feel that our families were connected since our fathers worked together and we were good friends. May both of you, and your families, find comfort and peace in your treasured memories of your brother. You will be in my thoughts and my prayers tomorrow.*

*Love,  
Carol (Quilliam) Birkett*

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**Carol Quilliam Birkett - Durham, NC** - August 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I remember hunting deer at Russet's in the 1970's with John Paul and all the years at Iron Mountain Gas. John Paul always remembered to say hello to me and take time to chat. I'm sorry for John Paul's family and his closest friends for their loss.

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**Mike Johnson - Iron Mountain, MI - Friend** - August 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ There was no more a kinder man than JP. I learned to shoot a BB gun, water ski, drive a boat, fish and just GROW UP around him. He taught me how to respect my Aunt & Uncle like they where my parents. He loved us all like brothers & sisters and I always knew if I had a problem, he was there to listen. I will miss him more than most will ever know. Love you JP

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**Tom Johnson - Rochelle, IL - friend** - August 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ I had the privelage of sharing some special moments with Uncle Butch. His quirky humor and fun-loving personality will be memories that I have forever. I know you made even more everlasting memories with your family and friends. I pray that God's arms are open wide and ready to lead you into his kingdom. I will say a quiet goodbye with a heavy but hopeful heart. Melissa

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**Melissa - Lancaster, CA** - August 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ I am very sorry to hear of John's passing. Unfortunately, I haven't seen him since graduation. What I remember of John is that he was always friendly, had a quick witt and great sense of humor. My condolences to his family and friends. I know that he will be dearly missed.

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**Gregg Ball - Mesa, AZ - classmate/friend** - August 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *Condolences to the family of John Paul Tabaka from Lee and Susan Larsen, Larsen's Bay Resort, Inc.*

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**Lee Larsen - Florence, WI - business friends** - August 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *Dear Mary and Family,*

*I am so sorry to learn about John's passing. Being the only child in my home, my memory of your home is having all four of you kids doing your thing and just sitting back and watching the action. It was fun :-)* May God bless you with comfort and peace at this time. You are in my prayers. I'll see you Monday.

*Love, Linda (Eliason) O'Brien*

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**Linda (Eliason) O'Brien - Marinette, WI - Friend** - August 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM