



## Richard Allen (Ric) Sparapani

September 14, 1945 - June 21, 2014

Richard Allen (Ric) Sparapani, 68, Iron Mountain, died Saturday, June 21, 2014, at Dickinson County Hospital, following an extended illness.

Ric was born on September 16, 1945 in Iron Mountain, the son of the late Victor and Jean (Peterson) Sparapani. He was baptized and confirmed at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Ric attended Breitung Township schools and was a graduate of Kingsford High School: class of 1963. After high school, he attended trade school and took numerous courses related to his field of work.

He married Barbara (Fontecchio) on September 14, 1966 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ric spent his entire working life in the manufacturing/construction field. He lived and worked in Calvert City, Kentucky and Milwaukee, Wisconsin before he and Barbara returned to Iron Mountain in 1970 where he pursued his life-long dream of owning his own business. He owned and operated Customer Metal Fabrication in Iron Mountain, along with other partners.

Ric was a lifetime member of the Kiwanis Ski Club, a member of the B.P.O. Elks and various professional/business organizations. He loved spending time at his camp and was an avid outdoorsman hunting and fishing year-round.

Ric loved building and carpentry. His home woodshop was a favorite gathering place for friends and family, especially during the autumn rite of making his dago red wine. He was a Packer fan and enjoyed watching baseball. Ric loved ANYTHING that had to do with ski-jumping, having done some ski-jumping himself as a young man. But, mostly, Ric loved the Pine Mountain ski jump competition. Under his stewardship, the Pine Mountain ski jump has undergone decades of modernization to stay at the forefront of world class ski jumping. Sometimes, much to his family's chagrin, he was consumed by the preparations for the annual event. He loved the celebration atmosphere and being with his ski club buddies. Finally, Ric's greatest joy in life was the pride he had for his son's academic and professional accomplishments; he felt that he and Barbara had done well as parents!

Richard Allen Sparapani is survived by his wife, Barbara of Iron Mountain; son, Dr. Rodney A. (Karen) Sparapani of Brookfield, Wisconsin; granddaughters, Isabella and Katie. He is also survived by his sisters; Lee Ann (Glenn) Goodman of Kingsford, Darleen Smith of Norway, and Christine "Cookie" (Jim) Beauchamp of Quinnesec; his mother-in-law Louise Fontecchio of Niagara, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews. Ric was also blessed to have good friends and was a good friend to them. Family and friends knew that Ric could be counted on for help with projects or moral support. He will be missed.

Ric was preceded in death by his parents, his one brother, Jerry (Carol)

Sparapani; and  
his father-in-law, Isadore Fontecchio.

A private family service will be held on Friday in respect of Ric's wishes,  
with the Reverend David Anderson officiating.

A memorial will be established in his memory.

Condolences to the family of Richard "Ric" Sparapani may be expressed  
online  
at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home and  
Cremation Services with the funeral arrangements

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Dear Barb, Please accept my heartfelt sympathy on the loss of Ric. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

*Barb Supa Szczudlak*

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**Barbara Szczudlak** - July 06, 2014 at 08:05 PM

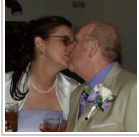
UE

“ To Barbara and Rics family.  
It was with great sadness that I got the word that Ric had passed away.  
I learned to know him as a kind, honest, skillful and stand up guy.  
My sincere condolences to you all.  
Attached some pics of Rics and Tims visit to Finland and of mine and Rics visit to the skijumping hill in Falun Sweden



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**Ulf - Peter Ek** - June 28, 2014 at 03:30 AM



“ *Barbara, Rodney, and family,  
It's always hard to lose your best friend, but even though this time is sad, our wonderful memories with Ric will live on in our hearts forever. Ric once told me (Milan) "We can fix anything, even broken hearts." He will be dearly missed.  
With deepest sympathy,  
Milan & Darlene Kvaca*

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**Darlene Kvaca** - June 27, 2014 at 11:03 PM

MK

“ *5 files added to the album Unforgettable Friendships*



**Milan and Darlene Kvaca** - June 27, 2014 at 10:06 PM

WF

“ *Barb - Sincere sympathy to you and your family in your loss.  
Thinking of you.*

*Jim and Winnie Fornetti*

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**Winnie Fornetti** - June 26, 2014 at 07:52 PM

KE

“ I worked for Ric at Customer Metal for quite a few years, and he was a wonderful boss and friend. He had a great sense of humor and really cared about his employees. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to his family.

