



Matthew Polaske

September 18, 1958 - September 18, 2010

Matthew John Polaske, 52, of Iron Mountain was called home by God on Saturday, September 18th 2010. A personal battle with cancer brought his life with us to a close while surrounded by his wife, father and three brothers.

Matt, the eldest son of Clarence and Marie Polaske was born on November 11th 1957 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His love of life, family and the great outdoors combined to set an example for all those who knew him or who were blessed to have met him throughout life. He lived his life sharing himself, his time, his knowledge and his expertise with those around him, and especially with his family. He blazed countless trails through life's many challenges and became an inspiration for us all. His personal examples of reverence to God, love, laughter, and caring and respect for others earned him unparalleled respect as a husband, father, son, brother and friend.

He was a professional leadman for WE Energies for more than 33 years and will be remembered for his personal pursuit of excellence. He demanded perfection from both himself and from those working alongside him because he knew that always 'doing your best' and 'learning from your mistakes' are hallmarks of a man.

Matthew shared his love of life and of the outdoors most often with his wife, children and family. Fishing, hunting, camping, snow shoeing, kayaking, and

travel were his passions – activities which he shared with us all and which earned him the nickname of "B'wana". It also earned the love, devotion and admiration of Ms. Susan Rogers, whom he married just a short year ago aboard a schooner off the coast of Maine.

Matt is survived by his wife Susie; three children, Zack Polaske of Poplar, Tom Polaske and Annie Polaske of Spread Eagle; his father and step-mother, Clarence and Elana Polaske of Neshkoro, Wisconsin; three brothers, Tim (Susan) Polaske of Omaha, Nebraska, Robert (Lisa) Polaske of Sussex, and Paul (Suzanne) Polaske of Milwaukee; four step-children, Anthony Pietsch of Neenah, Brett Pietsch of Appleton, Blayne (Kellie) Rogers of Mountain Home, Idaho, and Trever Rogers of Aurora; numerous nieces and nephews; and countless folks whom he called 'Friend'.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Marie Polaske.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, September 25th from 10:30am to 12:45pm at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Funeral services will follow at 1:00pm at St. Mary and St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Fr. Daniel Zaloga will officiate. A gathering for family and friends will be held following the funeral mass at Matt and Susie's home, 1019 Prospect Ave. Iron Mountain, MI 49801. His ashes will be rejoined with the earth in a private family ceremony at the Brothers' Cabin near Brule, Wisconsin on Saturday, October 9th 2010.

Though we all feel heartache and sorrow today, we know that he will always be at our side, watching, guiding, and assisting us in finding our way as we continue to face our own unique challenges in this life.

We rejoice for him as he is reborn into everlasting life, but we'll miss him terribly ...

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Matthew Polaske online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **25.** 10:30 AM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Funeral Service

SEP **25.** 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church
414 Prospect Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

TF

“ Dear Zach, Annie, and Tom,
We have many wonderful memories of our time with all of you, and your parents, at the cabin and our many visits to Kewaunee. Do you remember the road rabbit? Matt was quite creative in hiding it. One time he discovered it in the fish market cooler! We remember Matt working on our old van in below zero weather in Two Rivers. Matt was determined to get it working, and he did, frozen fingers and all. We also were remembering when we were tubing on the river and Janet was unable to get in the tube, flipping and flopping like a drunken acrobat. Matt's genuine hearty laugh as he helped her reenter the tube still rings strong.

We are with you in spirit and trust that time will soften your sorrow.
Blessings,
The Gehls

The Gehls - Waupun, WI - friend - September 24, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ In addition to our work place relationship Matt and I shared a common interest in Lake Michigan salmon fishing. One of my most memorable trips was with Matt and his sons in Kewaunee WI. We caught so many fish that Matt had to borrow additional coolers to get them home. Matt had a gift in his ability to create fond memories with everyone he shared time with. May God bless him and his family.

