



Richard E. Abraham

December 5, 1929 - July 31, 2015

Having experienced a life filled with abundant adventures, hard work and endless love, Richard E. Abraham, age 85, went willingly and peacefully to live another life of eternal peace with his Lord and Savior on July 31, 2015.

Richard was born December 5th, 1929 in Iron Mountain to Michael and Sadie Abraham, the youngest of eight children. He was a 1949 graduate of Iron Mountain High School followed by graduating from the Milwaukee School of Engineering in 1953. It was in Milwaukee that Richard met and fell in love with his cherished wife, Jean, and married her on May 17th 1952. After marriage the happy couple moved back to Iron Mountain in 1954 where they opened and managed their first business; J&R Electronics. He and Jean together raised a loving family of four children.

Richard had a one of kind, generous spirit and more energy than most. He was a true visionary and self-made man who had an incredible knack for business. He owned and operated six corporations and three proprietorships, employing up to 38 employees. His other accomplishments included building the second high power FM radio station in the Upper Peninsula which he named WJNR, after he and his wife. In his lifetime he also built many consumer electronic stores including SoundNorth, UPTV Systems, and Great Lakes Tele-Touch.

Richard passionately believed in giving back to his community and was instrumental in raising funds for a long list of local organizations including; “The prevention of childhood sexual abuse”. He also had a great love of his country and as a result was the founding president of ACE – Americans for Constitutional Enforcement. Other fundraising projects that benefited from his desire to give back to the community included spearheading an effort to raise \$75,000 to provide Dickinson County with 22 life-saving defibrillator units for area First Responder vehicles.

An avid swimmer, Richard swam 7.7 miles in the Menominee River at the age of 65 and at 67 he swam the Straits of Mackinac to help raise funds for the local Kiwanis Club. In his lifetime he was a member of the Elks Club, Golden K, and served as a board member for Northwoods Airlifeline. Richard was also member of the Masons for over 50 years participating in Lodges 385 and 388. Being a Shriner since 1972 he proudly sponsored more than 130 children to the Shriner Hospitals where they were able to receive free medical help until the age of 18. He also had the privilege of serving for three years on the Board of Governors at the Shriners Minneapolis Twin City Children’s Hospital and the great honor of serving as the Potentate of the Ahmed Shrine in 1990. Richard strongly believed that God did not put him on Earth to take from it, but rather to make it a better place for his having been given the gift of life. If you were ask his of his greatest accomplishment in life, he would tell you it was the blessing of being the head of his loving family.

Richard was a faithful servant of God and a lifelong member of St. Mary’s Orthodox Church in Iron Mountain. He served on the Parish Council for many years and was instrumental in leading the efforts, along with his lifelong friend Louis Cini, of the construction of the St. Mary’s Soccer Complex.

Richard leaves behind his greatest source of strength and loving wife, Jean; his eldest son Michael (Margaret) Abraham of Erwin, Tennessee; his “favorite”

(and only) daughter Cindy (Russ Pietschmann) Abraham of Iron Mountain; Richard Abraham Jr. of St. Paul Minnesota and Chris (Jessica) Abraham of Iron Mountain. He is also survived by his sister Virginia Gossan, four grandchildren (Jennifer, Adam, Nicholas, and Lauren Abraham), six great grandchildren, two great great grandchildren; and his brothers-in-law Harry Howard and Neal Doll. In addition, he leaves behind a very special and dedicated niece Peggy Gingrass as well as several nieces and nephews. Lastly, he leaves behind his dear friends Dale Frei, Bob Belongie, and his fishing buddy Bob Dubnick.

In addition to his parents, those preceding Richard in death include his brothers John, George, and Samuel Abraham; his sisters Catherine Stichman, Helen Wagner and Margaret Bandt, as well as his Godson Richard Stichman and several brothers and sisters-in-law and nephews.

Richard lived life to the fullest and before illness fell upon him, he not only was an expert sharp-shooter, but greatly enjoyed spending time at his cabin, singing, hunting, fishing, scuba diving, and most of all; spending time with his family. If he had any advice to all he left behind it would be to love God, love your country, love your neighbor, and most of all; love your family never passing on an opportunity to say "I love you". This is how Richard lived his life, and it was a good one.

Friends may call from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm (noon) Wednesday at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home. Masonic services will be held at 11:45 am at the funeral home and funeral services will follow at 12:00 pm Wednesday. Fr. Mark Hagan will officiate. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

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

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Richard E. Abraham online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Cemetery Details

Cemetery Park

Cedar Ave
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 5. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Masonic Service

AUG 5. 11:45 AM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Funeral Service

AUG 5. 12:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Much time has passed since I have spoken to Dick, but was an inspiration in my life I will never forget. Dick was a man of admiration in everything and everyone he pursued, and who believed in me and my success, and have thought of him in every thing I turned to do in my life. Dick, Jeannie, Cindy and I shared a wonderful friendship I dearly cherished. Life took me in an A-typical direction of their presents, but never lost sight of them in my heart. I can say beyond a shadow of a doubt that Dick Abraham made an exceptional mark in this world.

Love always,
Jacqueline Susann Judd

Jacqueline Judd - December 07, 2015 at 09:35 AM

RN

“ Richard Abraham is one of my Dad's (David Nelson) long time friends. From an early age I can remember my dad talking about his great friend Dick Abraham. Years later I got to know Dick on the OSG spring cruises. I will always remember his great singing voice as he sang the lords prayer at our OSG ceremonies for departed seagulls. Dick was a unique individual with many great stories and numerous interests. I will never forget Dick Abraham.

Richard Nelson

Richard Nelson - August 11, 2015 at 12:36 PM

JR

“ Cindy, Love and prayers from the Ringel family. He was a true asset to the community and I loved contacting him my first years here for the annual 4th of July parade! What a legacy he has left. Treasure all of the happy memories and remember that we can all share in the joy that he has entered the eternal kingdom. God Bless!

Jonathan Ringel - August 07, 2015 at 07:06 AM

DE

“ Cindy and Family, So sorry to hear of your dad's passing. What a good guy. He will be missed. We are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers. Jim & Diane Ehmer

Diane Ehmer - August 06, 2015 at 07:55 AM

JA

“ Dear Mrs. Abraham, Chris, and family - I am so sorry for your loss. So many great memories of Mr. "A" and your family growing up. Thank you for always making me feel welcome in your home. I will remember and value Dick's genuine giving nature centered around helping and including others in need. He served as a role model for all by giving back to the community. May God bless him and your family.

Love - Jeff Ambrosia and Family

Jeff Ambrosia - August 05, 2015 at 12:34 PM



“ *"Uncle Dick from Sewer Crick" is how our dear uncle would greet us in a loud voice with a big smile and sometimes a song. He was a joy to be around, watched over our Mom (his sister Virginia), and was always a friend to the Gossan kids. Wonderful Shishkabob memories as well as fun at the Forty. We will miss him. Love and sympathy to Aunt Jean & the children and their families. Albie (Al Gossan).*

Al Gossan - August 04, 2015 at 04:29 PM



“ *I grew up just down the street from Dick, young Richard was my best fiend as a child. I spent a lot of time at the house on Wells street in the 70's. Dick was always fun to be around and the family would include me in many activities like going to Sundog and Jule Lake. Later on, when I was at a low point in my life he called me at a job I had and offered me a better job at J&R Electronics. He was a great man, I'll miss him.*

