



Randy Larson

October 22, 1947 - October 22, 2008

IRON MOUNTAIN - Randy J. Larson, 61, of Iron Mountain, died Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008, at his home.

He was born on Aug. 14, 1947, son of the late Kenneth and Kathleen (Schuirmann) Larson. He attended Kingsford High School graduating in 1965.

He enlisted in the United States Army on Dec. 4, 1967, and was sent to Vietnam. While there, Randy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions for which he received the honor of the Vietnam Gallantry Cross, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for gallantry in action involving close combat with the Vietnamese.

On May 12, 1969, while serving as a scout with the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry his element came under intense fire from well entrenched positions, his armored personnel carrier led a flanking movement to the enemy's position. Despite the heavy volume of rocket propelled grenade fire, he drove his vehicle into one of the bunkers, destroying it. His vehicle then sustained a direct hit, and he was wounded in the leg. Ignoring his pain, he continued to fight until relief arrived.

From the office of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress it was stated that Specialist Larson's extraordinary heroism in close combat with

an armed hostile force is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 9th Infantry Division and the United States Army. He was honorably discharged on Dec. 1, 1973.

He married Denise Petschar in Iron Mountain in 1975 at the home of his brother in-law and sister in-law, Dean and Patti Petschar.

Randy worked for Bacco Construction for nine years. He then went to work with the United States Post Office as a clerk for more than 30 years, retiring on Aug. 1, 2008.

He was a lifelong resident of the area. He loved fast cars and motorcycles. Randy was the one in the family that everyone went to with any kind of a fix-it project; car repair, gardening, remodeling, oil painting or electronics, Randy could do it all. He went about his way always with a smile and an artist's touch. He was a kind, gentle, multi-talented man who will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched. We're changed now, not because he left us, but because he touched us.

Randy is survived by his loving wife, Denise; sons, Jess (Taryn) Larson of Clawson, Mich., Nick (Fiance, Naomi) Larson of Green Bay, Wis., Brian (Corrine) Pinks of Chandler, Ariz. and Sune Laugeson of Denmark; grandchildren, Brody Larson, Abby Vanderwege, and Teagan, Elizabeth and Owen Petschar; two brothers, Rick (Joanne) Larson and Kenny Larson, both of Beloit, Wis.; four sisters, Linda Meade of Beloit, Marlene (Tom) Leinen of St. Joseph, Mo., Christine (Mike) Rousseau of Beloit, and Laura (Amos) Hummel of Beloit; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Dana (Todd) Colenso, Dean (Patti) Petschar, Darla (John) Olson, Lynn (Buck) Gussert, Darren (Sherri) Petschar; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; special friends, Don (Terry) Summers and Pat (Betty) LaVigne; and his dog, Cinder.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Jody Rose.

Visitation will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home.

The funeral service will follow Saturday at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Rev. Michael March will officiate.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain.

Pallbearers will be Jayme Petschar, Kerk Summers, Daryl Olson, Jason Colenso, Bryan Gussert, Pat LaVigne, Don Summers and Dan Lori.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his memory.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Randy Larson online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Denise, Nick and Jess,*

Kristy and I are so sorry for your loss... Randy was a wonderful person and lived a life worth celebrating! You are in our thoughts and prayers during this trying time. Remember, death leaves a heartache which no one can heal but love leaves a memory which no one can steal.

*Ben, Kristy and Hayden Schmittling
Toledo, OH*

Ben & Kristy Schmittling - December 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ *Denise and family. I was shocked to hear of Randy's passing. Randy was someone who always touched me as being a fun-loving gracious gentleman that I'll never forget, even though it was many years ago that we crossed paths. Our prayers go out to you.*

Kim Novara - October 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Denise and family,
The awareness of Randy's passing was shocking. We send our condolences to you and your family that we are so sorry for your "hero" being taken home to be with the Lord so soon. You married a true military hero, a man of great courage and honor. More so, Randy was your personal hero, husband and father. He had such a calm disposition, always a smile on his face, and a gentle demeanor that always reflected kindness. Randy will be remembered by all who were touched by his life. With deep sympathy, + may God bless you, Denise, Jess, and Nick through this time of deep sorrow and loss and grant you His peace.
You are in our thoughts and prayers,
Jeff and Lana Smith

Jeff & Lana Smith - October 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Denise and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Tina Freeman - October 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Denise, Linda and family: I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I wish I could have been there to express my sympathy in person; it is one of the many disadvantages of living away from the area. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

Joy (Erickson) Brewer - October 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Denise, Jess, and Nick
I am so sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you at this difficult time. Randy was a wonderful man.

Andria Richards - October 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *Denise, Nick, Jess and Petschar clan...I am so sorry for your loss. Randy always was a gentle, kind man. You are all in my thoughts!!!!*

Teresa (Richtig) Chrisman - October 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ *Denise and Family: We are so sorry to hear of your loss. We wish we could be there to express our sympathies in person. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Nancy & Bob Leroux - October 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *Dear Denise and Family, We are so sorry for your loss and wish we could be there with all of you. Randy had a wonderful life to celebrate and we will miss him very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love Ann & Dan Schirk*

Ann & Dan Schirk - October 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ *Denise, although I never worked directly with your husband I found him to be a kind and gentle man. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time.*

Dawn - October 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *Denise, Jess, Nick, and Brian -*

I am so sorry for your loss. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Love and peace,

Heidi, Todd, Jacob, Eli and Stephen Brown

Heidi (Pontbriand) Brown - October 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *Denise, Jess, and Nick-*

I just wanted to let you know that my thoughts are with you during this difficult time. I am so sorry.

Shelly Richards Hoyt - October 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *Denise and Family, We are deaply sorry for your loss. We wish we can be there with you today but you know with the Postal Service you cannot just leave. The mail must go thru. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all and we will miss Randy in our gathers. The Robertsons*

Pat, John Robertson and family - October 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ *Denise and family,Just want you to know my heart goes out to you. I am so sorry. Karin Richards*

Karin Richards - October 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Denise and Family,*

There are no words that we can express to say how deeply sorry we are for your loss. You have our deepest sympathy.

Jon & Kathy Thekan and Bridgette Inglese

Jon & Kathy Thekan - October 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ *Dearest Denise and family,*

We are so sorry for your loss. May you find comfort from your family and friends and all the people that loved him.

God Bless.

Dawn & Tom Griggs - October 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ *Denise, Jess, and Nick -*

I am so saddened to hear of your loss. Your entire family became a surrogate family to me growing up, and Randy was surely one of my great uncles. Our hearts go out to you.

Love, Amie, Jason and Ali Kurian

Amie (Stephenson), Jason, and Ali Kurian - October 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM