



Robert Braspennickx

December 8, 2008

NORWAY - Robert P. Braspennickx, 67, of 422 Section St., Norway, died Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, at Bellin Hospital in Green Bay, Wis., after a long battle with heart disease.

He was born on Dec. 15, 1940, in Norway, son to the late Charles and Mema (Pierogostini) Braspennickx. In 1957, his family moved to this area from Detroit. He graduated from Vulcan High School in 1958. After graduation from high school, he served in the United States Navy stationed in China Lake, Calif.

He married the former Barbara Sturm on July 10, 1965, at American Martyrs Church in Kingsford and moved to Norway in 1976. He attended and graduated from Northern Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in 1966 and a masters of arts in education degree in 1969. Bob was a teacher from 1966-1999.

For 32 years, he was an art teacher and librarian at Iron Mountain High School. During many of those years, he spent his summers teaching driver's education. He took great pride in his profession and abided by the philosophy that each and every student was unique and special.

For years, Bob enjoyed his Monday and Thursday night poker clubs. These

clubs included his good friends Gary Sturm, Ron Matonich, Augie Caruso, Paul Gingrass, Jim Pericolosi, Larry Flaminio, Warren Giannunzio, Brian Finnendale, Nick Pietrantonio, Jake Jacobetti, Tom Nash, Cussy Rahoi and the late Jim Petroff.

The prides of his life were his children and his grandchildren. He was a hands-on dad and papa and took advantage of every opportunity to spend time with his children and grandchildren.

Bob is survived by his wife, Barbara; his son, Kevin (Maribeth) Braspennickx of Green Bay; his daughter, Kerry Bengtson of Norway; four grandchildren, Bryce and McKenna Braspennickx and Paeyton and Tyler Bengtson; sister, Barbara (Larry) Partanen of Kingsford; mother-in-law, Beatrice Sturm of Kingsford; a brother-in-law, Gary (Lois) Sturm of Kingsford; nieces, Victoria Farrell of Green Bay, Alison Partanen of Eau Claire, Wis.; nephews, Christopher (Susan) Sturm of Kingsford and Gary J. Sturm of Menominee.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Cammy Marie Braspennickx.

Visitation will be held today from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

Parish prayers will be recited at 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 11: a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church in Norway.

Pall bearers will be Augie Caruso, Jake Jacobetti, Brian Finendale, Larry Flaminio, Harvey Johnson, Ron Matonich, Nick Pietrantonio and Cussy Rahoi.

Honorary pallbearers will be Jim Pericolosi and Paul Gingrass.

Burial will be in the Norway Cemetery.

Condolences to the family of Robert Braspennickx can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Tribute Wall

CM

“ *Mr. B was a very caring teacher....Blessings to all of his family.*

Carrie Jo (Nelson) Mellinger - April 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *MRS .B AND FAMILLY,BOY,WHAT A SHOCKER.I AM SOO VERY SORRY ABOUT MR.B.HE WAS ALWAYS MY FAV...HE ALWAYS TOLD ME I HAD MORE LATE EXCUSES THAN ANYONE EVER.I BROKE HIM IN FOR ALL THE OTHER CLASSES COMING UP HE TOLD ME I NEVER USED THE SAME EXCUSE TWICE....HE WAS SOMEONE WHO TREATED YOU LIKE WE MEANT SOMETHING.HE TOOK TIME WITH US, AND LAUGHED WITH US AND AT US.HE WILL BE MISSED AND YOU HAD THE BEST HUSBAND AND FATHER,AND BROTHER,PAPA,AND FRIEND,MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AT THIS TIME. KNOW THAT OUR LORD HAS HIS ARMS WRAPPED AROUND HIM NOW AND FOREVER.BLESS YOU ,MAUREEN JULIAN PASTEN*

MAUREEN JULIAN PASTEN - January 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *We were sorry to hear about your loss, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Each of you deal with a different pain from the loss of a husband, father and grandfather. We found memories were so helpful to us, I'm sure you have many you can share and laugh about together. Try to take comfort in those thoughts. Again, you are in our thoughts and prayers and may time help ease your ache.*

Missy & Eddie Dierkens - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Mrs. Braspennickx, I was going thru the local paper on line as I usually do to remind me of the good times when I saw that Bob had passed. I am so sorry for your loss! I know he meant the world to you and I know how much you both depended on each other. If you EVER need anything EVER please feel free to give me a call 989-640-4212...we will be in town for the week of New Years and would love to get together with you to meet my family. Take care. Jenny (Johnson) Gonzales---Class of 1991 and your old helper in the "old" library.

Jennifer Gonzales - December 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ We were so sad to hear of your great loss. My husband knew him as a teacher and as a classmate of Kerry's knew him from Norway. He was always smiling and we will remember him that way. You all will be in our prayers. God bless you all.

Tom & Nicole (Steinbrecher) Verrette - December 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Looking back at my years in school, Mr Bras was one of those teachers that truly cared and he touched the lives of many students in his years as an educator. He will be sadly missed by his students, colleagues, and friends. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Matt Wonders and Family - December 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with your entire family during this difficult time.

Scott and Paula Conery - December 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Dear Barbara,

I was so sad to hear about Bob, and my thoughts are with you, dear friend. I know how close you were, and my heart smiled when I read in one of the condolences, "The marriage you two shared has been a shining example of true love to all who know you both." What a beautiful tribute.

I'm glad that Kerry lives near, and that Kevin is only 100 miles away. I know how much you love and enjoy your grandchildren, and they will help to sustain you. Children refuse to let us be sad for too long.

When my mother died, a cousin wrote, Please find comfort in knowing your mother's eyes have seen God." That helped me a bit, and I hope it helps you too.

Any time you need a friend, just call, 336-922-4034.

Bonnie Reese - December 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ To the family of Mr B my sincere condolences. I took art only in my senior year. But wished that I had taken all four years when I was in Mr B's class. He was very personable and you could tell that he really enjoyed his work. His class was one that I always looked forward to. He was relaxed yet in control and made the learning experience an absolute pleasure. Although I haven't seen Mr B since graduation, his class is one that I will always had very fond memories of. Mr B was a heck of a guy!!

Gregg Ball - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Barb, Maribeth, Kevin, Kerry and family...We just wanted to let you know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are so sorry for your loss.

Carol and Pete Angeli - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ barb,kevin,kerry, our family is very sorry for the loss of your husband and father. our family recently dealt with the loss of our mother, she was the same age as bob.so i know this is a very difficult time for all of you. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

john krackenberger and family - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Barb, Kevin, Kerry, and families. I cannot express to you how deeply sorry and saddened I am about Mr. B's passing. I will always remember all the great things he did with us while growing up and how lucky we were to have him in our lives. Few men could bring 2 girls camping and actually do it again the next year :) He was such a kind, generous, caring and loving man. He loved you all so very much and was so proud of everything you did. We are all better people for having had him in our lives. I think about you so much and wish I could just give you a hug. My deepest sympathies go out to you all. All my love...

Kristi (Ebeling) Lock and Family - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ Dear Barb, Kevin, Kerry, and families,
Expressing our deepest sympathy in the loss of Bob; husband,
father, grandfather, son, and best friend to you all. He left behind so
many beautiful memories of times he shared with all of you and we
hope holding these memories in your hearts will always keep him
close to you in this very difficult transition.
You are all in our prayers.
Nancy and Walt Lakari

Nancy Lakari - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Braspennickx Family,

The Brick family sends our deepest sympathies to your entire family.
Having just bid farwell to my grandmother and Keegan's Great-
Grandmother this week, please take time to celebrate Bob's life and
spend quality time with your family.

Sorry we can not be there.

Keegan (Bryce's Bash Brother), and the rest of the Bricks

Sean Brick - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Barb, Kevin, Kerry and Family - I'm very sorry to hear of your loss.
My sympathies go out to you and you will be in my thoughts and
prayers throughout this difficult time.

Dean Anderson - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ Kevin and Kerry- I am so sorry about the loss of your father. You both talked very fond of him quite often. May those happy memories be what help ease your pain. I understand the hurt and pain of losing a family member unexpectedly and it is very hard. May you count on eachother to cry, laugh and cherish your dad through all of this pain. If there is anything that I can do to help you out - you both know where I am. Take care and know that my thoughts are with all of you.

Les and Mindi Lorenzoni - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Kerry--I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. I just lost my dad two months ago so I know what your going through. It is a long difficut road ahead, but I hope you find comfort knowing he is in a better place. You just have to take one day at a time. Take care of your mom, she is going to need you. I will keep you and your family in our prayers. Stacy

Stacy (Imeson) LaPoint - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Mrs. Braspennickx, I was just putting stuff away the other day and came across the ceramic girl you had given me at the end of my senior year. That started me thinking of you & your family. I am so sorry to see that Bob has passed away. Even though he is now in a happy place and will also be with you in your heart, it is very hard to lose a loved one. May God comfort you & your family during this time of sorrow. My deepest sympathies.

Jennifer (Sorensen) Flynn - December 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Dear Barb, Kevin, Kerry and Grandchildren,

May God bless you and hold you all in the palm of His hand as you mourn a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. Bob was a kind, loving, caring individual who always made those around him feel comfortable and accepted. He had a great sense of humor and was full of wit and charm. Bob was a gentle gentleman, a compassionate teacher and faithful friend, as evidenced in the many responses recorded here already. The marriage you two shared, Barb, has been a shining example of true love to all who know you both. You all have been, are and will continue to be in our prayers throughout this difficult time. We share in your sorrow and rejoice in a life well-lived. Bill and Jan Cummings

Bill Cummings - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Kevin, Maribeth, Bryce, Mckenna and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Bob has always been so supportive for all of you and my family as well throughout our friendship during baseball, hockey and when just hanging around. I am certain he will be missed and we are all very fortunate to have had him be a part of our lives.

Matt, Jaylene, Jacob and Troy Aho. - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ I graduated from IMHS in 1974, and to this day I consider "Mr. B" to be best teacher I had in high school. His sincerity and gentle but straight talk was all that kept me from dropping out of school when my personal life was in a downward spiral. I've thought about that countless times over the years. Also, during one of our discussions, he said, "Mike, the greatest thing you can possibly do in life is to have children." At 17 years old, I thought that was a bit far fetched. Now, in my 50's and the father of a wonderful daughter and stepson, I have to say, "Mr. B, you were absolutely right!" My condolences to his family and friends.

Michael Nokes - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Barb, I am so sorry to hear about Bob, we certainly will miss his smiling face in the neighborhood, he was our rock in the neighborhood, I will miss him begging us not to sell our house, for him I will be staying, just remember one thing Barb, if ever there is anything that we can do for you do not hesitate to call us, we are there for you...our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family

Love always, Connie & ted Goetz

Barb & Family - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Barb, Kevin, Kerry & Family,
My deepest sympathy in your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.
Dina

Dina (Degenaer) Perrault - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Dear Barb, Kevin & Family*
We are so sorry for the loss of your loved one. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Your kids are so blessed to have such a wonderful, caring & involved grandparents in their life. He will be missed by all.
Dennis & Lila Barlament [Michelle DeBouche"s parents]

Dennis & Lila Barlament - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ *I'm so sorry the world has lost Robert Braspennickx. He was always a very kind man. While, I will always remember his kindness at IMHS, I will remember him and be happy that I could call him friend. God Bless to you Barb and family. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Patric Arnold - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Barb, Kevin and Family,*

We are sorry for your loss. We will always remember the fun times we had chatting with Bob at the hockey rink. We were just talking the other day about his great pasta he made us that night at Kevins house. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Todd & Michelle DeBouche & family - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Barb & Family,*

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Bob. We are never prepared to lose our loved ones, but as time goes on it does get easier. Bob was a super nice guy and had a great sense of humor. He will be missed by all who knew him. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Debbie & Mike Floriano - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *Dear Barb and Family - We are so, so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. You will all be in our thoughts and prayers through this difficult time. With love....*

Scott and Emily Ritsema - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Braspenickx passing. I will always remember him fondly from my years at IMHS. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Heidi (Pontbriand) Brown - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My prayers go out to the Braspennickx family in this time of sorrow. Looking back at my days as a student in Iron Mountain, I always think about Mr. Bras and the fun I had in his art classes. To countless students, he was more than just a teacher. He not only had a passion for art, but also possessed a true understanding of his students and how to relate to them. His legacy lives on in the hearts of former students and those that taught with him. For a teacher, being half as good as Bob Braspennicks is quite an accomplishment.
I lost my father this year and even as an adult it's certainly not easy saying good-bye even when death is expected.

Jim Hagerty and Family - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Kerry-I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. I'm sure that he was so glad to be able to spend so much time with you and the kids over the past few months. I'm sure it will make it easier on your Mom having you and the kids at the house. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you & your family.

Shannon Smaniotti & family - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ We are so sorry for your loss. I had the great pleasure of knowing Mr. Bras for many years, first in the classroom as a student and then as a colleague at IMHS. I will never forget how caring and kind of a man Mr. Bras was, I was very fortunate to have known him. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Donny Bianco and family - December 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Karen (Giuliani) Bishop and family - December 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM