



## Raymond Keith Balkum

December 19, 1957 - February 27, 2023

Raymond Keith Balkum, 65, of Iron Mountain passed away peacefully on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023, in the comfort of his own home.

Ray was born in Sault Ste. Marie on Dec. 19, 1957, son of the late Benjamin and Phyllis (Dickinson) Balkum. He was a graduate of Norway High School, Class of '76, and later attended Northern Michigan University. In 1991 Ray was married to Susan Johnson at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Norway. Ray was proud of his 30-year career with the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, retiring in 2013. Ray will be remembered for his fun-loving personality. He enjoyed watching and playing any and all sports and particularly loved playing golf and watching his favorite teams, the Los Angeles Rams and the Boston Bruins. His natural talent earning him hole-in-ones at Oak Crest and Bombers. Ray loved playing cards and spending time with his family and friends.

Ray will be deeply missed by his wife, Sue Balkum; 5 children, William Balkum, Nicole Balkum (Brandon Knopp), Ryan Balkum (Meg Barrett), Megan (Candace) Williams, and Kristian Balkum; 4 grandchildren, Isabella Allen, Riley Balkum, Damian Balkum, and Hailey Balkum; 8 siblings, Pam (Ed) Jacobsen, Benjamin (Song) Balkum, Dennis Balkum, Maurice (Jean) Balkum, Shirley Perry (Dave), Jojo Sauld, Monica Wagner (Randy), and Sandy (Byron) Dalla Valle; his father-in-law, Jim Johnson; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law,

Mary (Scott) Edwards, Kirsten Johnson, and Robert (Valerie) Johnson; and many other family and friends.

In addition to his parents, Ray is preceded in death by his son, Ben Balkum; first wife, Tammy Balkum; and 2 sisters, Barbra (Denny) McKay and Phyllis (George) Twardzik; 2 nephews, Cale Jacobsen and Denny McKay; and mother-in-law, Pat Johnson.

Visitation will be at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home, 901 Carpenter Ave. from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 5, 2023, with Rev. Jim Danielson officiating the memorial service at 4:00 p.m. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

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

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

# Cemetery Details

## Cemetery Park

101 Cedar Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 5. 2:00 PM - 4:00 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/>

## Memorial Service

MAR 5. 4:00 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



“ So sorry for your loss, he will be greatly missed.

Kathy (Allen) Malone - March 12, 2023 at 03:50 PM



“ Dear Sue and Family, We are so sorry to hear about Ray. He was a great guy and will be missed by everyone. Our sympathy to you all.

Rod and Cynthia Gordon - March 03, 2023 at 11:50 AM



“ R.I.P. Ray!  
One of the finest fooze ball players I met!  
Those were the days my friend!  
Our most sincere condolences for you and your family!!!

Donald Olson - March 02, 2023 at 05:03 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Keith Balkum.



March 02, 2023 at 01:59 PM

CS

“ On behalf of Richard and myself, just want to express condolences to our friend Shirley and to all of Raymond's family. I just read Ray's obit, and he sure did live a full life and aso left a wonderful legacy with his kids. Msy God be with you all! From Carol and Rich Silverman

Carol Silverman - March 02, 2023 at 08:31 AM

AJ

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. May you know God's peace and blessing and love. Aunt Annette

Annette Johnson - March 01, 2023 at 11:07 AM

KJ

“ Sorry for your loss. Prayers for Raymond and his family.



Kj - March 01, 2023 at 11:02 AM

TL

“ To many good times to count, from hide and seek to skating to cards and old style, will miss you my friend!

Terry Lundin - March 01, 2023 at 10:36 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond Keith Balkum.*



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March 01, 2023 at 05:57 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Raymond Keith Balkum.*



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February 28, 2023 at 09:06 PM



“ *Sue...I am so sorry for your loss. Ray was such an awesome person. I have so many fond memories of him when working at the Fire Alarm. He always made me laugh. He was a dedicated employee at the VA. Hugs from the Giblers*

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**Maryanne** - February 28, 2023 at 08:49 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about Raymond's passing. My condolences to the Balkum family. Rest in Peace Raymond. Dave Culham*

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**Dave Culham** - February 28, 2023 at 07:46 PM



“ *May Raymond's memory be a blessing. Condolences from Noreen & Steve, Shirley and Dave's neighbors.*

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**Noreen** - February 28, 2023 at 07:03 PM