



Richard Earl Larson

February 17, 1947 - November 17, 2022

Iron Mountain – Richard Earl Larson, 74, of N3649 Bass Lake Rd., went home to be with his Heavenly Father and Savior on 11/17/2022. An avid hunter, he had spent the day at his deer post in the back field of his home on Bass Lake, where he used to play as a child. The next day, his family discovered the 8 point buck that he had shot. He had often said, “When it’s my time to go, I hope I’m in my hunting post.”

Born February 17th, 1947, in Cook County, Chicago, Illinois, Richard was the younger of two children born to the late Russel and Edith (Erickson) Larson. In 1947, the family moved back to Iron Mountain to live in his maternal grandparent’s home near Bass Lake. From then on, he was a lifelong resident of the area. He grew up on the family’s land, surrounded by uncles, aunts, and cousins. His father passed away when he was only 12, so he had to learn to work hard at a young age to help his mother. He played baseball and softball, and he also water skied and was a member of the ski team. He made many jumps off Pine Mountain! He attended Breitung Township Schools, and he met his future wife, Sharon DUBY, in the 11th grade, when she had moved to the area from Racine, WI. They both graduated with the Kingsford High School Class of 1965. Sharon was his high school sweetheart and the love of his life. He always called her Mert, after her father, Merton. Richard and Sharon were married on October 9th, 1965, at his childhood home near Bass Lake, the same year that they graduated high school! Their first home was on the end of

Newton Street, in a tiny home that belonged to Sharon's grandmother. Their love got stronger every year, and they enjoyed 57 years together, working hard, and building a home overlooking Bass Lake on his grandparent's land. They resided there for the past 48 years, serving the Lord, and raising the 3 children whom they were blessed with.

Richard was a member of Redemption Hill (formerly Immanuel Baptist Church) his entire life, serving as brigade leader, usher, and facilities deacon. He was on the Thursday church cleaning crew, and he was frequently called on to help others in the church. He was always glad to lend a helping hand when it was needed. Richard loved our Lord, and he was acutely aware of the sacrifice of his savior on the cross. From that truth, Richard lived a life of thankfulness, helpfulness, and love for others. He read his bible daily and prayed for his family and others.

Richard was employed at the Niagara Paper Mill as a millwright for 43 years, right out of high school at age 18, until the mill closed in 2008. He was the employee with the most seniority at the time of its closing. He always came home from work with a new joke to tell. He was easy to talk to, whether you were a friend or a stranger.

Family was so very precious to Richard, and he was loved dearly by them. He was a wonderful Christian father/husband example. He read the Christmas story to the grandkids from his Bible every Christmas. His family will find comfort in knowing that he is rejoicing in Heaven, and they will see him again! The kids and grandkids looked forward to him and Sharon calling and singing Happy Birthday to them each year. He loved his grandchildren dearly and attended many sporting and school events and piano recitals. He liked to do his famous "jack knife dives" off the diving board, and pull the kids around the lake on water skis. He loved to go to the family camp that he had built on the Brule River in Florence, WI, and he looked forward to the annual family deer

hunting there. He and his son, Tim, went on their Canada fishing trip for 26 years, and the grandkids even started joining the trip. He loved to cut wood with his chain saw and work on carpentry/furniture projects in his shop. He built special hope chests for each of the granddaughters. Rich liked to work with his son, Tim, at his lawncare business. He found so many 4 leaf clovers! He was never one to sit still and after retiring, he always had to be working up in his shop, or sitting at his desk reading his Bible or doing cross word puzzles. He liked to plant a huge garden every year and was always sharing its bounty with family and friends. He loved to take a nightly swim in Bass Lake at sunset during the summer months. He enjoyed golfing at the Spread Eagle Golf Course with Sharon. Since he was born in Illinois and had/has many relatives there, he was an avid Chicago Bears fan. He loved his bowl of ice cream and taking naps on his hammock! Richard was blessed with many wonderful friends, and he was close to many of his neighbors, especially Karen and Jim Casari, Norm (the late Sonia) Johnson, Dr. Roberts (and Wendy), and Kristi (the late Richard) Celello.

Richard is sadly missed by the love of his life, Sharon; his 3 children and spouses, Jamie (Stan) Henry of Naples Florida, Jodi (John) Casanova of Iron Mountain, and Tim (Corinne) Larson of Iron Mountain; and precious grandchildren, Hillary Henry (Jon) Sieg, Alex Henry, Kailee and Logan Drake, Mattea, Talia, Isaac, Karisa, and Samuel Larson. They will miss him always and love him forever and ever. They find comfort in knowing that Rich is in Heaven with Jesus. He is also survived by sisters-in-law and brother in law, Carolyn (the late Wesley) Paquette of Wakefield MI, Robert and Mary Duby of Florence, WI, and Anna Larson of Guam; many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews; and also many cousins, whom he has remained close to.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edith and Russel Larson; his

mother and father-in-law, Merton and Margaret Duby; his brother-in-law, Wesley Paquette; and his brother, Lawrence Larson.

Visitation will be 9-11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 25th, at Redemption Hill Church in Kingsford. A service celebrating Rich's life will follow at 11:00 a.m. at the church. Pastor Alex Tunnicliff will officiate.

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

The family has entrusted Erickson-Rochon and Nash funeral home with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **25**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Redemption Hill
332 S. Carpenter Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Service

NOV **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Redemption Hill
332 S. Carpenter Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

TW

“ Our family always looked forward to summer vacations at Bass Lake. Being able to jump off the dock at Richie's beach and into the lake from Richie's rope swing added a lot to the fun. Wishing Sharon, Jamie, Jodi, Tim and families comfort in your memories- there are so many. We were and are blessed to have you as family.

Theresa Weiland - November 27, 2022 at 02:40 PM

GO

“ We are upholding your family in thought & prayer. The beautiful tribute to him in obituary filled our eyes with tears. Sharon, may you feel God's arms around you at this time. We know Rich is with his Lord which is a great comfort but it doesn't put his head on the pillow next to you at night. We know there are MANY in heaven waiting for us to join them, PTL. Our love to you, Gary & Marie Osterberg

Gary & Marie Osterbert - November 26, 2022 at 11:53 AM

JT

“ Tim and family. I'm so sorry for your loss! I only spoke with him a few times while he was here with your lawn care business but all he spoke of was the love and pride he had for his wife, children and grand children. Such a nice man.

judy trethewey - November 26, 2022 at 11:49 AM

WC

“ Dear Sharon and family,

I was saddened to read of Rich's passing. The well-deserved and beautiful tribute to him in his obituary in The Daily News provided great insight as to the God-fearing, loving, wonderful man he was and so he will always remain in your hearts and the hearts of those who knew him. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Your classmate and friend,

Bill Cummings

William J. Cummings - November 25, 2022 at 04:36 PM

CN

“ Dear Sharon and Family, we have such fond memories of Rich from Redemption Hill. He was always so warm and welcoming and I enjoyed serving with him on the cleaning crew. I always enjoyed seeing him in church and will miss his warm smile and great sense of humor. We mourn with you in your loss. May the Lord comfort you in your time of grief. Chad and Tonya Niemi

Chad Niemi - November 24, 2022 at 08:44 PM

CN

“ 2 files added to the album Rich Larson Live Nativity at Redemption Hill



Chad Niemi - November 24, 2022 at 08:37 PM

RR

“ *Dear Sharon and Family,
How saddened we were to hear of the unexpected passing of your dear husband, father and grandfather. Bob has such fond memories of Richie taking him ski jumping and playing baseball and softball together. We hold you in our hearts and are keeping you in our prayers.
In Christian love,
Bob and Michele Roberge*

Robert Roberge - November 24, 2022 at 11:35 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Earl Larson.*



November 24, 2022 at 04:51 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Earl Larson.*



November 23, 2022 at 10:47 PM

JP

“ Dear Sharon, Nancy and I are so saddened to hear of Richie's passing. What a great guy he was! We remember all the wonderful memories of growing up together as the group of "Bass Lake kids", swimming, waterskiing and skating. We feel so fortunate to have had Rich part of our lives. Please know you and your family are in our thoughts. With love and sympathy,

Jane and Nancy Joiner

Jane Pinder - November 23, 2022 at 03:21 PM

PJ

“ Dear Sharon and family, we are so sorry for your loss of Richie. Prayers for comfort and peace. Paula Johnson and Don Roberge.

Paula Johnson - November 23, 2022 at 03:13 PM

EL

“ Dear Sharon,
I send my heartfelt sympathy. I know good memories will bring comfort in the days ahead.
You and Rich were always a great couple...oh my goodness..we were such kids, weren't we? I always remember Rich smiling and being so steadfast. Thinking of you and sending prayers and love and a warm hug. Elsa

Elsa - November 23, 2022 at 03:07 PM

DS

“ My fondest memory of Rich was at one of the Larson reunions. Dan, Neil and Rich were chatting and giving each other a hard time about the Best football team, 49 ers or Bears. All 3 men were gentle giants , in my view.

