



John Wayne Kelm

August 17, 1952 - September 30, 2025

John Wayne Kelm, 73, of Spread Eagle, WI, was called home to be with Jesus his Saviour on September 30, 2025.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Kathy; his children, Jessica (Kevin) Keto, Audrey (Daniel) Patterson and Christian (Colleen) Kelm; seven grandchildren who adored him; and a brother, Gary (Peggy) Kelm and their children.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

John's faith in Jesus, love of his family, strength, guidance and wit will be missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in John's memory may be made to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of John W. Kelm online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Tribute Wall



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of John Wayne Kelm.



January 01 at 04:42 PM

MR

“ Been waiting to write this because I was hoping to say some of it in person but Im not sure I will get the chance...

John Mentored me for 2.5 years online. I never met him in person but it is hard to describe what he meant to me. Each week we would meet and talk about things that are going on and he helped me better myself. Make better habits. Forgive others. I told him my goals and dreams and life and he kept pushing me further and would encourage me. He helped me believe in myself and many different ways. Im a DJ and a music producer and its often times hard for me to share my dreams with people who may not understand out of fear of being judged. As time went on I would share more and more about my gigs and became very comfortable sharing with John about everything that has happened. Most of our talks were based around Faith, and Marriage. He has helped me become a better husband and when I become a Father some day his impact on me will also be felt.

It's been hard to keep moving forward in life without John. I catch myself thinking about him when I have a great day and when I have rough days. I wish I could still tell him .

I have alot of peace knowing I got to share my life with him and be a friend to him the last few years of his...

He was so driven in helping other men the last years of his life and I can't even begin to imagine the ripple effect the last few years of his life will have on me and other men.

I am stronger because of him and someday I am going to mentor men just like him and share the things he taught me.

I love you John and miss you. I hope to see you again

Mitch Rand - January 01 at 04:37 PM

GO

“ Dear Kathy. Kathie and I were stunned to hear about John's passing. He was such a good guy, always a smile on his face and a great friend. Lots of good memories, such as Manitowish Waters and our family vacation to Jamaica. Your friends share your grief.
Guy and Kathie Owens

Guy and Kathie Owens - October 15, 2025 at 09:54 AM

CA

“ John always had a smile on his face, and loved Our Lord! He and Kathy were a perfect couple, and although she will miss him terribly, she can be comforted by knowing that he is in Heaven with God with no more pain. May God be with his family during this sad time!

CarolChristesen - October 04, 2025 at 12:09 PM

MM

*I hadn't talked with John for over 35 years. Yet, over the years John kept popping up in my memory: his demeanor, honesty, and ability to listen to a person and respond with reason.
I know John is gone. But my memories of him still remain.
My deepest condolences to the family.*

Mike Maloney - October 04, 2025 at 03:32 PM

CK

Although it's been some years, I do remember how kind you, Kathy, and John were to me. A dinner, a boat ride and afternoon in Door County, just kindness. May God comfort you all at this difficult time. And may the love you shared and the wonderful memories you have help to heal your hearts.

Charlene (Saxon) Krafski

Charlene Krafski - October 06, 2025 at 10:18 PM