



## Larry E. Zabel

May 29, 1942 - December 29, 2025

Larry E. Zabel, 83, of Florence, WI, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 29, 2025, at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center CLC in Iron Mountain, MI.

Larry was born May 29, 1942, in Milwaukee, WI, to the late Elder and Beatrice Zabel. He joined the U.S. Army in July of 1960 and was a marksman, earning a Good Conduct Medal. He was stationed at US Army bases and was honorably discharged in July of 1962.

Larry married Judith Unger (nee Panfil) on October 26, 1967; they enjoyed 58 years of marriage. Larry and Judy both met and worked at Briggs and Stratton until his retirement in 1997. Soon after his retirement, they purchased their dream home in Florence, WI, where they enjoyed their retirement together. Larry was an avid outdoorsman enjoying deer and waterfowl hunting, fishing, camping with family and friends and living on the lake. Later in his retirement he enjoyed golfing, spending much of his T-time at Timberstone Golf Course. He was a member of Aurora Free Church in Aurora, WI, and a devoted member of Hiram Fisher Mason Lodge 222 in Florence, WI.

First and foremost, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He was a great husband, father, and friend who will be dearly missed. Larry truly enjoyed the holidays and always enjoyed the food, celebrations, and joy that

the holidays bring. He was our very own Santa Claus. He could light up any room and was the life of any gathering. You are not gone from us, only gone from sight – cherished beyond measure, missed beyond words.

Larry is survived by his loving wife, Judith Zabel; his children, son Jay Zabel, daughter Jo Ann Herman (Wade) and son Aric Zabel; 4 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; 2 sisters, Joan Haise-Tredwell and Jan Stark; and many nieces, nephews, and dear close friends.

In addition to his parents, Elder and Bea, Larry was preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Mary (Gramma) Panfil; eldest son, Robbie Zabel; daughter-in-law, Dawn Zabel; and brothers-in-law, Rick Haise and Carl Stark.

The family would like to express a special thanks to Dr. Loewen for his compassion and kindness during Larry's illness and throughout his life. Also a special thank you to Hailey, Robin and all the staff at Oscar G. Johnson VA CLC for caring for Larry. Your dedication and support will never be forgotten. Very special friends Andy Herrick and Betty Gunville, thank you for always being there for Mama.

Per Larry's request, a private Celebration of Life and Service will be held in the spring at his home in Florence, WI.

Even in the face of his illness, their spirit remained unbroken, teaching us all the true meaning of strength and eternal love.

"I need to see a man about a horse....." one of his famous lines.

Until we meet again, rest in peace dad.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Larry E. Zabel online at [www.nashfuneralhome.net](http://www.nashfuneralhome.net).

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

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ *Barb Cooper lit a candle in memory of Larry E. Zabel*



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**Barb Cooper** - February 04 at 10:03 AM

KK

“ *My grandpa loving on my dog Roscoe. He will be missed. ❤️*



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**Kristin Klein** - December 31, 2025 at 06:49 PM

JZ

*He loved animals for sure, especially dogs.*

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**Judy Zabel** - January 01 at 06:53 PM