



## Merritt Dykstra

February 4, 1943 - February 4, 2009

IRON MOUNTAIN - Merritt John Dykstra, 66, of Iron Mountain, died Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center.

He was born on Dec. 25, 1942, in South Haven, Mich., the son of the late Enoch and Mary (Horner) Dykstra.

Merritt served a lifetime career in the U.S. Navy. He was a chief petty officer and an aviation mechanic who served in California, Tennessee, Spain, Virginia, and Texas. He also served on the USS Iwo Jima. Merritt was proud of his service and always had many good stories to share.

Merritt was a dedicated father and grandfather and he loved to spend time with his family. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing. Merritt had a great sense of humor and was an avid football fan.

He married Claire Gold in July 1993 in Munising.

He is survived by his wife, Claire; four sons, Merritt John Dykstra Jr. of Angola, La., Robert Paul (Jane) Dykstra of South Haven, Samuel David (Cherri) Dykstra of Iron Mountain, and Patrick Wayne (Monique) Dykstra of Huntsville, Ala.; three stepdaughters, Marlee (Taylor) Farfan, Virginia (John) Gisting, and Carla (Nathan) Valentine, all of South Carolina; one brother,

Melvin Dykstra; three sisters, Joyce Dykstra of Fremont, Mich. Della (Kim) Hasty of Grand Junction, Mich. and Dawn (Todd) Dumas of Kelava, MI; 30 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He also leaves Delores Perez, the mother of his four sons, and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Dale and Duane Dykstra.

Visitation will be Monday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be Monday at 3 p.m. at the funeral home. Rev. Kevin Sullivan will officiate.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Graveside services will be accorded by the Uren-Cooper-Johnson American Legion Post 50.

Condolences to the family of Merritt John Dykstra can be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with arrangements

# Tribute Wall

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“ *I will miss his mischevious look he gave, the grin, his chuckle and the way he twisted his hair. He was a good brother.* ”

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**Della** - February 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM