



## Mark E. Flunker

September 4, 1957 - August 29, 2016

Mark Flunker

58, of Florence, passed away peacefully, surrounded with love by family at his home on August 29th, 2016.

Mark was born September 4, 1957 in Appleton, WI, Son of Elaine (Pennings) and the late Ernest Flunker. He graduated from Hortonville High School in 1975 and went on to earn a degree in Conservation. Mark married Grace Garriott on September 15, 1979 in Appleton and they moved to Florence following his employment with the U.S. Forest Service. He was employed by the Forest Service as a Forestry Technician for 33 years, including fighting many wildfires throughout the country, retiring in 2011. He was then self-employed in his tree-felling and forest management business, FinnTown Wood.

Mark had a strong faith in Jesus, and worshiped at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain and Grace Presbyterian Church in Sagola. He faithfully served on the resource committee, past councils, praise and technology teams at Our Saviour's, and had been actively involved in the local Cursillo ministry since 1991.

Mark was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish, enjoying many

out-of-state hunting and fishing trips. He helped build their earth-sheltered home and cabin, and also constructed fine oak furniture for his family and friends. While raising his family, Mark was very involved in his children's athletics and sporting events. He greatly enjoyed spending time with all his family and friends.

Mark is survived by his loving wife Grace; his children, Ryan (Emily) Flunker of Iron Mountain and Kari (Jimmy) Hoffman of Springfield, OH; his mother, Elaine Flunker of Fremont, WI; brothers, Michael (Tiffany) Flunker of Neenah, WI, Gerry (Amber) Flunker of Hortonville, WI and Randy (Holly) Flunker of Winneconne, WI; three grandchildren, Micah Flunker, Sadie Flunker and Finley Hoffman; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by an infant child, and his father, Ernest Flunker.

Visitation will be on Friday, September 2nd from 9:30am-12:00 noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. Memorial services will follow at 12:00 noon at the church. Rev. Robert Gordon and Rev. Michael March will officiate.

In lieu of flowers a memorial will be established.

Condolences to the family of Mark Flunker may be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 2. 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)


Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Memorial Service

SEP 2. 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

 Connie  
Davis

“ So sorry to learn of Marks passing. I worked with Mark, Jim and little Joe on the timber marking crew one summer. I pray that God gives you strength and comfort at this difficult time. Connie (Taff) Davis

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**Connie Davis** - September 19, 2016 at 02:55 PM

BR

“ I started working with the Florence District timber crew around 1986. Mark was my crew supervisor. We cruised and marked timber and went on a few wild land fires together. I remember Mark as a great coworker, fun loving, and a sense of humor. He's up in heaven with that big smile looking down on us all. I will remember Mark and all the good times and memories. Sincerely, Bill Roder

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**Bill Roder** - September 16, 2016 at 12:13 PM

EN

“ Grace,  
So sorry to hear of your loss. You and Mark have been in my thought and prayers over the years and will continue to be. God's peace be with you at this difficult time. I hope this picture brings a smile to your face when you are ready.  
Elise



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**Elise Neuens** - September 07, 2016 at 06:18 PM

GG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Grant Garriott** - September 05, 2016 at 10:47 AM

BB

“ *Dear Grace and Family*

*Dennis Beechler called me today to say Mark had passed. What a shock.*

*I had the honor to work with Mark at the beginning of his US Forest Service career. I still see Mark's happy smile, respect his tremendous work ethic, remain impressed with his dedication, and admire his rounded personality. He was a fantastic team member and valued member of the District. He could do anything.*

*I am greatly saddened to learn of Mark's passing. God Bless you and the Family.*

*Regards,  
Bob Bryant*

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**Bob Bryant** - September 02, 2016 at 02:58 PM

JL

“ Dear Grace & Family: I was so saddened to hear of Mark's passing. Having worked with Grace, I only met Mark occasionally, but I always knew him to be exceptional..... whether it be as husband, father, co-worker, or friend. Continue to share all of your memories and speak of him always..... he is now one of God's angels looking over all of you! Stay strong, and lean on each other, family, and friends. May God give you all comfort at this difficult time. God Bless!



*Janine Lambon*

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**Janine Lambon** - September 02, 2016 at 01:05 PM

HM

“ Dear Grace and family, it is with the heaviest of heart I want to send my condolences. Mark was truly an amazing person who I feel privileged to have known. Mark as you know was very instrumental in my career. I have many good memories and a lot of stories that make me feel blessed to have had the opportunity to be mentored, encouraged by and work along side of such a wonderful person. Mark taught me many things in life and I will carry those lessons and teachings with me and continue to pass on things I learned from him to others. Mark always had faith in me and encouraged me in many aspects of my life. Mark truly was an amazing husband, father, family member, co-worker and friend. He will be missed.....

