



Melany E. Laydon

February 7, 1959 - October 29, 2025

Melany E. Laydon, 66, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, with family at her side.

Mel was born on February 7, 1959, in Crystal Falls, MI, the daughter of Benjamin and Betty (Pierce) Applin. She graduated from Kingsford High School in 1977 and married her high school sweetheart, Jim Laydon. In 1981 Mel and Jim moved to California where they started their family. They later moved back to Iron Mountain to raise their children in the U.P.

Mel worked at Iron Mountain Public Schools for more than 30 years and served as the Scholarship Administrator for 20 of those years. During that time, she implemented 34 new scholarships and the Western Incentive Scholarship program, making IMHS one of only two schools offering the program in the state. She worked tirelessly to help students and families secure monetary awards to further their education. Through her work, IMHS was able to award over \$10 million dollars!

Mel enjoyed the outdoors, gardening, bird-watching, beach combing, cooking, and a good Cab Sauv.

Mel also loved to travel. Once retired she spent time visiting Duluth, Door County, countless waterfalls, and the Pacific Northwest with her partner, Tom. She also reconnected with high school friends on several "Girls Trips."

Mel's greatest joy in life was her family. She traveled near and far to watch her grandsons play soccer (and cheer loudly). Sundays weren't complete without having Adam, Danielle, Gavyn, and Ryken over for the Packers game and snacks, hoping at the end of the game everyone would still be cheering GO PACK GO! She enjoyed wine tasting and exploring the Pacific Northwest with Ashlie and Garren.

Mel is survived by her daughter, Ashlie Laydon (Garren Andrews) of White Salmon, WA; son, Adam (Danielle) Laydon of Kingsford; two grandsons, Gavyn and Ryken Laydon; two sisters, Christine Ameen and Lisa (Ray) Goudreau; partner, Tom Zimmerman; and beloved rescued cat, Josie.

Mel was preceded in death by her loving husband of 44 years, Jim; her parents, Benjamin and Betty Applin; and two brothers, Michael and Kelly Applin.

Visitation will be held 11:00AM - 1:00PM on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Services will follow at 1:00PM at the funeral home. Pastor Michael March will officiate. Burial will be held Monday, November 10th at 11:00AM at the Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the Almost Home Animal Shelter - a cause near and dear to Mel's heart - at <https://almosthomeanimalsheltermi.com>.

Condolences to the family of Melany E. Laydon may be expressed online at www.ernashfueralhomes.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

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Avenue
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-7676
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

NOV 8. 1:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Avenue
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-7676
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Melany E. Laydon



Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home - November 10, 2025 at 04:34 PM

RT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ruth Truscott - November 06, 2025 at 09:41 PM

Jl

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jean Ivory - November 06, 2025 at 03:20 PM

Jl

IMHS “Grads” - you will be missed, Mel! 💕🙏

Jean Ivory - November 06, 2025 at 03:22 PM

WZ

“ Dear Ashlie, Adam and family, my sincere heartfelt condolences over the loss of your mom and grandmother. She was a wonderful colleague and friend in our years together at IMHS. Her professionalism, sense of humor, and true concern for students will always be admired. She always spoke of her family with love and was so devoted to all she cared for. The world will not be the same without her. I will be donating in her memory to Almost Home Animal Shelter. With sympathy, Wendy Zambon

Wendy Zambon - November 06, 2025 at 09:24 AM

Jl

“ To Ashlie and Adam and family - i am so sorry for your loss. You were the center of her world. Mel greeted whomever she met with a smile and genuine interest, you touched many lives, Mel , you will be missed by many. Rest in comfort now. Jean Ivory

Jean Ivory - November 06, 2025 at 12:35 AM

CW

“ Dear Ashlie and Adam and family,
Mel was a great friend and it was at school that she touched the lives of so many college bound students with advice and mostly, her time! She was a true asset to the district! The job she did was perfection!
Her passing will leave a void in the lives of so very many! Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers during this time of profound loss!
Cheryl Wender



cheryl wender - November 05, 2025 at 07:40 AM

DM

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Mel’s family. May you find comfort and peace in the memories that will always remain in your hearts. Rest peacefully, Mel*



Diane Schirk McKinnon - November 04, 2025 at 01:57 PM

RT

“ *Dear Ashlie, Adam, and Family,*

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of your mom, a former neighbor, colleague, and most importantly, friend. For over 15 years, we worked together at IMHS; Mel as the Scholarship Coordinator and I as the Guidance Counselor. She devoted her days to helping students navigate the college process, offering kindness, encouragement, and steady support.

Please know that you were the center of her life, and she spoke of you all often with so much pride and joy. I will remember Mel for her caring heart, her laughter, and the lasting difference she made in so many students' lives. I know she will be deeply missed.

Sending you all love and strength during this difficult time.

Ruth Truscott - November 04, 2025 at 01:46 PM

E(

“ I can honestly say I would not be where I am today if it weren't for Mrs. Laydon. During high school she helped me in so many ways including getting out of a bad situation and helping me apply for college and scholarships. She went above and beyond because she truly cared. Through her work, she has impacted SO many people that in turn have made the world a better place. The world has lost a beautiful person and I am so sorry for her loved ones.

Erin Martin (Coron) - November 03, 2025 at 07:46 PM

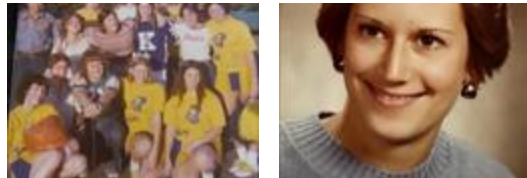
KS

“ So very sorry to hear of Mel's passing. Many prayers for strength and peace as you move through this difficult time!

Kristi Solda - November 03, 2025 at 07:31 PM

WE

“ 2 files added to the album KHS senior year Class of 1977



Wendy - November 03, 2025 at 06:08 PM

CL

“ Mel was one of my dear friends since fifth grade. We sure enjoyed our many adventures & Girls Trips. Blessed to have you as part of my life.

Cindy Finn Lequia

Cindy Lequia - November 03, 2025 at 01:37 PM

RG

“ Ray & Lisa Goudreau, Heather & Greg purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Melany E. Laydon.



Ray & Lisa Goudreau, Heather & Greg - November 03, 2025 at 01:33 PM

RG

“ Ray & Lisa Goudreau, Heather & Greg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melany E. Laydon.

Ray & Lisa Goudreau, Heather & Greg - November 03, 2025 at 01:33 PM

WE

“ 6 files added to the album "Girls Trip"



Wendy - November 03, 2025 at 01:02 PM

CL

*Mel was one of my dear friends since fifth grade. We sure enjoyed our many adventures & Girls Trips. Blessed to have you as part of my life.
Cindy Finn Lequia*

Cindy Lequia - November 03, 2025 at 01:31 PM

KB

I was with Mel at her new home that she built out in the country just 3 miles from me the night before she passed. We even continued to text once I got home. She loved it there in the country and I loved her out there too. We were able to reconnect our friendship of years ago and see each other frequently. Our get togethers always included a drink, venting, hugs and many, many laughs. I always left feeling so much better about life in general. We had a way of doing that for each other. I am so blessed to have been to Myrtle Beach with her and the girls and Panama City with them also. She will be missed by many! Love you girl!

Kathy Borkowski - November 03, 2025 at 02:41 PM

WE

5th grade Quinnesec school. Doesn't seem that long ago. One of my dearest sweet friends. I can't seem to find the perfect words to say. We had so many wonderful times together and had so many more planned for the future. God blessed us with a wonderful friend and lady. Will miss you- love you Melany!

Wendy - November 03, 2025 at 06:05 PM

EL

To Mel's Family,

*She loved you all.
I was working with her at IMHS when she first became a grandmother. Her joy and excitement was so heart-warming. She often talked about all of you with pride and lots of love.
Mel was fun to be around and her humor, quick smile and laughter were always appreciated in the high school setting and on non work occasions. She was a wonderful example of the virtue of helping others, especially her scholarship students.
I consider it a blessing to have known her and worked with her. The world lost a good person but heaven gained a new resident.
My sympathy to all of you. May your memories of her, in time, make you smile with love.*

Eileen LaLiberte

Eileen LaLiberte - November 05, 2025 at 08:19 PM