



## John K. Erickson

May 20, 1958 - June 14, 2024

John K. Erickson, 66, of Kingsford, peacefully passed away on Friday, June 14, 2024, at his home, with his wife by his side.

John was born May 20, 1958 in Iron Mountain, MI, son of the late Clifford and Dorothy (Lein) Erickson. He graduated from Kingsford High School in 1976, was a lifelong resident of the area, and one of the Breitung Boys. John married his childhood sweetheart, Carole Mortl, on June 21, 1980 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Kingsford. They would be celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary this year. Together they raised three children and loved spending time at their camp, cottage and house in East Kingsford. John was employed as a delivery driver with UPS for 30 years, retiring in 2014. John "JK" often delivered rural routes, where he made many friends, and enjoyed talking with his customers. He always had a bag of dog treats along for the furry friends on the route. John was an excellent provider who worked long hours but still had time to serve as a volunteer firefighter for Breitung Township. He took many classes and earned many endorsements over the years which led to him becoming the East Kingsford Fire Chief. Many friends and family will remember his 1988 silver and black Bronco with the full light bar. John loved serving as the Fire Chief, but left the position when he was elected as a Breitung Township Trustee. John was re-elected numerous times and served as trustee on the board for 17 years. He was a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Teamsters Union, U.P. Whitetails, and a

lifetime member of the NRA. John loved the camp he built with his friends and family and enjoyed spending time there playing cards with friends, especially smear. He also loved riding his four wheeler, trucks and Sahara Jeep. He always had stacks of records, then CDs, and even digital music as an avid fan of classic rock music. He was always the life of the party, bringing people together with his humor and laughs. His rendition of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" or his Wizard of Oz lion roar are a testament to his spontaneity and zest for life. He greatly loved his family, his pets (especially his yellow lab Maggie) and holding his seven beautiful grandchildren over the years.

John is survived by his wife of 44 years, Carole, three children, Jessica (Rob) Garvaglia of Quinnesec, Jenni (Mike) Henry of Kingsford, and Johnny Erickson (Carey) of Chicago; two sisters, Joy Brewer and Nancy (Robert) Leroux; seven grandchildren, Kaitlynn, Aliyah, Travis, Jesse, Drake, Zoe & James; brothers-in-law, Frank (Anne) Mortl, Mike Mortl (Kathy), James (Kris) Mortl and Mark (Laura) Mortl; several nieces and nephews including a special niece, Lisa (Rudy) Vassar. He was grateful for his brother-in-law Mike who has helped him take care of his cottage and camp.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by two sisters-in-law, Sharon Giannunzio and Patricia Mortl.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 am -- 12:00 pm on Saturday, June 22 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Kingsford. Funeral services will follow at noon at the church with Pastor Matt Ruesch officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Almost Home Animal Shelter.

Condolences to the family of John K. Erickson can be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **22**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
420 W. Breitung Ave.  
Kingsford, MI 49802

## Funeral Service

JUN **22**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
420 W. Breitung Ave.  
Kingsford, MI 49802

# Tribute Wall



“ *My Uncle John was 11 when I was born. Uncle John was someone I looked up to as I was growing up: He took me for snowmobile rides, off-road rides in his Bronco; he gave me his G.I.Joes that he outgrew; played pool in the basement to music on the jukebox; showed me how to play catch with his dog Ginger. I remember riding with him in the back of Grandpa's electric while we sat on the wire coils.*

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**Jason Brewer** - June 22, 2024 at 10:33 AM

NS

“ *My deepest sympathy for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you, Carole and family*  
*Nilar*

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**Nilar Shein** - June 22, 2024 at 09:19 AM

TS

“ *My deepest sympathies Jenni and family. Prayers of support and ease of grief at this time.*

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**Tammy Sauld** - June 19, 2024 at 06:07 PM

CH

“ *My deepest condolences to Carole and your entire family! I worked with John for over 30 years and he was the guy everyone looked forward to seeing every day. Always a cup of coffee in his hand and jokes to tell. He was the guy who made everyone feel at ease no matter how stressful things could get. Rest easy my friend, Chris Clash*

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**Chris** - June 19, 2024 at 08:22 AM

SA

*Our condolences to you and your family. We loved seeing him every delivery at school for so many years. He was always a friendly face! Our prayers go out for you all. David and Sharon Antonissen*

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**Sharon Antonissen** - June 20, 2024 at 08:13 AM