Chuck Winters - August 04, 2015 at 03:24 PM



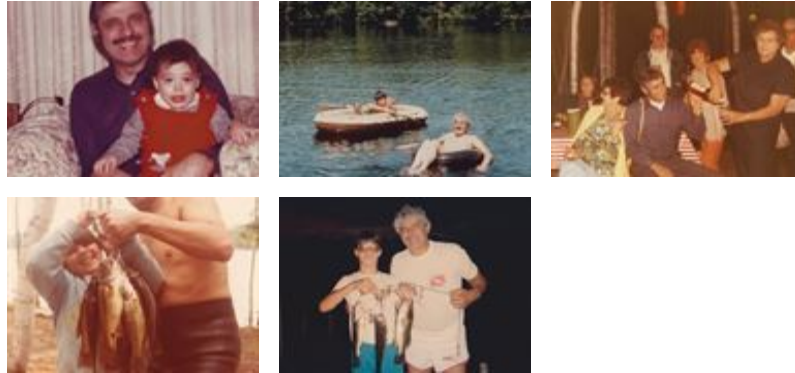
“ *Quiet Expressions was purchased for the family of Richard E. Abraham.*



August 04, 2015 at 03:20 PM



“ 28 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home - August 04, 2015 at 02:43 PM

MA

“ *Dear Cindy and entire family of Dick,
Please accept my sympathies of the passing of this kind man. The
pix say it all of his life and love of it!! My favorite is the really old pix
of him with his dog. Beautiful.*

*May you find comfort with all those photos and your own special
memories of favorite times with him at this difficult time.*

*Love,
Mary Oman (former employee of Dick and Jean and friend of Cindo)
xoxo*

Mary - August 04, 2015 at 12:25 PM



“ 44 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home - August 04, 2015 at 12:02 PM



“ Nephew George Abraham & Jan, Jim, Nancy, & Alayna Gossan purchased the Garden of Memories for the family of Richard E. Abraham.



Nephew George Abraham & Jan, Jim, Nancy, & Alayna Gossan - August 04, 2015 at 10:48 AM



“ Dear Jean,
My heartfelt sympathy goes out to you. You two were such a loving compassionate couple for life, family, and others. I always remember how kind Dick was to my parents...(Harry & Myrtle) and they loved him in return.
May the Lord give you all strength for the days ahead.
love,
Carol Peterson
Long Prairie MN

Carol Peterson - August 04, 2015 at 08:23 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Richard E. Abraham.*



August 03, 2015 at 06:15 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard E. Abraham.*



August 03, 2015 at 02:30 PM



“ *It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Richard Abraham. He always had a smile on his face and showed love for all. As a child, he made me, his cousin, feel very special. As an adult I came to know his compassion, strength and charity for his fellow man. He gave back to his community in so many ways. May God grant his soul peace.*

*With much sympathy to Jean and Richard's family,
Kaye Jacobs Lowe*

Kaye Lowe - August 03, 2015 at 01:20 PM

GA

Aunt Jean, Mike, Cindy, Richard and Chris,

Uncle Dick was a special uncle that I loved growing up as a child and as an adult. We shared wonderful experiences. We fished together, hunted together, walked together and talked about many, many things over the years. He was a "can do Uncle" and he really loved all his family and nephews and nieces. Your loss is deep and the hole that will be left is quite large for you and all of our family. Uncle Dick grew up with family reunions and kept that tradition alive for us all over our childhood years and these many past years. Always it was a highlight for him and many of us. Really that is one of the reasons we nephews and nieces and grand nieces and nephews loved being at Aunt Jean's and Uncle Dick's. Yes, it kept us connected, it kept us together as a family.

Into your hearts treasury may you hold the safe kept memory of such a loving father, Uncle and great friend. When you have dreams of the many happy and healthy times you had together you will see him in living color with his big smile and large personality. Time will not erase the safe kept memory of our dear Uncle Dick. It is such a wonderful thing.

The drawing close to God was good in Uncle Dick's eyes. His faith meant a lot and sustained him often during these rough last few years. May we all find ways to help our dear Aunt Jean who was overtaxed and consumed with his care. Her love never failed!

Nephew George Abraham, Pompano Beach, FL.

George Abraham - August 04, 2015 at 11:57 PM