



## Joyce M. Allen

December 9, 1945 - November 6, 2019

Joyce M. Allen, 73, of Kingsford, went peacefully to heaven on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, at Dickinson County Hospital after a short, courageous battle with cancer. Waiting to wrap their arms around Joyce were her beloved momma, her daddy and her brother.

Joyce was born on December 9, 1945, in Iron Mountain, daughter of the late John and Margaret (Cavalieri) Backlund. Joyce grew up in Iron Mountain and attended school here. She married Doug Allen on November 16, 1963, at American Martyrs rectory in Kingsford, and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a party thrown by their children on November 16, 2013, surrounded by family. It was a wonderful day full of love. Momma Joycie, as she was affectionately known by many, was a wonderful, selfless woman who only lived to serve anyone but herself. Together they raised their family in Kingsford. After she raised her own 3 children she enjoyed a very special bond with her grandson Dalton. They were partners in crime and could often be found at the casino together. If she got "mad" at Dalton his only purpose was to make her laugh by tickling her, smiling a huge smile and say "Joycieeeeeee". It worked every time. Joyce spent many years as a housekeeper for several local families, but her true calling in life was being an advocate for Northpointe Behavioral Healthcare System. She truly enjoyed her life there for 12 years working with residents with special needs of all types teaching them all she could. Joyce was an avid bleacher mom and

could be heard in the stands when her sons were playing a sport, yelling for them or yelling at the umps. She attended as many events of her grandchildren as her health permitted. Joyce was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. She was a caregiver to all. Joyce was also a terrific cook and shared her Swedish and Italian heritage by preparing delicious food for every occasion. She had an affectionate laugh, a beautiful smile, a wonderful, colorful sense of humor. Her life was filled with love and she had no regrets.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Ronald Backlund and brother in law, Artie Gatzow.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Doug; children, Tina (John) Elmer of Iron Mountain, Mark (Kristi) Allen of Kingsford and Jon (Crystal) Allen of Kingsford; sisters, Delores Gatzow of Iron Mountain and Ann (Dan) McMahon of Iron Mountain; her grandchildren, Melissa (Justin) Hoffmeyer, Emily Elmer, Dalton Allen, Giovanni and Dante Pedrotti and Mason Allen; many nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors; and very special friend Karen Smith.

Private graveside services will be held in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in her memory.

Condolences to the family of Joyce Allen may 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 arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Cemetery Park

101 Cedar Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

KM

“Joyce and I worked together at Northpointe for several years at the Pinewood home and Belgium Pointe. She was such a hard worker and an absolute blast to work with. We had so much fun. I deeply regret that I hadn't seen her or a few years. She is at peace now, and not suffering anymore. I look forward to seeing her in Heaven someday where we will both be thinner and well. God Bless all of you.

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**Kathy Main** - November 15, 2019 at 10:40 AM

HP

“I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May God give you the strength to get through this difficult time. Heather Plemel (previously from The Miller Agency)

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**Heather Plemel** - November 13, 2019 at 01:26 PM

ES

“My thoughts and prayers to the Allen Family during this difficult time.

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**Eric Swanson** - November 12, 2019 at 09:33 AM

TH

“So sorry for your loss. I only met Joyce once but she seemed like a sweet person. Tina my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Call me if you need me.

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**Tammy Hall** - November 09, 2019 at 11:12 AM



“ *The Very Best peanut butter cookies! Thank you for the recipe tho mine don't taste as good as Joyce's. Doug and family, So very sorry for your loss.*

*With deepest sympathies, Sharon Jarvis  
(From Dr. Hassell's office)*

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**Sharon Jarvis** - November 09, 2019 at 09:48 AM