*Heather Martens "H"*



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**Heather Martens** - September 02, 2016 at 12:18 PM

MB

“ Dear, Grace, Ryan, Kari, and family,  
I write this from an environment your husband and father, Mark, embraced and excelled in, the wildland fireline. I ask your forgiveness for not being able to attend his memorial service. I made the decision shortly after receiving the news of Mark's passing, to stay and complete my fire assignment in honor of the memory of a colleague that I was fortunate enough to accompany on many work adventures throughout America for nearly 32 years.

We enjoyed the privilege of protecting the wonderful Public Lands owned by the citizens of the United States.

Mark always made work fun, but with a focus on accomplishing the task(s) we would be given.

His leadership and strength made Mark a pleasure to work with, whether it was wildland fire, a District project, or a Timber Sale.

Mark, Jim Churchill, and me attended many fire training courses together from Escanaba to Rhinelander, and towns in between. I would have to say, many training attendees looked forward to courses in Rhinelander, where we would rent a school gymnasium for an evening to play basketball. Usually followed by burgers and beer at Pat Deau's.

I remember Mark as a risk taker. Always calculated, of course, where failure wasn't an option. Although, in one or two instances, I believe we called it "over achievement".

Mark always had concern for the people he worked with and will be remembered for his exuberance and drive.

I will always remember a fire crew's return from an arduous, 3 week assignment, only to learn we would be required to spend a night in Duluth prior to returning home.

Despite Mark's best lobbying efforts, management stood firm, refusing to allow the crew to travel, so we were facing a night next to the National Guard Armory. So, rather than continue to argue the situation, he made the best of it, calling a taxi cab, who drove him to

*a store, and then he returned with several cases of beer. We spent a good portion of the night swapping fire stories, telling jokes, and reveling in one last night of crew comraderie. Very few had breakfast that morning and even fewer stayed awake during the ride home*

*I am sure there will be many superlatives spoken, and stories told involving Mark, in the coming days, months, and years.*

*In times of loss and mourning we look for strength. You need to look no further than the strength Mark displayed throughout his life to you, his family, his co-workers, and community.*

*And then, there was that time in Vernal, UT, when the bar owner came from the back room wearing a kilt and playing the bagpipes.....*

*Mark Borcovan  
USFS Law Enforcement Officer(Ret)*

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**Mark Borcovan** - September 02, 2016 at 07:32 AM

DL

“ *DiAnne Lund-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mark E. Flunker*



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**DiAnne Lund-Johnson** - September 01, 2016 at 08:46 PM

PF

“ To Grace & Family,  
So very sorry to learn of Mark's passing. Our sympathies to you and your family and prayers for comfort in this difficult time. Patti & Tom Faulks, childhood neighbors and High School Classmate.

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**Patti Faulks** - September 01, 2016 at 08:21 PM

AC

“ Dear Grace, So sorry to hear this news. You and Mark made a great team and he was a great faithful leader. Prayers for comfort and strength through this time. Amy & Gary Cebulski, High School Classmate

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**Amy Cebulski** - September 01, 2016 at 04:45 PM

DA

“ Dear Grace & Family,  
  
So sorry to hear of Mark's passing. My deepest sympathy to you all. Keeping you in my thoughts & prayers.

Sincerely  
Dahly Bosley  
(former co-worker at Florence County HSD)

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**DahlyBosley** - September 01, 2016 at 03:11 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mark E. Flunker.



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September 01, 2016 at 02:41 PM

RS

“ So sorry,  
*It's been a while since I have talked to mark or the family but he will be missed so much. This area has sure loss a great man a great person to have a talk about our loving God with. My prayers are so with all of the family so sorry I know he is in a even better place right now*

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**Ryan Sanders** - September 01, 2016 at 12:03 PM

PL

“ *Dear Grace & Family*

*We extend our sympathy in the loss of a wonderful person. Mark always had a smile that you felt he was your friend even if you had never met before. The Lord has called him home knowing his work is done on earth. Mark and Dad are smiling as they are joined together once again.*

*May God hold you close and bring you comfort at this difficult time. Thoughts and Prayers are for you all.*

*Pete & Marian LeMere*

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**Pete Marian LeMere** - September 01, 2016 at 10:46 AM

RE

“ *Mark was such an inspiration and role model for all God must have another mission for Mark, one of a higher service for the Lord. Our hearts and prayers and deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mark. He is at peace and with the Lord. God Bless, Ernie and Rita*

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**Rita and Ernie** - September 01, 2016 at 10:29 AM

CS

“ I met Mark years ago fishing on the Chain and we shared information. He was a great walleye fisherman. Learning about his back ground in forestry, I hired him to cut trees and he did a great job for me and our neighbors and friends. My wife and I attended his seminar on felling big trees which very helpful. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you.  
Carl and Lois Sundberg

Carl Sundberg - September 01, 2016 at 07:11 AM

SR

“ Grace and family,  
  
We were informed of Mark's death. He was always willing to help others. Hope that you know that the Lord's work is paying it forward. So you know that everyone he touched will help others.  
Please accept the Class of 75's sharing your sorrow.

