



Joseph H. VanLaanen

July 2, 1957 - December 26, 2025

Joseph H. VanLaanen, 73, of Kingsford, MI, passed away peacefully on December 26, 2025.

He was born in Iron Mountain, MI, on July 2nd, 1957, the first-born son to the late William "Bill" and Lorraine (Morin) VanLaanen. He was proud to have grown up in the "Kingsford Heights" and attended many Heights reunions held at Cowboy Lake. He attended and graduated from Kingsford High School in 1970.

He was drafted into the service on September 26th, 1972, and completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MS and was discharged from service in 1974. He married the former Vickie Pirlot on June 3rd, 1978; after 33 years of marriage, they went their separate ways in 2011. He worked at the Oscar G. Johnson V.A. Medical Center, starting in 1981 as part time, but worked the majority of his years there in the food service department, retiring in 2005.

In his free time he enjoyed watching the Chicago Cubs and the Green Bay Packers on TV. In the summer months he like to travel the UP with his family, trying to camp at almost all the UP State Parks and hoping to see the ever-elusive moose. He also enjoyed attending the ski jumps every year and socializing with friends and family that he saw there.

He is survived by his daughter, Ann VanLaanen of Iron Mountain, and his son, John VanLaanen of Kingsford; his grandchildren, Ashlyn VanLaanen and Sebastian Young; and a brother, Robert "Bob" VanLaanen of Iron Mountain MI.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Lorraine, in 1977 and his father, William "Bill", in 1995.

In accordance with Joseph's wishes, no funeral services will be held.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Joseph H. VanLaanen online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Tribute Wall

LW

“ Great times during our high school years. Condolences to the family.

Len Walters - January 08 at 12:18 PM

JV

“ The thing I remember the most about Joe is at all the family reunions there would be a group of the men laughing surrounding Joe telling jokes one right after another and those are the memories I will never forget about Joe - cousin Jim.

Jim VanLaanen - December 31, 2025 at 01:59 PM



“ Scott Pancheri lit a candle in memory of Joseph H. VanLaanen



Scott Pancheri - December 30, 2025 at 08:34 PM

LS

“ So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. Keeping you all in my prayers!
Love and hugs!
Lori(Gering) Servia

Lori Servia - December 30, 2025 at 08:39 AM

JS

“ I enjoyed working on several class reunions with Joe. We always had lots of laughs. Our sympathies to his family.

Judy and Dave Sielaff - December 29, 2025 at 10:27 PM

FD

“ *We're so very sorry for your loss. Our prayers and sympathies go out to you and your family! Frank & Susie Derouin*

Frank & Susie Derouin - December 29, 2025 at 06:11 PM