Kris Edlund - June 26, 2014 at 10:35 AM

MK

“ My condolences to your family.  
M/M Jack Kujala

M/M Jack Kujala - June 26, 2014 at 09:51 AM

KS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Ken & Grace Sparapani - June 26, 2014 at 01:06 AM



“ Fruit Abounds was purchased for the family of Richard Allen (Ric) Sparapani.



June 25, 2014 at 10:19 PM

DR

“ *Barb, Rodney and family.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you through these difficult times. Mike and I will surely miss Ric as he was a great friend and wonderful man. We have all had some great memories that we have made together over the years. If it were not for Ric and his customer appreciation party, Mike and I would probably not be together as he was instrumental in us getting together. I will forever be grateful. Let us know if we can do anything for you.*  
*Debbie and Mike Reid*

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**Deborah Reid** - June 25, 2014 at 10:13 PM

GD

“ *Barb and Rodney and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and know that Rick is at peace. Love, Dick & Gail Dabb*

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**Gail Dabb** - June 25, 2014 at 05:10 PM

BL

“ *Barb, I am so sorry for your loss, you and your family will be in my prayers, BJ LaFave*

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**BJ LaFave** - June 25, 2014 at 02:47 PM

 Peggy  
Kukanich

“ *Barb and family--So very sorry to hear about Ric. Enjoyed working with him at CMF/White Pine. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*  
*Peggy Kukanich*

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**Peggy Kukanich** - June 25, 2014 at 12:04 PM

SF

“ Barbara and Rod, I am so sorry for your loss. If there is anything that Duke or I can do to help you in your time of need or if you need someone to talk to, we are here! I am so sorry! Love, Sandy Fontecchio and Duke Sleik.

Sandy Fontecchio - June 25, 2014 at 11:57 AM

BB

“ We are thinking of Ric's family the family and are sorry for your loss. He was a special man and your good memories of him will live on. Our sincere condolences  
Kim and Brenda Beauchamp

Brenda Beauchamp - June 25, 2014 at 10:37 AM

TW

“ Tom W. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Richard Allen (Ric) Sparapani.



Tom W. - June 25, 2014 at 10:19 AM



“ So sorry for the loss of Rick, a best friend years ago. Barb, hang in there, you know my story, the sadness lives forever, but days get better. Rod W.

Rod Wickman - June 24, 2014 at 10:32 PM

KG

“ I've known the Sparapani family for nearly 40 years now. When I was younger, Ric and Barb made me feel more welcome in their home than I felt at my own. There wasn't a Christmas dinner that passed that I didn't take advantage of enjoying Barb's pork roast. I considered them family. I still do.

Rodney and I were adventurous kids. We put gray on both of their heads prematurely. Many-an-auto-repair was the result of our youthful hijinks. Ric always enjoyed strolling down memory lane and sharing his favorite stories about the stupid stuff we had a tendency of doing. Heh. Those shared stories are my fondest memories of him.

I'm going to miss you, Ric! I will not miss your snoring however. I laughed out loud earlier in the day when I thought about the time your chainsaw snoring kept Rodney and I awake upstairs at camp. We retaliated by tossing loose change and socks down at you. Good times!

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**Kip Gasparick** - June 24, 2014 at 06:23 PM

SS

Barbara, I am so sorry to read about Ric's passing. My prayers are with you and the family.

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**Sharon Paternoster Strom** - June 25, 2014 at 02:49 PM

BS

Kip, thanks for the sharing the great memories you had of both me and Ric. Holiday's will never be the same.

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**Barbara Sparapani** - September 01, 2014 at 09:52 AM