



## Raymond F. Cerasoli

March 9, 1935 - February 12, 2026

Raymond F. Cerasoli, 90, of Iron Mountain passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026. Ray was born on March 9, 1935, to Fred “Palm Beach” and Sophie (Swenski) Cerasoli.

Ray attended Iron Mountain High School and despite the best efforts of his favorite teachers, Silvio “Tape” Egizii and Clarence Menghini, he left without a diploma, much to the dismay of his mother.

Ray was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1958. He was stationed in Germany where he earned his GED and badges for good conduct, auto mechanics, and marksmanship. He had many fond memories of his time in Europe.

He was discharged to the army reserves in 1960 only to be called back up in 1961 following the Bay of Pigs Invasion in Cuba. He loved telling people he was drafted two times. Fortunately, the Cuban missile crisis ended peacefully, and Raymond was discharged once again to come home to Iron Mountain.

On July 3, 1965, Ray married Karen Larson. They built a beautiful home, family, and life together. He always said he travelled all around the world and came home to build a house on “B shaft” where he grew up. It was where he belonged.

On his 83rd birthday in 2018, an army recruiter randomly knocked on his front door... Ray grabbed his walker and said, "I'm ready! Let's go!"

Ray gained valuable experience in the army and by working for a number of local businesses including Brosio's Service, Bob Forgette, and Cummins.

Ray spent 35 years at a business with his last name on the sign, and the word "president" after his name on the legal paperwork. "Well, the president still scrubs the toilet around here."

He "retired" in 1995 only to find his many loyal customers would not let him just quit. He felt so honored to have been voted "Best Mechanic" in 2004.

He portrayed himself as a tough guy, The Padrone, but we all knew the true Papa who was gentle and kind. He treasured his grandchildren; each one of them held a special place in his heart.

Ray enjoyed his garden - painstakingly planting tomatoes and peppers from seed over the winter, transplanting, hardening off, and not to mention fending off the deer in his yard. He could never resist purchasing pansies in the spring because they were smiling at him. Let us not forget the peas. Ray had the best garden peas in town.

At harvest time he canned spaghetti "gravy" with his home grown tomatoes and antipasto, and he was famous for his toasted hot peppers. He baked bread, biscotti, and pie. So much pie! Strawberry-rhubarb was a favorite, but his apple pie was definitely the best.

Ray is survived by his wife of 60 years, Karen (Larson) Cerasoli; his daughters, Eileen (Jason) Anderson and Jane (Ron) Perttu; and five grandchildren: Olivia (Nate) Cayer, Nathan Perttu, Everett Anderson, Sophie

Anderson, and Clara Anderson.

He is further survived by his brother, Fred Cerasoli; his sisters, Betty Beaudoin, Carole "Bitsi" Hamm, and Mary (Joe) Spigarelli; his sister-in-law, Fran Cerasoli; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Fred and Sophie, sister Helen Daniels, brother Joe Cerasoli, and brothers-in-law Herb Daniels, Wally Beaudoin, and Ted Hamm.

Raymond's beloved dog Roscoe and grand-dog Sam were waiting patiently to greet him at the rainbow bridge.

And last, but certainly not least, a very special thank you goes out to Pinecrest Medical Care Facility. The family is sincerely grateful for the kindness of the staff and the wonderful, personal care provided to Ray.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 21st at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 9:00 AM with the funeral service beginning at 11:00 AM. A fellowship luncheon will follow.

"I can fix anything but a broken heart." – Ray Cerasoli

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

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 21. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Funeral Service

FEB 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

EP

“ Dear Family of Ray, what sadness to hear of Ray's passing. He was such a fine man, and I remember him always smiling. He will be lovingly missed by his entire family of loved ones. May you all find peace in God's love. Sincerely, Tom and Eileen Pugh.

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**Eileen Pugh** - February 20 at 04:10 PM

RF

“ When Ray worked for my Fathers business, I was barely a teenager - Ray helped me learn about working on cars - with infinite patience. Ray was not only a great mechanic but a mentor and a gentleman. Rest In Peace Ray

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**Robert Forgette** - February 19 at 08:04 PM


KM

“ Mary and family- may Ray rest in peace. Prayers for you all.  
Kathy Izzo Maynard

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**Kathy Maynard** - February 18 at 08:35 AM

SP

“ My Deepest condolences to the family of Ray.  
 . RIP



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**Susan Piatti** - February 18 at 05:57 AM

CW

“ My sincere condolences to all his loved ones. I remember the first time I met Ray was when he and Karen came to Eileen's graduation from Baker College. We all went and saw *The Bridges of Madison County*. We were wiping our tears when we left. The next time my brother and I came to visit, he pulled out his ticket stub from his shaving bag, reminding us of the movie. My brother Jon really connected with him, not just because our Dad was an auto mechanic and took his advice to put superglue on the cracks on his fingers, it worked like a charm. We were treated to sleep at the cottage and really grateful for their kindness. God bless all of you. Please give your Mom a hug from me. I'm sure my brother Jon greeted him in heaven, may he RIP.

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**Cathy Woodring** - February 18 at 12:42 AM

EA

*He talked about you and that movie forever, including recently! It was definitely one of his favorite stories. He was so happy when you and your brother were able to come visit. So many great memories!*

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**Eileen Anderson** - February 18 at 07:01 AM

JD

“ A very nice man from a very nice family.

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**John Daley** - February 17 at 12:55 PM

AR

“ My father, Jack Brosio, always held Ray in high regard. He often said that among many skilled and good workers that he and his brother employed over their many years in their business, Ray was one of his best workers at Brosio Brothers Service Station. When I last saw Ray, he flashed his big ear to ear grin and said, "I was your father's favorite." He took great pride in his skills being appreciated. When Ray retired from Cerasoli Motors and continued working at his home garage, my father would take his car to Ray to be serviced. Ray always made time to reminisce and share his sense of humor. I was grateful for his kindness to my father. I send my sympathies to all Ray's family.

*Alice (Brosio) Reed*

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**Alice Reed** - February 17 at 10:48 AM

EA

*Thank you Alice. He had such respect for your father. I always loved his stories from when he worked at Brosio's. Great stories, always told with a smile.*

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**Eileen Anderson** - February 18 at 07:14 AM

KS

“ So sorry for your loss, Karen. I used to drop off my Dad's trucks for repair at Cerasoli Motors.

*Ken Sikora*

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**ken Sikora** - February 17 at 06:53 AM

LS

“ *Laura and Kevin Schmiegel purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Raymond F. Cerasoli.*



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**Laura and Kevin Schmiegel** - February 16 at 06:07 PM

BO

“ *Prayers are sent by me*

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**bobbynordell** - February 16 at 03:11 PM

CB

“ *Our deepest sympathies, know that we are praying for you all during this difficult time. We too are greiving the loss of Marie's husband Darrel. Services are this Thursday 2-3p est @ Anderson Funeral Home. I will try to attend Ray's on the 2st. God bless you all.*

*Craig Bengry*

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**craig Bengry** - February 16 at 01:27 PM

EA

*Praying for your family as well. God give you comfort as you grieve your loss... Hugs to you all.*

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**Eileen Anderson** - February 16 at 05:14 PM

TS

“ *God, wrap your arms around this man. Iron Mountain lost a good one. Rest in peace Ray.*

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**Tony Savarin** - February 16 at 12:24 PM