



Robert H. Cocking

March 23, 1924 - October 20, 2019

Robert H. Cocking, 95, of Iron Mountain, died peacefully on October 20, 2019 with his twin daughters at his side holding each of his hands. He was born March 23, 1924 in Iron Mountain, MI.

He was larger than life, the hardest working man we have ever known, with a quick wit which came naturally to him. He was funny without ever trying to be.

Dad was born and raised in Iron Mountain, MI to David and Edwidge(Goyer) Cocking and had three brothers and two sisters. Leslie, died in infancy. Loren Cocking died in 1967. Phyllis(Aarold)Parent preceded his death in 2012. Donald(Fran)Cocking and Myrna(John) Hassi are his surviving siblings.

He married Madelyn Vaerewyck in 1948 and had three children. Debbie, their oldest, died tragically in 1966 due to a car accident when she was 18 years old. Twins Jean (David) Miller and Joan (Patrick) Fitzgibbon are his survivors, along with grandchildren Erin (James) Robertson, Patrick (Allison) Fitzgibbon and Andrew Miller. His oldest grandson, Ian Miller, and youngest grandson, Brian Miller, preceded him in death in 2017. He also has three great grandsons, Cameron Robertson, Parker Robertson, and Dylan Fitzgibbon. Many nieces and nephews also survive him.

Dad served his country in WWII in the Navy on submarine tender USS

Bushnell. He was especially proud of his service years. After discharge from the Navy he moved back to Iron Mountain where he lived all of his life except for the last three and a half months when we moved him closer to us in the Detroit area.

It was a gift to have him living so close as we were able to see him multiple times a week. We took him for rides in the country and would sit with him and look at old family photos. He got to know his great grandson Dylan and loved watching him play.

Dad was a truck driver most of his career and drove a fuel truck for G. Bertoldi & Sons until he retired. His love of draft horses became his hobby in retirement and he loved spending time on his farm in Pine Creek tending to his team of Percheron draft horses and doing chores around his farm. One of his favorite activities was attending horse pulls. As kids we were dragged to many fair grounds to watch. He also loved watching NASCAR and was an avid fan, never missing a race on television.

When our mother was diagnosed with ALS in 1986, he was devoted to her, caring for her round the clock. It was a stressful time for him and lonely when she died just 6 months after diagnosis in February 1987. They had both just retired and had plans to enjoy traveling and doing the things they liked to do together. Dad was so lonely that we encouraged him to try dating. After some coaxing he began dating a family friend whose husband had died. After some time together he and Thalia Massage married in June of 1991. They were married 20 years when Thalia passed due to illness.

Through all the tragedy in his life, losing a daughter and both of his wives, he always remained positive, never ever feeling sorry for himself. As he always told us, no one wants to hear about your problems. When someone would ask him how he was he always said very good! Even on his death bed this past

week, when he was battling pneumonia and struggling to breathe, if a medical worker asked him how he was doing he'd say, "I'm good." Then he'd compliment them and shake their hand. Anyone working in a hospital was greeted with "Good morning, doctor." Always charming in his own way, described by many health care workers as "delightful."

After several days in the hospital this week, we told him that he was not going to get better. He thought about that for a second and said, "You mean to tell me they're going to let me croak?" Yes, Dad, but the good news is you get to go back to Iron Mountain. That satisfied him.

We will miss his strength, his stories and mostly his fine sense of humor. Rest In Peace Papa.

Visitation will be held on Friday, October 25, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain. Funeral services will follow at 12:00 pm at the funeral home. Fr. Janusz Romanek will officiate. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: <https://www.brianmillerfullmoon.com/>

Condolences to the family of Robert H. Cocking may be expressed online at ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Cemetery Details

Cemetery Park

101 Cedar Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

OCT **25**. 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

VT

“ As a fellow “east sider” I’d like to let you know how sorry I was to hear about your dad. He lived close to our mom, Viva Carlson, (who passed away July 17th), at Evergreen Assisted Living and was always delightful to talk to. I know our parents were old, but it sure is hard to say goodbye. You had a great tribute to him in the newspaper. Via Carlson Thomas

Via Carlson Thomas - October 24, 2019 at 08:11 AM

MF

“ Myrna & John @ Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert H. Cocking.



Myrna & John @ Family - October 23, 2019 at 11:52 AM

BL

“ So sorry to hear of Bos's passing. I remember him and your mom so well as a child. They came to my mom and dad's home so often in those years. Phyliss and Arrold lived right across the street from us and they also were in the circle. May fun times were had. My mom and dad were Bob and Ruth Petrick. Prayers to all your family. I'm sure they are all together with the Lord and a card party is going on.

Bonnie LeGrave and the Petrick family.

Bonnie LeGrave - October 23, 2019 at 10:42 AM

NS

I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed your dad over the last several years. My grandmother Jeannette Goffett was a resident at Evergreen Assisted Living for several years and I saw your dad at least once a week during that time. He was very social and always a friendly face. He did have a wonderful, positive attitude, always. Please accept my condolences, I'm happy I got to know him over the years.

Nanette Sjoquist - October 23, 2019 at 01:33 PM

NM

I am so sorry to hear about your dad's passing. He sure was a very nice and comical man. I live just down the road from his horse pasture and would stop and say hi whenever I saw him there. I also would stop and feed apples to the horses now and then. I will miss seeing him sitting in the barn looking out at the landscape but I will always picture him there. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Nancy McKendrick

nancy mckendrick - October 25, 2019 at 08:10 AM