



Richard "Dick" Allen

February 3, 1938 - February 8, 2024

Richard "Dick" Havelly Allen, 86, of Iron Mountain, passed away on Thursday, February 8, 2024. He died peacefully at Marshfield Medical Center-Dickinson surrounded by his loved ones.

Richard was born on February 3, 1938 in Blacksburg, VA, son of the late Pearl and Ida (Dowdy) Allen. He spent some of his childhood living with grandparents in both North Carolina and Mississippi where he developed a love for the game of football at an early age in the stands of Mississippi State football games, selling popcorn and Coca-Cola on Saturday afternoons.

Entering high school, "Dick" moved to Clawson, Michigan with his sister, Carolyn and mother, Ida, who found work in the automobile industry. In high school, "Dick" was involved in a variety of clubs, including Debate and Forensics. His passion was athletics. He received several Oakland County and State honors as a three sport standout excelling in Football, Basketball and Track.

After graduating from Clawson High School in 1956 he went on to Northern Michigan University where he was recruited for football and track. Dick was inducted into the NMU Sports Hall of Fame in 2018, reflecting his success and achievements as a scholar athlete. Dick earned his Bachelor's Degree from NMU with a Major in Speech and English, springboarding his career in public

education.

While attending college at NMU, he met and fell in love with Shirley Ann Wales. They were happily married for 63 years, before Shirley preceded him in death on Christmas day in 2022. After college, Richard and Shirley had a short stint in the lower peninsula, teaching and completing their Masters Degrees but soon returned to Iron Mountain to raise their three children and be closer to family. They landed on the north side of Woodward Avenue, rooting for the Mountaineers where Richard had a long and successful career as a teacher, coach, principal and for his last 15 years, superintendent in the Iron Mountain School System. Richard's long standing career at IMHS had a remarkable impact serving as a mentor, coach, friend and colleague to hundreds of students and staff that walked the halls.

It would be remiss to not mention some of Richard's favorite pastimes outside his professional career. He was a member of the Pine Grove Country Club for nearly 60 years and enjoyed golfing with his same Wednesday foursome for the majority of that time. Dick loved spending time at the cabin on Sundog Lake and attending activities of his 3 children. Although his children donned the black and gold, he eventually went on to cheer for the Flivvers as his beloved grandchildren took to the courts and fields.

In retirement, Richard and Shirley enjoyed traveling, hosting family meals, spending time with their grandchildren, and hanging out at camp as much as possible. They especially enjoyed taking an evening cruise on the pontoon boat, or a spin on the Mule.

Richard is survived by his sisters, Carolyn Carman and Cynthia Demontigny; his children, Craig (Trina) Allen of Kingsford and Lynne (Cory) Pottebaum of Salida, CO; and his grandchildren, Jacob (Maressa) Allen, Hannah (Demetri) Kostakis, Olivia Allen, Emma Allen, and Henry Pottebaum; and great-

grandson, Theodore Richard Kostakis.

In addition to his parents and beloved wife, Shirley, Richard was also preceded in death by his son, Scott Allen, brothers, Jack and Howard Allen, and brother-in-law, Tracy Wales.

Visitation will be from 10:00 am to 1:00pm on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain, with a service to follow at 1:00pm. Rev. Stephen Cowen will officiate. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in Dick's memory.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Richard "Dick" Allen online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 10:00 AM - 1:00 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

FEB 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Dick and I go back a very long way as we were teammates and roommates at Northern. So many great memories both on and off the field. He was a member of our wedding party at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette and he let us use his very cool '56 Chevy Bel Air as our get-a-way vehicle from the church. Also, because I was from Detroit, and he from Clawson, I used to bum rides from him to get home on holidays. My funnest memory was in 1958 when we played the Quantico Marines in Virginia and we, along with others, closed down the officer's club the night before the game. Of course, we got our butts kicked in the game the next day and Frosty, our coach put us through agonyizing drills for the entire week. Coach's logic worked as we proceeded to shut out the next four teams we faced. No Northern team, before or since ever accomplished that feat.

*Jim & Charlotte Mansfield
Spokane, Washington*

Jim & Charlotte Mansfield - July 31, 2024 at 06:49 PM

SP

“ So sad to hear of coach Allens passing. I have so many good memories of when he was my coach, seeing him at the Yooper MSU games and hanging out with my dad. My condolences to the family and many prayers have been sent his way.

Steve Pozza

Steve Pozza - March 01, 2024 at 02:04 PM

DM

“ My condolences to Craig n family. Dick was a mentor to me after high school and helped me get on the right path. I considered him a friend ever since and respected him greatly. He was a great man and his wisdom will be missed. Rest in peace Dick. 🙏🙏 Don Maule

Don maule - February 20, 2024 at 02:42 PM

DB

“ Craig, Lynn and families,
Please accept our deep sympathy as you mourn your dad's death- and as we mourn our dear friend. We have shared much of our adult lives with your Mom and Dad, and they have enriched our lives in many ways.

We thank God that we met and grew to love Dick and Shirley. We are so sorry we won't be there for the funeral, but we will be there for you in the future if you need us.

Our prayers for your family will be with you, from Florida.

Dave and Mary Lou

David and Mary Lou Blomquist - February 15, 2024 at 07:08 PM

JJ

“ My condolences to the family. I always held Mr. Allen in the highest regard as an educator and individual. Jason Julian IMHS-1970.

Jason Julian - February 13, 2024 at 02:22 PM

JF

“ Craig and all of Mr. Allen’s family.
I sure am sorry for your loss. Mr.Allen was a good man. Sympathy,
prayers and condolences
Jimmy and Winnie Fornetti

Jim Fornetti - February 13, 2024 at 12:53 PM

BM

“ Dearest family,
My wife and I got to know Dick quite well as we became renters of
his up in the 25 location. He also had me take a LONG TERM sub
teaching assignment when Mrs. Johnson ...the math teacher... had
surgery. I also believe Dick was instrumental in me getting my full
time teaching job in Gladstone because he knew the
superintendent.
He was a GREAT GUY in all respects and I’m sure he will leave a
DEEP VOID in many MOUNTAINEERS...AS WELL AS FLIVERS.
Prayers offered up for all family members...

Bob Mortel - February 13, 2024 at 11:24 AM

BD

“ Bradley D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick"
Allen.

Bradley D. - February 12, 2024 at 11:06 PM

MJ

“ My sincere condolences to you Craig and your family. God Bless.
Mike Johnson
Fence River

Mike Johnson - February 12, 2024 at 02:52 PM

GF

“ Gregg Ball & family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" Allen.

Gregg Ball & family. - February 11, 2024 at 12:27 PM

GF

“ Gregg Ball & family. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard "Dick" Allen.



Gregg Ball & family. - February 11, 2024 at 12:27 PM