Rich was a loving, caring man. So easy to love!

I will miss him!

And picture the havoc those 3 men are making in heaven! 😊

Sending sincere love to Sharon and family! My heart is with you.

Dixie

Dixie Smith - November 23, 2022 at 02:11 PM



“ Rich would always say, “I’ve been Rich all my life!” What a dear friend and encouragement to our family. I will miss Rich dearly and our conversations about Jesus and life. Looking forward to seeing you again dear friend worshipping our Savior together. Praying for the Larson family.

David Wolfe - November 23, 2022 at 09:38 AM

SS

“ I ran into Richard for the first time at the paper mill, just after joining the security staff. Although each of our meetings after that first one were brief, in the course of duty, he was the most memorable.

Always a greeting, a concern or even just a brief chat, I enjoyed those times. Recently, we moved into town and attended

Redemption Hill, and there he is again. The same Richard, I shall miss him here, while rejoicing he is with our Lord.

Stephen Schlitt - November 23, 2022 at 08:09 AM

KS

“ *Karen Drake Semke lit a candle in memory of Richard Earl Larson*



Karen Drake Semke - November 22, 2022 at 11:48 PM

KS

Rich was so good to my brother and very kind to me. Sharon, Jodi and all the family: I am so sorry for the loss of a truly great man.

Karen Drake Semke - November 22, 2022 at 11:51 PM

TD

“ *Richey was a boyhood friend from when I was very young and lived with my grandfather on the bass lake road. The neighborhood boys played lots of baseball, kick the can, apple fights and rubber gun fights in Tosdale's barn. I was the youngest and some of the older guys were a little rough on my but not Richey. Even though he was older he always looked out for me and treated me as an equal. Later, I played with him in the adult softball leagues. he was one heck of a ball player and always seemed happy and encouraging. Once I moved out of the area we lost touch but he will always be remembered by me as a terrific, Christian man. In fact his mom, Edith was responsible for my Christianity as she brought me to Immanuel Baptist church every Sunday.*

Terry Duval - November 22, 2022 at 02:42 PM

JD

So sorry for your loss of a wonderful Christian husband, father and friend.

jeri ann danielson - November 22, 2022 at 04:09 PM

WM

So sorry for your loss, Sharon. Rich was born 3 days after me and I always admired his gentle and generous nature, his wonderful smile. Cheered me every time we crossed paths. He will be greatly missed. All the best to you and the family. Walt Marston

Walt Marston - November 22, 2022 at 05:09 PM

DP

Growing up on Bass Lake Road, everyone knew everyone. My mother was friends with Rich's mom. This past summer seeing Rich at one of his daughter's sales was such a treat. He was a good Godly man and my deepest sympathies to his family. God bless and hold you close during this difficult time.

Debbie (Gendron) Polzin - November 22, 2022 at 07:52 PM

MH

So sad to hear ...his family was his life ...sympathy to you Sharon 🙏🙏

Marian Hiatt - November 23, 2022 at 08:00 AM

PC

*Sending my love n sympathy to you Sharon n the Family. What can I say about Rich? He was a very SPECIAL GUY. HE was always fun to be around. Love cleaning the church with years ago n I can still hear HIM say
HERE COMES TROUBLE. He never FAILED to tell JOHN ARVID he was going to send him Sympathy CARD
YES RICH WAS A GOD LOVING MAN. I WILL MISS HIM, But I KNOW I WILL SEE HIM AGAIN, I know what it is to lose your husband, but take 1 day at a time, I will always be there if you need someone to talk too.,Love you much 😭😭😭*

patt carlson - November 23, 2022 at 11:04 AM

VK

Time did not change Rich. His love of life and others was only more recognized with the passing of years. We were classmates and his love of life was his personality. I remember when he "fell" for Sharon when he met her when we were juniors. He couldn't take his eyes off her and she gave him the look of "I don't know you" attitude. There were times he would stop me in the hall and ask if he could help with some math problem. I will forever appreciate his patience and thoughtfulness to myself and others. He will never be forgotten. My heart is sad for the loss of a great man, for my friend Sharon and his family. God bless you.

Virginia Johnson Kaldor - November 23, 2022 at 12:04 PM