



Richard E. Wales

March 10, 1947 - February 25, 2024

Richard E. Wales, 76, of Quinnesec, MI, passed away peacefully with family by his side on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, MN.

He was born on March 10, 1947, in Iron Mountain to the late William F. Wales Sr. and the late June B. (Larsen) Wales. Richard grew up in Quinnesec where he attended the Quinnesec Junior High School and graduated from Kingsford High School in 1965. He was an active member of the KHS Varsity Club and was the manager for both the boys football and basketball teams, helping both to win championships.

After graduation, Richard worked as a truck driver, delivering prefabricated houses for Dickinson Homes for 34 years, driving over a million miles in six different states. During this time, Rich also served on the Quinnesec Volunteer Fire Dept. for many years. After his retirement in 2012, he worked on/off with the Dickinson County Road Commission, keeping the roads plowed as needed. He also had many local friends, businesses, and churches that contracted him to keep them plowed during the harsh U.P winters.

Richard absolutely loved deer hunting and was successful yearly. He also enjoyed bird hunting and was a member of Ducks Unlimited for many years. He enjoyed fishing whenever he could and loved spending time with family

and friends at his cottage on Sundog Lake where he would cook his annual Labor Day fish fry from the fish caught in the lake. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved working in his garden. Richard also grew cherry tomatoes for several years, which he would sell to the local community. He served on the Township Board of Trustees for several years and loved being involved in the community. He was also a devoted member of the Quinnesec United Methodist Church for many years where he practiced his faith. He loved watching NASCAR racing and always cheered for anyone who was driving a Ford. Lastly, he loved all the dogs that he owned throughout the years, especially his latest dog, Thor.

Richard is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Deborah J. (LaPointe) Wales; one step-son, Paul (Junice Dawn) LaPointe of Quinnesec; two step-daughters, Cheri (Joey) LaPointe of Quinnesec and Nicole (Joe) Gasper of East Grand Rapids, MI; a niece, Amy Wales of Lakeview, MI; and two grandchildren, Naya and Elli Gasper.

In addition to his parents, Richard was preceded in death by his brother, William Wales Jr.; a sister-in-law, Sandy (Groenleer) Wales; and one nephew, William Wales III.

Visitation will be from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm on Friday, March 15, 2024 at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home. A Service will follow at 2:00 pm at the Funeral Home with Pastor Walter Reichle officiating.

Condolences to the family of Richard E. Wales can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhome.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 1:00 PM - 2:00 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/>

Service

MAR 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Avenue
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-7676
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com
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Tribute Wall

KO

“ My condolences go out to your family. I was blessed to know “uncle rich” my entire life. He was a wonderful man who led his life with kindness and joy. - Kelly (sticky fingers) Olson

kelly olson - March 17, 2024 at 09:24 PM

DC

“ Dickinson Homes Crew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard E. Wales.

Dickinson Homes Crew - March 13, 2024 at 03:02 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard E. Wales.



March 13, 2024 at 03:02 PM

TF

“ The Allen Family purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Richard E. Wales.



The Allen Family - March 08, 2024 at 10:58 AM

TF

“ The Allen Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard E. Wales.

The Allen Family - March 08, 2024 at 10:58 AM

KF

“ Kirk, Carol Olson and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard E. Wales.

Kirk, Carol Olson and Family - March 07, 2024 at 02:22 PM

KF

“ Kirk, Carol Olson and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard E. Wales.



Kirk, Carol Olson and Family - March 07, 2024 at 02:22 PM

KO

“ Rich and I were friends for over 40 years. We went on fishing trips to Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. I also hunted with Rich on his property in Quinnesec. My three -year-old daughter loved to go up to Rich's garage to see Mokey (3 yr. old speak for Smoky) and Coco his two Labs. The dogs were always by his side in the garage. Rich always had a Cherry Berry pop for her. My daughter is now 43. Boy, how time flies

Rich's garage was a gathering place for his friends. We helped him cut wood so he could boil sap to make maple syrup. He would stay up all night boiling down the sap. We also had a few wild game feeds in the garage where many from Quinnesec would attend. As the garage filled up with boats, tractors and trucks, The gathering place moved up the hill to the next building he called the shop. We had many discussions in the shop about Nascar and the Packers and Lions. I usually had the upper hand being a Packer fan but he gave me some jabs the last couple years.

My family moved several times over the years and we always kept in touch. In fact, Rich is one of the reasons we decided to move back to Quinnesec when we retired. All of my kids enjoyed Rich and we will surely miss him.

He was a great friend.

Kirk Olson

Kirk Olson - March 07, 2024 at 02:13 PM

KY

“ Rich was a great man. I have many fond memories of him. He will be dearly missed. My condolences to his family.

Kyle - March 04, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Richard E. Wales.



February 28, 2024 at 12:48 PM