Sharon Koleske Reynolds

sharon koleske reynolds - August 31, 2016 at 09:22 PM

DF

“ Donald Vassar & Family lit a candle in memory of Mark E. Flunker



Donald Vassar & family - August 31, 2016 at 07:51 PM

DV

Grace and family, we are so sorry of your loss of Mark. May God blessed each and everyone of you. Donald Vassar & family.

Donald Vassar - August 31, 2016 at 07:55 PM

BC

“ Dear Friends, The congregation of Bethany Bible Chapel, Conway SC are remembering you in prayer during this time. "We sorrow not as others who have no hope..."

*God grant you His peace, comfort, strength and grace!*

*John 14:27*

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**Bethany Bible Chapel** - August 31, 2016 at 07:21 PM

TF

“ The Mongold Family purchased the Victorian Tea cup Bouquet for the family of Mark E. Flunker.



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**The Mongold Family** - August 31, 2016 at 12:57 PM

EE

“ Ealge River/Florence District Employees purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mark E. Flunker.



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**Ealge River/Florence District Employees** - August 31, 2016 at 09:09 AM

GP

“ *The most pleasant guy you could ever know. Mark would always lighten your heart and make you feel better whenever you met. He will be missed by many. A great cousin and man forever in our memories. May God receive him with great grace.*

*Glenn & Sandy Pomerening*

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**Glenn Pomerening** - August 31, 2016 at 08:24 AM

VC

“ *I am the oldest cousin on the Flunker side (70) & remember jumping up & down in our Farm Kitchen when I heard that Uncle Ernie & Aunt Elaine had a baby boy named Mark! He always had a smile. Too young but God has taken away his pain. Ernie & Mark are now smiling from Heaven.*

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**Verdaine Anunson, Cousin** - August 31, 2016 at 08:04 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mark E. Flunker.*



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August 31, 2016 at 07:57 AM

BA

“ Mark was my "little cousin" growing up that I enjoyed babysitting and watching him grow up to be a fine young man, husband and father. At family reunions, he was always ready with a warm hug and smile. I know that he was experiencing earthly health struggles, and the Lord in His mercy has called him to his heavenly home where he joins his Dad, and others in an everlasting reunion of glory!

*May the Lord grant his grace and peace to his family and friends.*

*In His Love,*

*Bill and cousin Brenda*

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**Brenda Arndt** - August 31, 2016 at 07:47 AM

BW

“ *Barbara Wolosek lit a candle in memory of Mark E. Flunker*



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**Barbara Wolosek** - August 30, 2016 at 11:31 PM

BW

*I will always have fond memories of Mark! We had lots of fun as kids playing football and listening to the Packer games on the radio while his mom and dad were at the game.*

*God Bless You All!*

*Love, Cousin Barb & Ron*

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**Barbara Wolosek** - August 30, 2016 at 11:54 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Wolosek sent a virtual gift in memory of Mark E. Flunker*



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**Barbara Wolosek** - August 30, 2016 at 11:27 PM

AR

“ *Grace and family,  
We extend our sympathy and are keeping you in our prayers. Mark was always so kind and caring. He was always welcoming and easy to talk to. He gave anyone who knew him a sense of peace by his faith and demeanor. Your loss will be shared by all who knew him. May God hold you close at this sad time.  
Alice and Gordy Reed*

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**Alice Reed** - August 30, 2016 at 10:58 PM

 Joan Hanson

“ *Mark was my kind little cousin. I will remember him as the nicest boy who played with my little brother Bob. He certainly was a "Pay it Forward" guy.*



*Love you all- Joan and Eric Hanson*

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**Joan Hanson** - August 30, 2016 at 03:01 PM

TD

“ Grace- Mark was always like a father figure to me during my time at Cedarville. I am forever touched by the person he was to both you as a husband and to Kari and Ryan as a dad. I am so thankful to have known him on this side of eternity, and look forward to the day we all spend forever together. I'll never forget our canoe ride with you guys the one 4th of July weekend we came up for a visit, as well as all of the other times you guys welcomed me in your home like one of your own!

*Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Love,*

*Tami Delimpo and family*

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**Tami Delimpo** - August 30, 2016 at 12:56 PM