Don Jarvey - Fond du Lac, WI - Union Brother/ Friend - September 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ Dear Zach, Annie and Tom,
We remember when you were much younger and during happier times when we would visit and your Mom and dad would take us on trips to see interesting places in northern Wisconsin it was always an enjoyable day.
We're sorry we won't be able to attend your dad's funeral mass, but you will always be in our thoughts and prayers, and your Mom too.
Love Grandpa and Grandma

Norbert and Kathleen O'Leske Dianne's parents - Hartland, WI - Grandfather and Grandmother - September 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ I havent seen Matt in many years but always remembered him as a great guy. I wish that i would have stayed in touch but unfortunately that didnt happen. I send my love and prayers to Matts family and to my cousins and my Uncle Clarence. Love and miss you all.
Pam Wilkum (Polaske)

Pam Wilkum - Greenfield, WI - 1st Cousin - September 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ My father (the late Steven Grzyb) who also died at a very young age of cancer and Matt worked together at WE Energies. I would hear my father talk greatly about Matt and how working with him was always a joy. The day of my fathers service Matt came up to me and introduced himself and gave me a smile that I will never forget. He reminded me of a what a great man my father was and how he will always be with us. I want the family of Matt to know that he too will always be with you. Whenever you feel a nice breeze brush your shoulder or a soft whisper in your ear just know that he is with you always. My thoughts and prayers go out to you all.

Gretchen Grzyb - September 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Please accept my condolences on your loss of good man. I've only know Matt for a short time. Matt and I worked together as Unit Chairs for local 2150. Matt was the guy that you could count on to get answers. He never had a problem telling you how he felt. That's what I liked about him!!

Greg Ebert - Co-worker - September 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ I haven,t seen Matt in a very long time. But I do remember the times we would go to Uncles house for the hoildays when I was a little girl. He took time out of hanging with all the other kids and played the piano with me . I looked up to him from that day on. I will miss him. My heart goes out to everyone Matt has touched in his life. I know he touched mine.

Kathy Pawlak (Wojtalewicz) - Millwaukee, WI - cousin - September 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BZ

“ Dear Zach, Tommy and Annie,
Your uncle Bill and I regret we can't be with you on Saturday. You're so young to have to go through such a sad, sad day. We have been thinking and talking about your Dad over the last few days. Did you know he and your Mom stood up for us on our wedding day? It was June, 1988 and parts of Wisconsin were in the midst of a terrible drought. The temperature on the day we got married was in the 90's. Your Dad and Mom came all the way down from Spread Eagle to Pewaukee to celebrate the weekend with us. We went to Grenadier's in Milwaukee. We all rode in a limo, but before we got in, I remember your Dad standing by the limo and the dry, hot dust was swirling around him and the car. And yes, Zach and Annie, you were with us at Grandpa Norbie's and Grandma Katie's that weekend. You were very little, but you were there. We were all so happy that day. Makes me smile; I hope your memories bring smiles to you, too. Love, Uncle Bill and Aunt Beth

Beth Rounds - Appleton, WI - Aunt & Uncle to Zach, Tommy & Anne - September 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Matt and I were the best of friends from Jr. high school on. We hunted and fished together often. We also enjoyed basketball and shooting pool. We would put on black pants, black leather boots and black leather coats and go to the pool tables. As a team, we were tough to beat. As my friend, he couldn't be beat.
God has you now, and what an incredible gift we had. I'll miss ya bro and I will cherish our time and the memories we had.
My prayers are with all of the family members.
Mark Ladish

Mark Ladish - Knoxville, TN - Friend - September 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Jack and I are both so sorry to hear of your loss. He was such a great man. We remember him from being Chelsea's soccer coach to just getting to know both of you the last year. We have you and the family in our prayers.
Trish & Jack Butterfield

Trish & Jack Butterfield - Williston , ND - Friend - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ We have known Matt for a short time but he had a warm smile, sense of confidence and peacefulness about him. He & Susie always seemed to be on or planning their next adventure in the time they had together. God has a plan for everything and he must have had something big in mind for Matt to take him so young and still so full of life. God Bless & You are in our thoughts.

Eric & Michelle Schneider - spread eagle , WI - friend - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ The minute I heard of Matt's illness a couple months ago, he would come into my thoughts daily. It didn't matter how busy or crazy my life was, in a quiet moment he would slip into my head with a memory. As the end came near for Matt, I wanted to tell him how much I loved him throughout my life. I never called him because I didn't want to intrude on his final days. In my heart I did tell him how much I loved him and his brothers. I will miss knowing that he is up in the great north woods.
Love, "your favorite cousin"
Karen

Karen Loback (nee Wojtalewicz) - Aurora, IL - 1st cousin - September 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM